



Notable Children's & YA Authors, Arranged by Genre

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IMPORTANT LINKS

Good search terms for www.uleth.ca/lib (limit to Curr. Lab and Sort by Date): *Wigham family, picture book, science fiction, historical fiction, graphic novels, [topic] fiction, poetry, biography, folklore, twisted tales, Orca Currents* (for high interest low vocabulary- also *Orca Soundings, Orca Sports, Sidestreets*),

[Curriculum Lab Lists and Literature Across the Curriculum](#)

[Literature Fair- Past Lists](#)

[Books in Print](#) (Library Database): Search a specific title to quickly find published reviews.

[CM: Canadian Review of Materials](#): Free access online, look up Canadian titles.

[Canadian Children's Book Centre \(CCBC\)](#)

www.lethlib.ca: Borrow from any Chinook Arch Public Library with *The Alberta Library Card* (TAL). It's Free! Ask for it on Level 11 of the U of L Library.

[A List of Tools to Help you Find Literature](#)

MAJOR AWARDS AND LISTS

(Currently 2011 and older are well represented in the Curr. Lab. Look up at www.uleth.ca/lib)

Picture Books: [Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award](#) * [Caldecott Medal](#) * [Bill Glaister's Bucket List of Best Picture Books For Educators](#) * [Art and Picture Books](#)

Science Fiction: [Monica Hughes Award for Science Fiction and Fantasy](#) *

Contemporary Realistic (and others):* [TD Canadian Children's Literature Award](#) * [Rocky Mountain Book Award](#) * [Michael L. Printz Award \(Young Adult\)](#) * [Newbery Award](#) *

Historical Fiction: [Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction for Young People](#) [Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction](#)

Informational: [Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children's Non-Fiction](#), [Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12](#)

Graphic Novels: [Joe Shuster: Comics for Kids Award](#), [Graphic Novels K-5](#), [Graphic Novels 6-12](#), [Graphic Novels: Ideas and Resources for Developing Units](#), [Toon Books](#)

Beginning Readers: [Theodor Seuss Geisel Award for Beginning Readers](#), [Toon Books](#)

High Interest Low Vocabulary (*Hi-Low*; aimed at struggling/ developing readers aged 12+): [Orca Currents](#), [Orca Soundings](#), [Orca Sports](#), [Lormier Sidestreets](#), [High Interest Low Vocabulary Books for Youth and Adults](#)

Curriculum Connections: [Resource Links \(The Year's Best\)](#), [Lasting Connections](#) (Booklist, annual list)

EVALUATING LITERATURE: Some General Criteria

Does the book tell an interesting story?

Is the story appropriate for the intended age range and does it appeal to them?

Is the book well-written?

Do the title and cover create a sense of anticipation?

Does the story have a theme that can encourage discussion with children?

Are overtly moralistic or “preachy” tones avoided?

Is the plot well-constructed, original, fresh and believable?

Are characters convincing & credible? Do they grow and change from their experiences?

Is the dialogue natural and suited to the characters in the story?

If there are illustrations in the book, do they add significantly to the text, and visa versa?

Does the story avoid stereotypes related to race, gender etc.?

Did the book provide for a pleasurable reading experience?

What have reviewers said about this title?

Does the author know much about the location/time period/people/subject?

For informational books, how accurate are the facts presented in the book?

Is non-fiction well organized? Is there a table of contents, index, or bibliography?

Are all the significant facts included & is the coverage of the subject well balanced?

HELPFUL DEFINITIONS

Genre: a category of literature defined by shared characteristics. Within each genre, there are many sub-genres.

Children's literature: Fiction & non-fiction, written especially for children 0-12 years old.

Young adult literature: Fiction & non-fiction books, written for people 12-18 years old.

Chapter book: Generally longer than 48 pages, written in a chapter format.

Trade books: all books published for children & young adults that are not primarily published as part of a programmed reading series or textbook (“*real*” books).

Basal reading series: Reading or Language Arts textbooks arranged in a series; contains anthologies &/or actual literature.

PICTURE BOOKS (Format)

Definition: A book in which the picture is as important as the text. This is a genre based on a physical format, so it can contain titles from many of the other genres. It includes picture books, illustrated storybooks, wordless storybooks, concept books, and informational books. In picture books, both text and illustration are fused together, to provide more than either can do alone. Picture books are generally 32-48 pages in length. Illustrated story books are different from picture books in that the text can stand alone and the illustrations, though complementary, are secondary to the text.

