

# Best Bets

## 2019 List

### Picture Books

Forsythe, Matthew. Pokko and the Drum. Simon & Schuster.

The biggest mistake Pokko's parents ever made was giving her a drum. Pokko the frog lives with her quiet parents, in a quiet mushroom, in a quiet forest. Pokko and her not-so-quiet drum set out into the woods, where the musical version of a pick-up-basketball game ensues, and suddenly Pokko has a band to lead. Quick, irreverent, and full of chuckles.

Gale, Heather. Ho'onani: Hula Warrior. Illustrated by Mika Song. Tundra.

Ho'onani doesn't feel totally like a girl, but she's not a boy either. She'd rather just be Ho'onani. When her Hawaiian school announces they will perform a traditional boys-only hula, Ho'onani dreams of filling the important lead role. With the support of her teacher and parents, Ho'onani becomes a strong and steady hula warrior. But her story isn't without pushback – from the boys in the hula troupe, and Ho'onani's own sister who wishes Ho'onani wouldn't be so noticeable all the time. Radiates themes of acceptance and respect.

Gigot, Jami. Imagination Vacation. Albert Whitman.

Sam's family is busy – there's work, chores around the house, and a little sister who is always up to something. Wishing for a break and time together, Sam dreams of a vacation. Rather than wait for "someday" like Dad promises, Sam gets to work. With a little research, a lot of crafting, and all her imagination, she leads the family on a world-wide adventure without ever leaving town. Offers a fantastic opportunity to use our imaginations to their fullest, and also highlights the importance of carving out family time.

Gravel, Elise. What is a Refugee? Schwarz and Wade.

Riding the line between picture book and non-fiction, this book uses very spare text and simple illustrations to present an empathetic but honest picture of the refugee experience. Gravel doesn't shy away from the harder points, and the illustrations challenge perceptions of who can be a refugee. This is a book for kids beginning to grapple with hard questions about the things they see in the news. It offers a refreshingly honest perspective that is the perfect gateway into an ongoing conversation.

Muhammad, Ibtihaj, and S.K. Ali. The Proudest Blue. Illustrated by Hatem Aly. Little, Brown and Company.

Faizah is bursting with excitement for her first day back to school. Even more exciting than her own light-up shoes, Faizah is thrilled that this will be her big sister Asiya's first day of hijab. Asiya's hijab is the most gorgeous shade of bright blue. Her excitement comes crashing down when Faizah sees that not everyone understands hijab, and worries deeply about Asiya all through the school day. Yet Asiya is

unfazed, smiling and strong at the end of the day, heeding their mama's warning to not carry the hurtful words of others – "drop them, they are not yours to keep." This is a bullying book, but more importantly an acceptance book, and a book about strong big sisters.

Nielsen, Susin. Princess Puffybottom... and Darryl. Illustrated by Olivia Chin Mueller. Tundra.

Princess Puffybottom lives a contented, dignified cat life – exactly as she deserves. That is, until her moms bring home Darryl – an energetic mutt of a puppy who ruins Princess Puffybottom's uncontested rule over the house. Darryl is messy and annoying and hogs the attention Princess rightfully deserves. As it becomes clear Darryl is here to stay, the cat and dog pair are forced to figure out how to coexist – just in time for their moms to make another addition to the family. This rivalry story is funny, heartwarming, and sure to amuse kids and adults.

Smith, Heather. A Plan for Pops. Illustrated by Brooke Kerrigan. Orca.

Lou's grandparents are polar opposites: Grandad is neat, tidy, and intellectual, whereas Pops is silly, creative, and funny. Lou loves both Grandad and Pops as much as the two love each other – and Saturdays with them are the highlight of the week. When Pops has a fall and ends up in a wheelchair, his bubbly personality fades and he is too sad for fun adventures with Grandad and Lou. Lou is determined to help, hatching a plan for Pops.

Smith, Kim. Boxitects. Harper Collins.

