



Forest Of Reading

2020 Kid Committee List

Silver Birch Fiction Readers

Ages 8–12, Grades 3–6

Official Wholesaler

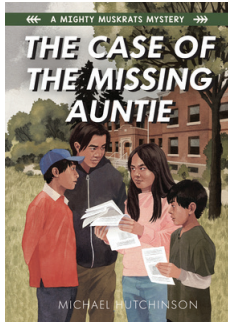
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Suggested Reading List

Silver Birch Readers (Ages 8-12, Grades 3-6)



***The Case of the Missing Auntie (A Mighty Muskrats Mystery)* by Michael Hutchinson (Second Story Press)**

The Mighty Muskrats are off to the city to have fun at the Exhibition Fair. But when Chickadee asks Grandpa what he would like them to bring back from the city, she learns about Grandpa's missing little sister. She was, they learn, "scooped" years ago—like many Indigenous children, the government had arranged for her adoption by strangers without her parents' permission. Now, the Mighty Muskrats have a new case to solve: to find the whereabouts of their grandpa's long-lost sister. Once in the bright lights of the big city, the cousins get distracted, face off with bullies, meet some heroes and unlikely teachers, and experience many of the difficulties First Nations kids can face in the city. Their search for their missing auntie takes them all the way to the government and reveals hard truths about their country's treatment of First Nations kids and families.



***The Dragon Thief (Dragons in the Bag #2)* by Zetta Elliott (Random House Books for Young Readers)**

Stealing a baby dragon was easy! Hiding it is a little more complicated, in this sequel to reviewer favorite *Dragons in a Bag*. Jaxon had just one job—to return three baby dragons to the realm of magic. But when he got there, only two dragons were left in the bag. His best friend's sister, Kavita, is a dragon thief! Kavita only wanted what was best for the baby dragon. But now every time she feeds it, the dragon grows and grows! How can she possibly keep it secret? Even worse, stealing it has upset the balance between the worlds. The gates to the other realm have shut tight! Jaxon needs all the help he can get to find Kavita, outsmart a trickster named Blue, and return the baby dragon to its true home.

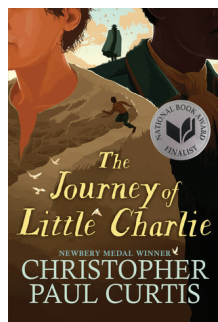


***Jinxed (Jinxed #1)* by Amy McCulloch (Sourcebooks Young Readers)**

Lacey Chu has big dreams of becoming a companioneer for MONCHA, the largest tech firm in North America and the company behind the "baku" – a customizable smart pet that functions as a phone but makes the perfect companion too. When Lacey finds out she hasn't been accepted into Profectus – the elite academy for cutting edge tech – it seems her dreams are over. Worst of all, rather than getting to choose one of the advanced bakus, she's stuck with a rubbish insect one. Then, one night, Lacey comes across the remains of an advanced baku. Once it might've been in the shape of a cat but it's now mangled and broken, no sign of electronic life behind its eyes. Days of work later and the baku opens its eyes. Lacey calls him Jinx – and Jinx opens up a world for her that she never even knew existed, including entry to the hallowed halls of Profectus. Slowly but surely, Jinx becomes more than just a baku to Lacey – he becomes her perfect companion. But what is Jinx, really? His abilities far surpass anything written into his code or built into his motherboard. He seems to be more than just a robotic pet. He seems ... real.

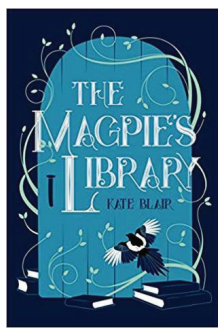
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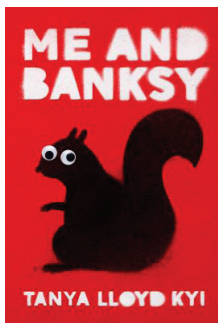
***The Journey of Little Charlie* by Christopher Paul Curtis (Scholastic Canada)**

Twelve-year-old Charlie is down on his luck: His sharecropper father just died and Cap'n Buck — the most fearsome man in Possum Moan, South Carolina — has come to collect a debt. Fearing for his life, Charlie strikes a deal with Cap'n Buck and agrees to track down some folks accused of stealing from the cap'n and his boss. It's not too bad of a bargain for Charlie... until he comes face-to-face with the fugitives and discovers their true identities. Torn between his guilty conscience and his survival instinct, Charlie needs to figure out his next move — and soon. It's only a matter of time before Cap'n Buck catches on. Newbery Medalist Christopher Paul Curtis brings his trademark humor and heart to this story of a boy struggling to do right in the face of history's cruelest evils.