Notable Authors and Illustrators:

Paulette Bourgeois

Donald Crews

Phoebe Gilman

Eric Carle

Sarah Ellis

Georgia Graham

Babette Cole

Marie-Louise Gay

Lois Ehlert

Kevin Henkes
 Teddy Jam
 Steven Kellogg
 Janet Lunn
 Jerry Pinkney
 Maurice Sendak
 Ian Wallace

Melanie Watt
 Ann Jonas
 Michael Kusugak
 David Pelham
 Barbara Reid
 Chris van Allsburg

Hazel Hutchins
 Ezra Jack Keats
 Julie Lawson
 David Wiesner
 Marilyn Reynolds
 Allan Say

Recent Titles of Note:

Kamishibai man, Allen Say	The Rabbits, John Marsden (Older Readers)
The Dangerous Alphabet, Neil Gaiman	The Wall: Growing up behind the iron curtain, Peter Sis (Older readers)
Timmerman was here, Colleen Sydor	Here is the Arctic winter, Madeleine Dunphy
The delicious bug, Janet Perlman	The Red Tree, Shaun Tan (Older Readers)
Our Corner Grocery Store, Joanne Schwartz	You're mean, Lily Jean, by Frieda Wishinky
The Lion and the Mouse, Jerry Pinkney	All the world , Liz Garton Scanlon
Red sings from treetops : a year in colors, by Joyce Sidman	Ten birds, Cybèle Young

POETRY

Definition: Poetry books can range from poetry that rhymes to free verse and concrete verse. It takes the sound of language and arranges it in beautiful forms. Each word is chosen carefully for its sound and its meaning. It appeals to both the thoughts and feelings of the reader.

Notable Authors and Illustrators:

Sheree Fitch
 Lee Bennett Hopkins
 Ioris Ilesynski
 Kevin Henkes
 Teddy Jam
 Steven Kellogg
 Janet Lunn
 Jerry Pinkney
 Maurice Sendak

David Bouchard
 Paul B. Janeczko
 Naomi Shihab Nye
 Melanie Watt
 Ann Jonas
 Michael Kusugak
 David Pelham
 Barbara Reid
 Chris van Allsburg

Paul Fleischman
 Dennis Lee
 Jack Prelutsky
 Hazel Hutchins
 Ezra Jack Keats
 Julie Lawson
 David Wiesner
 Marilyn Reynolds
 Allan Say

Recent Titles of Note

Poetry Speaks : Who I am, Elise Paschen, editor	A porcupine in a Pine Tree: a Canadian 12 days of Christmas / Helaine Becker
Winterberries & Apple blossoms : Reflections and Flavors of a Mennonite year, Nan Forler	Dark Emperor & other Poems of the Night, Joyce Sidman

Peaceful Pieces : Poems and Quilts about Peace, Anna Grossnickle Hines	My teacher Dances on the Desk : poetry, Eugene Gagliano
Loon, Susan Vande Griek	A Whiff of Pine, a Hint of Skunk : a Forest of Poems, Deborah Ruddell
The Secret of your Name : Proud to be Métis = Kiimooch ka shinikashooyen / David Bouchard	Falling Down the Page, edited by Georgia Heard
African Acrostics : a Word in Edgeways, poems by Avis Harley	Messing Around on the Monkey bars : and Other School Poems for Two Voices, Betsy Franco
Where else in the wild? : more camouflaged creatures concealed--and revealed, ear-tickling poems by David Schwartz and Yael Schy	The Tree that Time built : a Celebration of Nature, Science, and Imagination, selected by Mary Ann Hoberman & Linda Winston

TRADITIONAL LITERATURE

(Including Fractured/Twisted Tales)

Definition: This literature is born of oral tradition, and is passed orally from generation to generation. It will often say "retold by..." or "adapted by...". There are many versions of the same story. Sub-genres of traditional literature include fairy tales, folk tales, Mother Goose rhymes, legends, myths, proverbs, epics, and fables. "Fractured" Fairy Tales are traditional tales told with changes in plot, setting, characters or point of view.

Notable Authors and Illustrators:

Ed Young	C.J Taylor	Paul Goble
Donald Crews	Celia Barker Lottridge	Gail Carson Levine
Phoebe Gilman	Tololwa M Mollel	Jane Yolen
James Marshall	Shannon Hale	Jon Scieska

Recent Titles of Note

The Orphan Boy, by Tololwa Mollel	What The Rat Told Me: A Legend of the Chinese Zodiac, Marie Sellier, Catherine Louis, Wang Fei
All the Stars in the Sky : Native Stories From the Heavens, C.J. Taylor	The Twelve Dancing Princesses, Retold by John Cech
When Apples Grew Noses and White Horses Flew : Tales of Ti-Jean, Jan Andrews	Twisted Myths : 20 Classic Stories with a Dark and Dangerous Heart, Maura McHugh
The Shadows that Rush past : A Collection of Frightening Inuit Folktales, by Rachel A. Qitsualik	Book of a thousand days, Shannon Hale
Eagle boy : a Pacific Northwest Native Tale, retold by Richard Lee Vaughan	Dimity Dumpty : the story of Humpty's little sister / Bob Graham
Edàni Nọgèe Dọne Gok'eḍi = How Fox Saved the People, collected by Virginia Football	The three little tamales, Eric A. Kimmel