Meg is a brilliant and creative Boxitect – she can make anything from boxes. Her skills send her to Maker School, where she is the class's first Boxitect. Meg revels in her special role, until the new girl Simone shows up. Simone is a Boxitect too. Obviously Meg and Simone are natural rivals, until the end-of-year "Maker Match" forces them to work as a team. This creative story will have every reader wishing they too could attend Maker School.

Winstanley, Nicola. How to Give Your Cat a Bath: In Five Easy Steps. Illustrated by John Martz. Tundra.

A story told in a constantly-edited series of steps as the narrator, the protagonist, and her cat negotiate the realities of bathtime. Between a matter-of-fact narrator, a highly distractible kid, and a cat determined to not face the indignity of a bath, hilarity ensues. If you haven't already guessed, there are not five steps, and it is not easy. This book is a riot.

Zhang, Kat. Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao. Illustrated by Charlene Chua. Simon & Schuster.

Making bao is a family tradition in the Wu household, and Amy is determined to make the perfect steamed bun. Unfortunately, although Amy is great at a lot of things, she has no luck keeping up to her parents' and grandmother's skills in the kitchen. Then, Amy has a simple idea that changes everything. This is a story for every kid who has ever felt too small to help with "adult" things – but desperately wants to.

## Honourable Mentions

Balasubramaniam, Saumiya. When I Found Grandma. Illustrated by Qin Leng. Greenwood.

Lebeuf, Darren. My Forest is Green. Illustrated by Ashley Barron. Kids Can Press.

Mercurio, Ishta. Small World. Illustrated by Jen Corace. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

Pearson, Kit and Katherine Farris. The Magic Boat. Illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard. Orca.

Smith, Heather. The Phone Booth in Mr. Hirota's Garden. Illustrated by Rachel Wada. Orca.

## Junior Fiction

Armstrong, Kelley. A Royal Guide to Monster Slaying. Puffin Canada.

Rowan is a princess next in line to be Queen, but longs to switch places with her twin brother who is in line to be the Royal Monster Hunter. When tragedy strikes, Rowan must set out on a quest to slay a dangerous gryphon and befriends mythical creatures along the way. An exciting adventure fantasy and the first in a new series, which is sure to become a favourite with young readers.

Blair, Kate. The Magpie's Library. DCB.

Silva and her family move in with her sick grandfather and find he is in the beginning stages of Alzheimer's. Silva finds comfort in books and while visiting her local library, she sees a magpie who guides her to a secret room full of books. She discovers that when she reads the magical books, she is able to enter their worlds and is transported into the bodies of the characters. A magical and mysterious tale.

Bow, Erin. Stand on the Sky. Scholastic Canada.

Aisulu is a Kazakh nomad living in Mongolia who has always felt a bit different. She loves math, science, and horseback riding in a culture where girls typically milk the yaks and fetch water. When her beloved brother suddenly falls ill and her family's future is jeopardized, Aisulu rescues a young eaglet and trains to become an eagle hunter, a role usually reserved for men. When Aisulu learns of the Golden Eagle Festival which has a monetary prize, she decides to risk everything to compete with the hope of saving her family. An adventure story which celebrates the power of family, courage, and young women.

Cassidy, Sara. Helen's Birds. Illustrated by Sophie Casson. Greenwood Books/House of Anansi Press.

Saanvi is a young girl who becomes close with her elderly neighbour, Helen. They play cards together, garden, build birdhouses, and enjoy each other's company. Everything changes when Helen is suddenly rushed away in an ambulance. This moving wordless graphic novel illustrates Saanvi's journey through

loss, grief, and change, with a hopeful conclusion. A touching story of an intergenerational friendship told with warmth and realism.

Desjardins, India. [A Story about Cancer \(with a happy ending\)](#). Illustrated by Marianne Ferrer and translated by Solange Ouellet. Frances Lincoln Children's Books.

Today is the day the 15-year old unnamed protagonist will hear the truth from her doctor about how much time she has left to live. While waiting on a bench in the waiting room, she takes the reader through her experience of living with cancer for the past five years, including her relationships with her family, her cancer treatments, losing her best friend to cancer, her romance with her boyfriend, and her changing emotions throughout the process. Inspired by a young girl looking for a hopeful story about cancer.

