



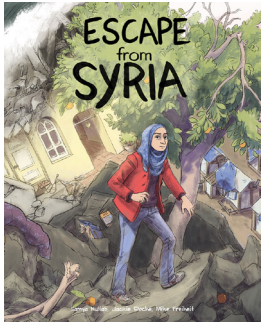
**Forest of
Reading®**

by the Ontario Library Association

2019

LIGHT READS,
GREAT
STORIES

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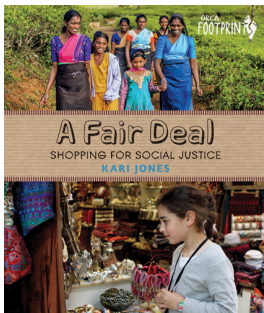


Escape from Syria

Written by Samya Kullab, Illustrated by Jackie Roche

Published by Firefly Books

From the pen of former Daily Star (Lebanon) reporter Samya Kullab comes a breathtaking and hard-hitting story of one family's struggle to survive in the face of war, displacement, poverty and relocation. The story spans six years in the lives of Walid, his wife Dalia, and their two children, Amina and Youssef. Forced to flee from Syria, they become asylum-seekers in Lebanon, and finally resettled refugees in the West. Walid's daughter, the young Amina, a whip-smart grade-A student, tells the story. As she witnesses firsthand the harsh realities that her family must endure if they are to survive — swindling smugglers, treacherous ocean crossings, and jihadist militias — she is forced to grow up very quickly in order to help her parents and brother. Kullab's narrative masterfully maps both the collapse and destruction of Syria, and the real-life tragedies faced by its citizens still today. The family's escape from their homeland makes for a harrowing tale, but with their safe arrival in the West it serves as a hopeful endnote to this ongoing worldwide crisis.



A Fair Deal: Shopping for Social Justice

Written by Kari Jones

Published by Orca Book Publishers

Fair trade is not about spending more money or buying more stuff. It's about helping producers in developing countries get a fair price for their goods. In *A Fair Deal: Shopping for Social Justice*, Kari Jones provides a history of trade, explaining what makes trade systems unfair and what we can do about it. By examining ways in which our global trade systems value some people over others, the book illustrates areas in which fair trade practices can help families all around the world and suggests ways to get involved in making the world a more equitable place.

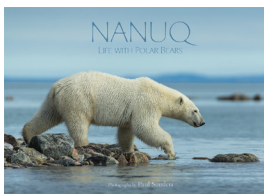


From Scratch

Written by Gail Anderson-Dargatz

Published by Orca Book Publishers

Cookie is about to lose her job at the local bakery. She dreams of owning her own bakery but doesn't think she has the skills or money to do it. Most of all, she doesn't have the self-confidence. When she takes a course at the local college, she finds she has much more going for her than she imagined. With the help of her community, she figures out how to make sure no one has to go without her famous daily cookies for long.

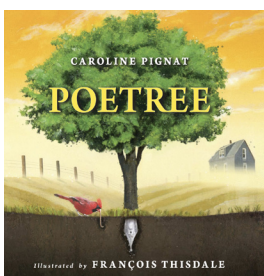


Nanuq: Life with Polar Bears

Photographs by Paul Souders

Published by Inhabit Media

Nanuq: Life with Polar Bears features gorgeous wildlife photography of polar bears alongside first-hand accounts of experiences of living alongside the great sea bear. From close encounters with angry bears to the beauty of watching a polar bear climb an iceberg with its claws and traditional mythology surrounding life with polar bears, this book gives readers outside the Arctic a first-hand look at what life with polar bears is really like.



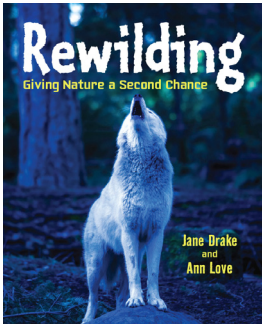
Poetree

Written by Caroline Pignat, Illustrated by Francois Thisdale

Published by Red Deer Press

Caroline Pignat's first picture book is an intriguing blend of carefully composed verbal images, knit together with extraordinary visuals by the award-winning François Thisdale. The poem is about the yearly cycle in the life of trees. But it's also an intriguing poetic concoction. The initial letters of each line in each stanza spell out a word that pertains to the theme. For example, in the section on spring, the vertical letters spell out: SEED, GERMINATE, SHOOT, ROOTS, LEAVES, FLOWERS. The young reader will make that discovery as they read the text and look at the detailed illustrations that show a rural landscape with trees, a farmer, barns, animals, and the changing of the seasons.