The Giving tree : a Retelling of a Traditional Métis Story about Giving and Receiving, Leah Dorion

Rapunzel's revenge, Shannon Hale & Dean Hale

MODERN FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION

Definitions: Modern fantasy is rooted in traditional literature, but has an identifiable author. Modern fantasy also includes modern fairy tales like those from Hans Christian Andersen. In general, modern fantasy stories involve magic, the "quest," and/or "good versus evil." Fantasy creates an alternative universe, which operates on laws different than our own. Sub-genres of fantasy include animal fantasy, quest fantasy, machine fantasy, toy and doll fantasy, time fantasy, comic fantasy, high fantasy, and other world fantasy.

High fantasy are complex stories characterized by recurring themes and often take place in created or imaginary worlds.

Science fiction, or speculative fiction, speculates on what might happen in the future in our universe, so it has some basis in our reality. The books in this genre address themes of love, justice, truth, loyalty goodness, courage, wisdom, etc. Sometimes the line between fantasy and science fiction is blurred, with elements of both genres in the story.

Notable Authors:

Kenneth Oppel
Rick Riordan,
Diana Wynne-Jones
Christopher Paolini
Suzanne Collins
Kristin Cashore
Neil Gaiman

Charles De Lint
Tamora Pierce
Cornelia Funke
Cora Taylor
Shannon Hale
Veronica Roth
Pittacus Lore

Philip Pullman
Philip Kerr
Tony DiTerlizzi/ Holly Black
Zilpha Keatley Snyder
Scott Westerfield
Ursula K. Le Guin
Margaret Petersen Haddix

Recent Titles of Note:

The fantastic flying books of Mr. Morris Lessmore, William Joyce	The Rabbits, John Marsden (Older Readers)
The Dangerous Alphabet, Neil Gaiman	Life as we knew it / Susan Beth Pfeffer
All these things I've done, Gabrielle Zevin	Sporeville / Paul Marlowe
I am Number Four, Pittacus Lore	Emmy and the incredible shrinking rat, Lynne Jonell
The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland In A Ship Of Her Own Making, Catherynne M. Valente	Captain Raptor : and the space pirates, Kevin O'Malley
The Graveyard Book, Neil Gaiman	The true meaning of Smekday, Adam Rex
Storm thief / Chris Wooding	Epic, Conor Kostick

CONTEMPORARY REALISTIC FICTION

Definition: Titles dealing with the problems and joys of living today. There is often an element of

character growth or self-realization in the book. Titles can promote tolerance and understanding of others and their experiences. It "extends children's horizons by broadening their interests, allowing them to experience new adventures and showing them different ways to view and deal with conflicts in their own lives". (Through the eyes of a child (2003), p. 363)

Notable Authors and Illustrators:

Martha Brooks	William Bell	Sigmund Brouwer
Deborah Ellis	Eric Walters	Christopher Paul Curtis
Jack Gantos	Walter Dean Myers	Tim Wynne-Jones
Eric Wilson	John Green	Cecile Castellucci
David A. Poulsen	Kashmira Sheth	Jerry Spinelli
Andrew Clements	Cary Fagan	Michael Morpurgo
Allan Stratton	Kit Pierson	Adam Rapp

Recent Titles of Note

Wonder / R.J. Palacio	The strange Case of Origami Yoda / Tom Angleberger
The mealworm diaries / Anna Kerz	Motorcycles & sweetgrass : a novel, Drew Hayden Taylor
The brilliant fall of Gianna Z., Kate Messner	The boy in the box, Cary Fagan
Swindle, Gordon Korman	Wanting Mor, Rukhsana Khan
The Wednesday wars, by Gary D. Schmidt	No ordinary day, Deborah Ellis
The reluctant journal of Henry K. Larsen : (who is only writing this because his therapist said he had to, which stinks), Susin Nielsen	How Oliver Olson changed the world, Claudia Mills
Red sings from treetops : a year in colors, by Joyce Sidman	The secret life of Owen Skye / Alan Cumyn
Chance to Dance for You, Gail Sidonie Sobat	Dear George Clooney : please marry my mom, Susin Nielsen

HISTORICAL FICTION

Definition: Realistic fiction set in the past. Readers can gain an understanding of the past and relive past events vicariously. Authors may build their fictional stories around a specific event, person or time period/place in history. Evidence of an author's research is important: look for author notes at the end of the work.