George, Kallie. [Wings of Olympus](#). Illustrated by Fiona Hsieh. Harper.

Pippa is a poor orphan girl who loves horses and works in a stable in Athens in Ancient Greece. After losing her job, Pippa wakes up on Mount Olympus and discovers that she has been chosen by the goddess Aphrodite to ride in the Winged Horse Race, which happens once in a century. Pippa and her horse are both unlikely champions; Zephyr is small in stature and easily distracted and they are both picked on by the other competitors. Readers will learn about Greek mythology, but will also love this fast-paced adventure story, with a touching message that love and acceptance are more powerful than might.

Korman, Gordon. [The Unteachables](#). Scholastic Canada.

Kiana has been sent to live with her father for a few months and never exactly registers at her new middle school, ending up in room 117 with "The Unteachables", a notorious class of misfits and juvenile delinquents. Her teacher Mr. Kermit is haunted by a cheating scandal from years past and is counting down the days until his retirement. Over the course of the school year, room 117 will experience mayhem, destruction, a lot of laughs, and maybe even redemption. A humorous underdog story that champions teamwork, kindness, and acceptance.

Mulder, Michelle. [The Vegetable Museum](#). Orca Book Publishers.

13-year-old Chloe has left her whole life behind in Montreal to live near her grandfather in Victoria who is estranged from her Dad. Chloe longs to know the details about their falling out, but her Dad refuses to talk about it. She agrees to help her grandfather with his garden, which includes unusual and endangered produce, such as pink broccoli, blue kale, and purple potatoes. When her grandfather suddenly falls ill, Chloe is determined to find a way to save his legacy. A realistic story that shows the complexity of families and also introduces readers to heirloom vegetables and seed banks.

Polak, Monique. [The Taste of Rain](#). Orca Book Publishers.

It is 1945 and Gwen has lived in a Japanese internment camp in Northern China for the past two-and-a-half years along with the rest of her boarding school classmates. The girls have experienced horrible living conditions, including hunger, rats, hard labour, and witnessing violence. Gwen's teacher, Miss E, is a ray of sunshine and always encourages the girls to stay positive, be grateful, and do good

turns to lift their spirits. While the subject matter can be difficult at times, The Taste of Rain ultimately offers a message of hope.

## Honourable Mentions

Corr, John. Eight Times Up. Orca Book Publishers.

Fagan, Cary. The Collected Works of Gretchen Oyster. Tundra.

Pearson, Kit. Be My Love. HarperTrophy Canada.

## Junior Non-Fiction

Becker, Helaine. The Canadian Kids' Guide to Outdoor Fun. Illustrated by Claudia Dávila. Scholastic Canada.

This guide to outdoor and indoor summer activities has hundreds of ideas for games with friends, by yourself, as well as DIY activities, recipes and fun facts. All of these activities are done with screens off, connect kids to the world around them and appeal to a wide range of ages, abilities and timeframes. Best of all they are safe, easy, instant and require very little adult help unless they want to join in!

Biggs, Emma and Steven Biggs. Gardening with Emma. Storey Publishing, LLC.

This book is written by Emma who is passionate about gardening! It is a kid-to-kid guide to growing healthy food and raising the coolest plants while having plenty of fun. She shares her knowledge about soil, planting and caring for a garden through all the seasons in a practical but entertaining way. It is also a National Parenting Product Award Winner.

Chaffee, Kim. Her Fearless Run: Kathrine Switzer's historic Boston Marathon. Illustrated by Ellen Rooney. Page Street Kids.

Learn how Kathrine Switzer changed the world of running. She challenged the rules to become the first woman to run the Boston Marathon with official race numbers in 1967.

MacLeod, Elizabeth. Scholastic Canada Biography Series: Meet Elsie MacGill. Illustrated by Mike Deas. Scholastic Canada.

MacLeod, Elizabeth. Scholastic Canada Biography Series: Meet Tom Longboat. Illustrated by Mike Deas. Scholastic Canada.