***The Magpie's Library* by Kate Blair (DCB)**

Silva and her family visit her grandfather, only to find his health has taken a bad turn. As they struggle with this news, Silva seeks escape in books — at the local library. But she gets more than she bargained for when a magpie guides her to a secret, magical room containing books that she can not only read, but that she can live. Silva finds herself in the worlds of the characters ... who all turn out to be real people. People she knows. There's a catch, though: she soon discovers that the magpie has lured her to these books for selfish and dark reasons. Going back to the books could mean losing her soul ...



***Me and Banksy* by Tanya Lloyd Kyi (Puffin Canada)**

A Banksy-style protest against cameras in classrooms brings a group of middle-grade students together. Dominica's private school is covered in cameras, and someone is hacking into them and posting embarrassing moments for the whole school to see. Like Ana picking her nose. When Dominica quickly changes her shirt from inside out in what she thinks is the privacy of a quiet corner in the library, she's shocked — and embarrassed — to discover a video has captured this and is currently circulating amongst her schoolmates. So mortifying, especially since over the past three years, they've had a half-dozen school talks about social media safety. Who has access to the school security cameras and why are they doing this? Dominica and her best friends, Holden and Saanvi, are determined to find out, and in the process start an art-based student campaign against cameras in the classroom.

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***Megabat and Fancy Cat (Megabat #2)* by Anna Humphrey, illustrated by Kass Reich (Tundra Books)**

Megabat returns, this time with a new nemesis: a very fancy cat. Can our tiny bat hero stop his Daniel's heart from being stolen by this nefarious, fluffy villain? Megabat was looking forward to Christmas morning: presents, playing toys, smooshfruit and watching Star Wars. But then Daniel opened his last, most special present. Daniel thinks this might be the best Christmas present yet: a beautiful cat named Priscilla! He's always wanted a pet. Megabat is not sure he likes this cat. She tastes most hairy. Daniel loves his new cat! She's fun to play with, and she's so soft and fluffy. Megabat is not soft OR fluffy. He's not purebred and he doesn't have a big, beautiful swishy tail. What if Daniel loves Priscilla more than Megabat? This is truly a disturbance in the Force. Megabat and Birdgirl must find a way to get rid of this trouble cat once and for all! Calamity ensues as Megabat and Birdgirl try to come up with ways to get rid of Priscilla. But is there more than meets the eye with this furry menace?



***Music for Tigers* by Michelle Kadarusman (Pajama Press)**

Shipped halfway around the world to spend the summer with her mom's eccentric Australian relatives, middle schooler and passionate violinist Louisa is prepared to be resentful. But life at the family's remote camp in the Tasmanian rainforest is intriguing, to say the least. There are pig-footed bandicoots, scary spiders, weird noises and odors in the night, and a quirky boy named Colin who cooks the most amazing meals. Not the least strange is her Uncle Ruff, with his unusual pet and veiled hints about something named Convict Rock. Finally, Louisa learns the truth: Convict Rock is a sanctuary established by her great-grandmother Eleanor—a sanctuary for Tasmanian tigers, Australia's huge marsupials that were famously hunted into extinction almost a hundred years ago. Or so the world believes. Hidden in the rainforest at Convict Rock, one tiger remains. But now the sanctuary is threatened by a mining operation, and the last Tasmanian tiger must be lured deeper into the forest. The problem is, not since her great-grandmother has a member of the family been able to earn the shy tigers' trust. As the summer progresses, Louisa forges unexpected connections with Colin, with the forest, and—through Eleanor's journal—with her great-grandmother. She begins to suspect the key to saving the tiger is her very own music. But will her plan work? Or will the enigmatic Tasmanian tiger disappear once again, this time forever?