Notable Authors and Illustrators:

Avi	Brian Doyle	Cathy Beveridge
Linda Granfield	Sarah Ellis	Marie-Louise Gay
Iain Lawrence	Janet Lunn	Ann Rinaldi
Cora Taylor	Paul Yee	Jean Little

Barbara Haworth-Attard

Carol Matas

Maxine Trottier

Recent Titles of Note:

Miss Spitfire : reaching Helen Keller / Sarah Miller	Obasan, Joy Kogawa.
Shadows of disaster, Cathy Beveridge	No moon / Irene N. Watts
Pure Spring, Brian Doyle	Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis
The porcupine year, Louise Erdrich	Queen of Hearts, Martha Brooks
The bone collector's son, by Paul Yee	The Giant-Slayer, Iain Lawrence
Eye of the crow, Shane Peacock	The Green Glass Sea, Ellen Klages
Code name Verity, Elizabeth Wein	Greener grass : the famine years, Caroline Pignat
Megiddo's Shadow, Arthur Slade	The Book Thief, Markus Zusak

INFORMATIONAL BOOKS

Definition: Informational books can also be called non-fiction books. Informational books must be accurate, authentic, up-to-date, factual, clearly organized, and include illustrations when needed. These books should avoid anthropomorphism, stereotypes and generalizations. Sub-genres include photo documentaries, narrative texts, how-to books, question and answer books, activity books, field guides/ identification books, survey books, concept books and life-cycle books. Biography can also be considered a sub-category.

Notable Authors and Illustrators:

Shelley Tanaka
Steve Jenkins
David Macaulay
Seymour Simon
Diane Swanson
Brian Floca

Barbara Greenwood
Russell Freedman
Linda Granfield
Jim Murphy
Bill Slavin

Hugh Brewster
Kathleen Krull
Vivien Bowers
Larry Verstraete
Richard Platt

Recent Titles of Note:

Katie Smith Milway. One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference.	Susan Hughes. Case Closed? Nine Mysteries Unlocked by Modern Science.
The tree of life : a book depicting the life of Charles Darwin : naturalist, geologist & thinker, by Peter Sis	Everything but the kitchen sink : weird stuff you didn't know about food, Frieda Wishinsky & Elizabeth MacLeod
Lightship, Brian Floca	Animals nobody loves by Seymour Simon
Susan Vande Griek. Loon	Viola Desmond Won't Be Budged

Rafal Gerszak with Dawn Hunter. Beyond Bullets: A Photo Journal of Afghanistan.	Follow That Map! A First Book of Mapping Skills, Scot Ritchie.
Dora Lee. Biomimicry: Inventions Inspired by Nature.	Whispers from the ghettos / Kathy Kacer and Sharon E. McKay
Marthe Jocelyn. Scribbling Women: True Tales from Astonishing Lives	Inuksuk journey : an artist at the top of the world / Mary Wallace
Burp! The most interesting book you'll ever read about eating, Diane Swanson	Not Your Typical Book About the Environment, Elin Kelsey.

GRAPHIC NOVELS (Format)

Graphic novels can be fiction or non-fiction, ranging from full-length novels or collections of short stories to biographies and informational texts. A comic book style with panels and speech bubbles is used to “narrate a story or dramatize an idea” (Will Eisner). The format has many fans, and its use of images provides a unique reading experience that can enhance visual literacy. Graphic novels are highly popular with young readers.

Notable Authors and Illustrators:

Raina Telgemeier	Ashley Spires	Hope Larson
Jeff Smith	Matt Phelan	Jeff Lemire
Art Spiegelman	Aaron Renier	Alan Moore
Gene Yang	Scott Chantler	David Alexander Robertson
Kazu Kibuishi	Doug TenNapel	

Recent Titles of Note

Cardboard, Doug TenNapel	Friends with Boys, Faith Erin Hicks
Hyena in petticoats : the story of suffragette Nellie McClung : a graphic novel, Willow Dawson	Louis Riel: A Comic Strip Biography, Chester Brown
Anya's Ghost, Vera Brosgol	Essex County, Jeff Lemire
I, witness, Norah McClintock	Binky the Space Cat, Ashley Spires
The golden twine / Jo Rioux	Rapunzel's Revenge, Shannon Hale
Jane, the fox and me, Fanny Britt	Owly, Andy Runton
Storm in the Barn, Matt Phelan	Amelia Rules, Jimmy Gownley
Meanwhile, Jason Shiga	Pyongyang: A Journey in North Korea, Guy Delisle

Contributors: Margaret Rodermond, Bill Glaister, Barbara Huston. August 2003. Updated by Beth Cormier, Sept. 2014