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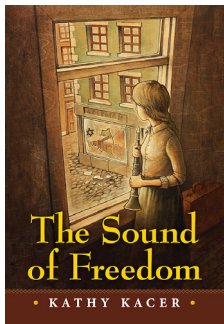


Rewilding: Giving Nature a Second Chance

Written by Ann Love and Jane Drake

Published by Annick Press

It's not too late! The natural world can still be healed. Rewilding is an important environmental movement to restore habitats to their natural state. By reintroducing native plant species, we also protect the wildlife that depends on them for food. The authors present examples from around the world where endangered animals have been returned to their natural habitats. From pandas and peregrine falcons to jaguars and wolves, the stories of these animals testify with good management, the extinction of species can be avoided. This book relates how cities have begun to create new habitats for animals and plants everywhere from tiny rooftop gardens to huge parks on disused land.



The Sound of Freedom

Written by Kathy Kacer

Published by 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. When Anna and her father barely escape from a group of violent thugs, it becomes clear that the family must leave. But how? 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 seven hundred Jews and their families, Huberman went on to establish what later became the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

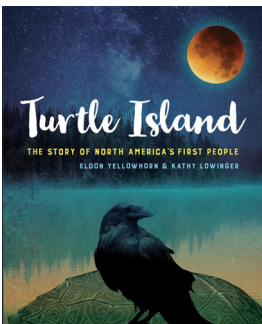


Stick Pick

Written by Steven Sandor

Published by Formac Lorimer Books

Star player Janine leads her hockey team to victory at the provincial championships. But on the way home from the game, a car accident leaves her paralyzed from the waist down. Her best friend and teammate, Rowena, urges Janine to look into sledge hockey. Adapting to her new life, Janine meets frustration at every turn. Soon Janine begins to appreciate her new sport. Her experiences lead her to speak up about rights for the disabled, taking her cause all the way to the professional sports arena. She might be a sledge hockey rookie, but she knows she's up for any challenge. Based on real-life experience and research, this story tracks the emotional and physical challenges of first dealing with disability.

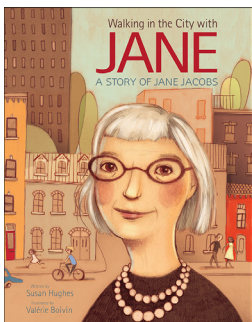


Turtle Island: The Story of North America's First People

Written by Eldon Yellowhorn and Kathy Lowinger

Published by Annick Press

Unlike most books on the history of Native peoples, which begin with the arrival of Europeans in 1492, this book goes back to the Ice Age to give young readers a glimpse of what life was like pre-contact. The title, Turtle Island, refers to a Native myth that explains how the Americas were formed on the back of a turtle. Based on archaeological finds and scientific research, we now have a clearer picture of how the Indigenous peoples lived as far back as fourteen thousand years ago. The importance of storytelling among the Native peoples is always present to shed light on how they explained their world: each chapter opens with a seminal myth to address a different theme.



Walking in the City with Jane

Written by Susan Hughes

Illustrated by Valérie Boivin

Published by Kids Can Press

From the time she was a young girl, Jane Jacobs' curious mind made her a keen observer of everything around her. When she grew up, she moved to New York City. It was there she realized that, just like in nature, a city is an ecosystem. So, when city planner Robert Moses proposed creating highways through the city that would destroy neighborhoods and much of what made New York great, Jane decided she couldn't let it happen. Jane's bravery and ideas had a huge influence on urban planning that is still being felt today. In this lively and engaging informational picture book, award-winning author Susan Hughes provides a fictionalized story of the life of Jane Jacobs, one of the world's greatest urban thinkers and activists.