

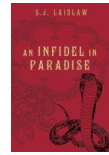


**BEST BETS**

**2013**

**Fiction Reading for Young Adults**

**The OLA's Canadian Materials Committee, under the umbrella of the OPLA Child and Youth Services Committee, picks this annual list.**



**Andrews, Jan.** *The Silent Summer of Kyle McGinley.*

**Great Plains.**

Tossed from one foster home to another, Kyle decides to stop talking, sure no one will notice. But when he is welcomed by a couple who accept him & give him the freedom to make his own choices, he discovers hope.

**Bass, Karen.** *Graffiti Knight.*

**Pajama Press.**

Set in aftermath of the second World War the novel opens with a group of German teens playing a spy game that quickly becomes too real as they witness the police beating a man. It is in this harsh setting Wilm and his friends turn to subversive acts to express their feelings about the conditions under which they live. The diverse set of characters in the novel are represent a spectrum of individuals coping with hardship, foreign occupation, and injustice in their own ways. Throughout the story the reader is confronted by destruction and the question of how to begin to rebuild.

**Bow, Erin.** *Sorrow's Knot.*

**Scholastic.**

What lurks in the shadows and how to put it to rest? The Binder knots her cords, casting spells to hold the dead. The free women of the forest weave ropes in loose tree platforms to canopy the dead. The ward is surrounded by a safety net of charms. Otter seeks her destiny on her quest to the origins of the cursed white hand before more of her womenfolk and friends die.

**Johnston, Julie.** *Little Red Lies.*

**Tundra Books**

When Jamie returns home from the battlefield, Rachel expects everything will return to normal for their family. As Rachel struggles to reconcile her brother's trauma and her mother's pregnancy, she focuses on dramatic theatre as an escape. Her lipstick, "Little Red Lies" cannot shield her from the hard truths she must face to move on.

**Little, Ashley.** *The New Normal.*

**Orca Book Publishers.**

Tamar is losing her hair, her twin sisters died in a car crash, her mother is becoming a yoga fanatic, and her father is increasingly distant. Despite these seemingly extraordinary circumstances Tamar is a likeable character who will resonate with readers. School drama, finding a job, a robbery, negotiating with a drug dealer, and a new relationship are all part of Tamar's story as she and her family begin to navigate their way out of grief.

**MacLean, Jill.** *Nix Minus One.*

**Pajama Press.**

Told in free verse, this is about the growth of an insecure, practically non-verbal, teen when he has to fight to protect those he loves. It is a somber but powerful read with flashes of humour and hope.

**Mulder, Michell.** *Not A Chance.*

**Orca Book Publishers.**

Dian accompanies her physician parents who do clinic work in Dominican Republic, each summer. Her girlhood friend is planning to marry at 15, denying herself an opportunity for a future in Canada. Engage in this culture clash; explore the value of home. Can Dian define her role as a community helper without alienating the people she has come to befriend?

**Sherrard, Valerie.** *Counting Back From Nine.*

**Fitzhenry & Whiteside.**

Laren is dropped by her high-school clique when it's revealed that she is dating her BFF's "ex". Amidst the misery of being "unfriended", Laren's perspective on life and love is changed forever when her father dies suddenly, and a shocking family secret is exposed. A powerful and thought provoking YA novel, written in free verse.

**Silver, Eve.** *Rush (The Game: Book 1).*

**Harper Collins.**

Although *Rush* begins after a normal day of school for the teen characters, readers are quickly pulled into an alternate reality game where teens must kill aliens to survive. Miki Jones, the main character, soon discovers that actions within the game have consequences in the real world and much more than she could have imagined is depending on the outcome of the game. Fast paced, filled with action, and character development, there are many facets to enjoy in this book. This first book in a series will leave readers eager for the next installment.

**Toten, Teresa.** *The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B.*

**Doubleday Canada**

A modern-day boy meets girl tale – except Adam and Robyn meet in a support group for teens with obsessive-compulsive disorders. As Adam and Robyn fall head over heels for each other, their individual struggles continue to challenge their friendships in the group and their own relationship. How can Adam be Robyn's "Batman" if he can't race to her rescue without first completing his ritual of clearing the door? A compassionate love story that allows us insight into lives less understood.

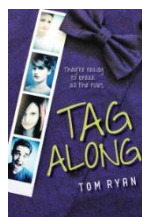
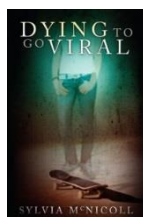
## HONOURABLE MENTIONS

Chapman, Elsie. *Dualed.* Random House.

Laidlaw, S.J., *An Infidel in Paradise.* Tundra.

McNicoll, Sylvia. *Dying to Go Viral.* Fitzhenry & Whiteside.

Ryan, Tom. *Tag Along.* Orca Book Publishers.



## OLA'S CANADIAN MATERIALS COMMITTEE

We are a long standing committee with a strong voice in promoting Canadian literature for children and young adults. Our goal is to highlight excellence in literature for children and young adults for the OLA membership and others with an interest.

The OLA's annual Best Bets lists evolved from a list put out by the Canadian Material's Committee of the Children's Services Guild. This Canadian Materials Committee is now under the wing of the OPLA Children and Youth Committee.

The OLA's Canadian Materials Committee selects books on the basis of their literary/artistic merit as well as their appeal for children and young adults. Text and illustrations are of equal importance in picture books and information books. We publish two lists each year, one listing top material for children and the other listing top material for young adults (teens).

Meetings are held a minimum of six times a year. Members discuss and evaluate recent publications by Canadian authors and illustrators. The books evaluated are suitable for children and young adults from birth to nineteen years old. From these discussions, the Committee produces "Best Bets" lists, annual annotated lists of recommended titles. These lists are released each year at the OLA Super Conference and can also be found on the OPLA website on the Children and Youth Services Committee page at [http://www.accessola.org/OLAWEB/OPLA/Children and Youth Services Committee/OLAWEB/OPLA/Best Bets.aspx](http://www.accessola.org/OLAWEB/OPLA/Children_and_Youth_Services_Committee/OLAWEB/OPLA/Best_Bets.aspx)

### OLA's Canadian Materials Committee Members:

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Sandy Laird, Mississauga Library System  
Laura Luopa, Caledon Public Library  
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