Meet the world's first female aeronautical engineer! Elsie was born into a family where her mother was a feminist pioneer so she expected to follow her dreams and did. She earned a masters in aeronautical engineering, fought back from polio and worked on the Canadian-made Hawker Hurricane fighter that helped the Allied forces to win in World War II. Later in her life she was a champion of women's rights where she helped shaped many of the protections we now enjoy.

Tom Longboat, of the Onondaga First Nation, was Canada's foremost distance runner who broke world records at the beginning of the 1900s. He was the most famous runner in the world, yet he faced scrutiny and criticism of every part of his life from his revolutionary training techniques to his Indigenous heritage.

McCluskey, Kerry. Niam! Cooking with Kids. Inhabit Media.

"Niam" is an Inuktitut word that means "yum". The recipes in this book are niam! These recipes have been kid-tested in Nunavut communities and use ingredients that are readily available in the north and south. Also included are ways to use cooking to give back to your community.

McMahon, Serah-Marie and Alison Matthews David. Killer Style. Illustrated by Gillian Wilson. Owlkids Books.

Clothes can be comfortable, protect us from the elements and express our unique style but history has shown that fashions can harm or kill you. Learn the times that people have suffered pain, injury and worse, all because of style. It also discusses recent factory accidents, unsafe workplaces and that those who make the clothes are often fashion's first victims.

Poliquin, Rachel. Beastly Puzzles. Illustrated by Byron Eggenschwiler. Kids Can Press.

If you like puzzles, try to identify 13 animals from the clues given in this book. It's not as easy as it seems to guess these recognizable animals as these unexpected clues are given in scenarios that are unrelated to the animals you are guessing.

Sylvester, Kevin and Michael Hlinka. Follow Your Stuff. Annick Press.

This book tackles the dynamics of the global economy from how ordinary things are made to when they arrive in our homes. Learn how to critically think about your purchases.

Wilson, Janet. Our Future: How Kids are Taking Action. Second Story Press.

Young people from around the world are raising awareness about what issues matter most to them and are working to protect the future that we all share. This book can inspire young people to try and make a difference in their own lives and communities.

Wishinsky, Frieda and Elizabeth MacLeod. How to Become an Accidental Genius. Illustrated by Jenn Playford. Orca Book Publishers.

Learn the secrets and amazing, inspiring stories of successful inventors. Learn about famous as well as lesser-known inventors as well as some kids and teens. This book encourages you to keep asking questions, make connections, be persistent and most of all keep trying if you have a new idea or see a need and maybe one day you will invent something famous.

## Honourable Mentions

Becker, Helaine. Megabugs. Illustrated by John Bindon. Kids Can Press.

Brouwer, Sigmund. Moon Mission. Kids Can Press.

Palm-Leis, Pili. Keep Up Katmai. Photographs by Barrett Hedges. North Winds Press.

Roberts, Jillian. The World Around Us Series. Illustrated by Jane Heinrichs. Orca Book Publishers.

Scandiffio, Laura. Digging Deep: How Science Unearths Puzzles from the Past. Annick Press.

## Young Adult Fiction

Ali, S.K. Love From A to Z. Salaam Reads | Simon & Schuster.

When Zayneb is suspended from school just before Spring Break, she isn't sure she can control her anger. Luckily, she is able to escape to her Aunt's house in Doha, Qatar for an early Spring break. She vows to become a nicer version of herself in a place where no one knows her. On the plane ride she meets Adam. But Adam is facing a difficult situation as well. Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, the disease that took his Mom, he struggles with keeping his secret from his grieving father, creating new memories for his sister and acting normal with his friends. Alone, Adam and Zayneb are struggling through their own issues. Can they build connections with each other?

Everett, Sarah. No One Here is Lonely. PenguinTeen Canada.

When Eden loses her best friend, Lacey, and her crush, Will, she struggles to adjust to these new changes in her life. Luckily, Will set up an account with In Good Company before he died leaving behind recordings of his voice and emails that are used to create the perfect digital companion. As Eden is drawn further into this digital relationship she fails to notice how her real life continues to grow with new jobs, new friends and maybe even a new love interest. Eden tries to balance the expectations of an overachieving family, loneliness from losing her best friend and overcoming heartbreak with the help of new friends.