***Notorious* by Gordon Korman (Scholastic Canada)**

A funny, suspenseful mystery and unlikely friendship story from New York Times bestselling author Gordon Korman—perfect for fans of Swindle and Ungifted. Keenan has lived all over the world but nowhere quite as strange as Centerlight Island, which is split between the United States and Canada. The only thing weirder than Centerlight itself is his neighbor Zarabeth, aka ZeeBee. ZeeBee is obsessed with the island's history as a Prohibition-era smuggling route. She's also convinced that her beloved dog, Barney, was murdered—something Keenan finds pretty hard to believe. Just about everyone on Centerlight is a suspect, because everyone hated Barney, a huge dog—part mastiff, part rottweiler—notorious for terrorizing the community. Accompanied by a mild-mannered new dog who is practically Barney's opposite, ZeeBee enlists Keenan's help to solve the mystery. As Keenan and ZeeBee start to unravel the clues, they uncover a shocking conspiracy that dates back to Centerlight's gangster past. The good news is that Keenan may have found the best friend he's ever had. The bad news is that the stakes are sky-high. And now someone is after them.

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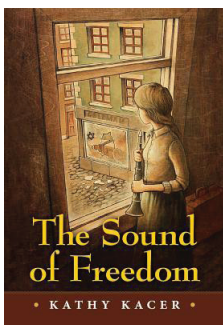
***Phantom of Fire (Dylan Maples, Book 5)* by Shane Peacock (Nimbus)**

Things aren't going so well for fifteen-year-old Dylan Maples. He's sick of his own reflection, his parental units are driving him nuts, and, worst of all, he's trying to come to terms with the unexpected death of one of his best friends. Now, to top things off, he's been roped into a family trip to stay with family friends in New Brunswick. After just a few hours in Bathurst, Dylan worries this will turn out to be the most boring vacation ever, but when he meets a local girl, Antonine, and the two of them witness what looks like a burning ship way out on the water, he begins to think that New Brunswick might be more interesting than he thought. As Dylan and Antonine begin to research the famous ghost ship of the Chaleur Bay, they raise more questions than they answer. Does Antonine's father hold a clue to the mystery? What's the deal with the local right-wing politician who is on everybody's minds these days? And what really happened on the water all those years ago?



***The Secret of White Stone Gate (Black Hollow Lane #2)* by Julia Nobel (Sourcebooks Young Readers)**

In this exciting sequel to The Mystery of Black Hollow Lane, Emmy's adventures continue as she deals with a sinister organization, a missing father, and secrets she's not sure who to trust with. After spending the summer at home, Emmy cannot wait to return to Wellsworth for the new school year and reunite with her best friends, Lola and Jack. Before she leaves Emmy receives a note from her father telling her to hide the remaining relics The Order of Black Hollow Lane are after—and to trust no one. When Lola is framed for a serious crime she didn't commit, Emmy knows that she and her friends are not safe. The Order wants Emmy to give up her father's location... if she doesn't, those she loves will pay the price. Emmy and Jack need to figure out a way to clear Lola's name without bending to the Order's sinister demands. And Emmy needs to figure out who she can trust with her secrets before it's too late.



***The Sound of Freedom (Heroes Quartet #1)* by Kathy Kacer (Annick Press)**

Anna and her family have only one hope left to escape certain doom. It's 1936 and life is becoming dangerous for the Jews of Krakow. As incidents of violence and persecution increase day by day, Anna begs her father to leave Poland, but he insists it's impossible. How could he give up his position as an acclaimed clarinetist in the Krakow Philharmonic Orchestra? When Anna and her father barely escape from a group of violent thugs, it becomes clear that the family must leave. But how? There seems to be only one possibility. Bronislaw Huberman, a world-renowned violinist, is auditioning Jewish musicians for a new orchestra in Palestine. If accepted, they and their families will receive exit visas. Anna and her grandmother boldly write to Huberman asking him to give Anna's father an audition, but will that be enough to save them? This poignant story is based on real events in pre-war Poland and Palestine. After saving 700 Jews and their families, Huberman went on to establish what later became the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Against an ominous background of the impending Holocaust in Europe and the first Arab-Israeli war, The Sound of Freedom still manages to remind the reader of the goodness in the world.

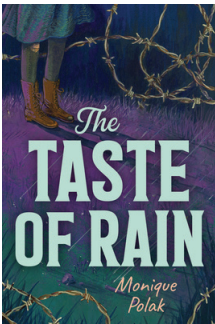
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***Stand on the Sky* by Erin Bow (Scholastic Canada)**

A middle grade debut by author, Erin Bow, about a young girl who defies her family's expectations in order to save her brother and become an eagle hunter. It goes against all tradition for Aisulu to train an eagle, for among the Kazakh nomads, only men can fly them. But everything changes when Aisulu discovers that her brother, Serik, has been concealing a bad limp that risks not just his future as the family's leader, but his life too. When her parents leave to seek a cure for Serik in a distant hospital, Aisulu finds herself living with her intimidating uncle and strange auntie — and secretly caring for an orphaned baby eagle. To save her brother and keep her family from having to leave their nomadic life behind forever, Aisulu must earn her eagle's trust and fight for her right to soar. Along the way, she discovers that family are people who choose each other, home is a place you build, and hope is a thing with feathers.



***The Taste of Rain* by Monique Polak (Orca)**

It is 1945, and thirteen-year-old Gwen has been a prisoner at the Weih sien Internment Camp in northern China for nearly two and a half years. Gwen is one of 140 children who were enrolled at a boarding school in Chefoo when the Japanese Imperial Army invaded China. Life in the camp is difficult. There is not enough food or water, and even the children are forced to do hard labor. But Miss E., one of their teachers from Chefoo, has come up with an unusual scheme: she will follow the Girl Guide Code, treating Gwen and her friends as if they are part of a Girl Guide troop. Girl Guides promise not only to stay positive in the most challenging situations but also to do good turns, meaning they must be kind to others without any expectation of reward. Gwendolyn hopes that when she grows up, she will be as courageous and optimistic as Miss E. But then Gwen learns that Miss E. is not as full of answers as she seems, and she realizes that in order to protect a friend, she will have to do something that could never be considered a good turn.



***Wings of Olympus: The Colt of the Clouds* by Kallie George (HarperCollins)**

Soar into adventure with Pippa, an orphaned girl in Ancient Greece, and her beloved winged horse, Zephyr, who head out on a daring adventure to save Mt. Olympus in the second book in the Wings of Olympus series by beloved, award-winning author Kallie George. Ever since Pippa lost the winged horse race of the ancient gods and was banned from the slopes of Mount Olympus, she and her beloved horse, Zephyr, have tried to adjust to living a normal life on the ground. But when Pippa rescues a lost winged colt, she knows she must return him to the land of the gods and goddesses—even though she was warned never to return. Up on Mount Olympus, however, disaster awaits. The gods and goddesses are at war, and someone has kidnapped all of the horses. If Pippa doesn't find a way to restore peace, the battle will destroy the human world and the winged horses could be lost—forever. With the help of her new friend Hero, the not-so-heroic descendant of Hercules, and her stubborn colt, Tazo, Pippa takes on a task few mortals would dare: to rescue the horses and end the war. This heartfelt adventure series from acclaimed author Kallie George is perfect for horse lovers and fans of Greek myths alike!

The 2020 Committee

Met Virtually on May 29, 2020



Silver Birch



First Row (L-R): **Meredith Tutching** — Director of the Forest of Reading, **Kalie** — Simcoe County School Board (Orillia), **Matthew** — Toronto Catholic District School Board (Toronto), **Sadie** — Toronto District School Board (Toronto)

Second Row (L-R): **Anam** — Durham District School Board (Ajax), **Molly** — Toronto District School Board (Toronto), **Zoe** — Thames Valley District School Board (Aylmer), **Evan** — Toronto District School Board (Toronto)

Third Row (L-R): **Reese** — York Region District School Board (Newmarket), **Shazdeh** — Toronto District School Board (Toronto), **Helen Kubiw** — Facilitator of the Kid Committee — Silver Birch

About Helen Kubiw, the Kid Committee — Silver Birch Facilitator:
Retired Teacher-Librarian, Former Forest of Reading Chair