Fleet, Katherine. The Sound of Drowning. Manda.

Meredith "Mer" Hall loves the ocean more than anything. It is the only place that understands her, the only place she feels normal. But when tragedy alienates Mer from the ocean she can only find solace with her boyfriend, Ben. Mer's mistake almost cost her Ben and the only safe relationship she has so now she is determined to keep their relationship secret and safe. Struggling to find a place for herself while she comes to terms with her new reality, Mer isn't prepared when Wyatt washes up onshore. With his irresistible charm and over the top personality, he makes Mer feel reckless and alive. But Mer learns that secrets always find their way to light and her carefully constructed reality starts to crumble.

Francis, Brian. [Break in Case of Emergency](#). HarperCollins.

After her mother committed suicide five years ago, Toby has been alone. She keeps her grandparents, her friends, even her boyfriend, at arm's length. Toby Goodman has a plan to escape her pain. She just needs to get through the next few days without raising any flags. Unexpectedly, her father decides he is returning home to meet Toby for the first time, wrecking all of her carefully constructed plans. Faced with a dramatic, world famous female impersonator father, Toby is forced to rebuild her life with the help of her friends and family.

Johnston, E.K. [The Afterward](#). Penguin/Dutton.

This story follows two of Cadrium's heroes as they return to everyday life after the quest to find the godsgem and save the kingdom. Kalanthe, an apprentice knight is faced with pressures to repay your loans to the kingdom through marriage to a stranger even though her heart remains with Olsa Rhetsdaughter. Olsa faces her own challenges as she accepts more and more dangerous tasks from her thief master, risking her life so that she may gain freedom. Olsa and Kalanthe are pulled apart by the circumstances of their lives but fate keeps drawing them closer together.

Philippe, Ben. [The Field Guide to the North American Teenager](#). HarperCollins.

What would you do if your mother moved you from the cold comfort of Canadian winter to the oppressive heat of Texas? Norris Kaplan is a clever, cynical Canadian trapped in an American sitcom. He meets the Cheerleaders, the Jocks, the Loners and even the Manic Pixie Dream Girl. Norris is convinced that he will be returning to Canada soon and doesn't want to get caught up in the day to day life of highschool. Unexpectedly, the labels soon become actual people to Norris and he get caught up in the lives of his new friends. When he messes up his new friendships, Norris has to decide if it is worth the effort to step out of his comfort zone and away from his snarky opinions and start living his life.

Rowell, Rainbow. [Pumpkinheads](#). Artwork by Faith Erin Hicks. First Second.

Tonight is the last night that Deja and Josiah will be working together at the Pumpkin Patch before they move on to the next chapter in their lives. This is their last season at the pumpkin patch and their last shift together before they say goodbye. Deja isn't going to let Josiah spend the whole night hanging out at the Succotash Hut feeling bad. They are going to visit every snack hut and see all the awesome activities and maybe Josiah can work up the courage to talk to that cute girl he has been in love with for the past three years! Get ready for an all access pass to the best behind the scenes sights at the pumpkin patch. A word of warning: Watch out for the goats!

Tamaki, Mariko. [Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up With Me](#). Artwork by Rosemary Valero-O'Connell. First Second Books.

Freddy Riley's world revolves around Laura Dean. When they are together she is happy but when Laura keeps breaking up with her she struggles to makes sense of it. Laura is popular, funny and so cute but she can also be completely thoughtless so Freddy's friends can't understand why she keeps going back. Freddy struggles to balance her breaking heart with the changing dynamics of her friendships. Can she survive losing her best friends, her girlfriend and her self respect?

Voros, Ria. [The Center of the Universe](#). Kids Can Press.

Grace Carter has lived in the shadows of her broadcaster mother and actress grandmother for her whole life. When people learn that she is related to the amazing GG Carter they expect her to be exactly like her mother. People are confused but that's what happens when three generations share the same name but are different in every other way. When GG disappears, Grace struggles to keep her world steady but it gets harder and harder as she learns more about her mother's past. Was her mother abducted? Did she leave on her own? Will she ever come back? Is she dead or alive? As Grace's family starts to crumble under the constant stress and pressure of the investigation, news reports and everything that is unknown, she turns to her friends and new love interest to keep it together.

Weymouth, Laura E. [A Treason of Thorns](#). HarperTeen.

The Great Houses hold the magic to keep the countryside and people safe and happy. But that power is tied to the will of the King. When Violet Sterling's father betrays the King of England he is held prisoner in his beloved House, while Burleigh House is directed to kill the traitor. After seven years in exile, Violet receives word that her father has died and she may return to Burleigh House in an attempt to salvage the great House. If she fails the House will be destroyed and Violet's legacy will be lost. However, if she can succeed she will assume her father's role of keyholder and save everything she has ever known and loved.

## **Honourable Mentions**

Ciccarelli, Kristen. [The Sky Weaver](#). HarperTeen.

Hicks, Faith Erin. [Comics Will Break Your Heart](#). Roaring Book Press.

Khan, Sabina. [The Love and Lies of Rukhsana Ali](#). Scholastic.

Pau Preto, Nicki. [Crown of Feathers](#). Simon Pulse.

Ryan, Tom. [Keep This to Yourself](#). Albert Whitman.

## **Young Adult Non-Fiction**

Pesloüan, Lucille de. [What Makes Girls Sick and Tired](#). Illustrated by Geneviève Darling. Translated by Emma Rodgers with Myra Leib. Second Story Press.

There are a lot of things that make girls sick and tired these days: sexism, racism, homophobia, and income inequality to name a few. This feminist manifesto, originally a fanzine now a graphic novel, illustrates the issues affecting all women, including women of colour and gender nonconforming women. Each page is a different issue, and while not strictly an information book, the title is a good starting point for those just becoming interested in the topic.

McCreary, Michael. Funny, You Don't Look Autistic: A Comedian's Guide to Life on the Spectrum. Annick Press.

Michael McCreary's delightful autobiographical work tells of his childhood living with autism and the often-repeated refrain, "You don't look autistic." But what does autism look like? Michael, diagnosed with autism at an early age, was also enamoured with performing comedy in front of an audience. Chronicling his successes and failures along with his everyday life, Michael presents one viewpoint of living on the autism spectrum with warmth and humour. Along the way he also includes advice for those readers who are not living with autism and may have trouble understanding what it is like.

Newman, Carey and Kirstie Hudson. Picking Up the Pieces: Residential School Memories and the Making of the Witness Blanket. Orca Book Publishers.

In the aftermath of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report on Canada's treatment of its Indigenous Peoples, artist Carey Newman was awarded an art grant to create a piece that would tie into the truth and reconciliation theme. The book details the long process Carey and his team took, not only in deciding what shape and form the artwork would look like (a Witness Blanket), but the many steps and journeys it took to gather all the pieces for the blanket. Carey and his team travelled to the location of every residential school in Canada to gather one item for the blanket, which stands as a monument to this dark time in Canadian history and is currently being housed at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Stunning colour photographs serve to bring the process of creating the blanket to life, along with the many stories of survivors, including Carey's own father.

Polak, Monique. I am a Feminist: Claiming the F-Word in Turbulent Times. Illustrated by Meags Fitzgerald. Orca Book Publishers.

A rallying call, a history lesson, and a well rounded source of information, "I Am a Feminist" serves as an excellent starting point for both women and men looking for information on the history of feminism, not only in North America, but around the world. While the first part of the book details the different waves of feminism, subsequent sections deal with issues facing girls and women across the globe, female body image topics, love and romance, workplace equality, inclusive feminism, and even a section on raising feminist boys. Packed full of information, with an index of additional resources, this title serves as an excellent reference for anyone who is interested in a full history of the topic.

Stevenson, Robin. My Body, My Choice: The Fight for Abortion Rights. Illustrated by Meags Fitzgerald. Orca Book Publishers.

Abortion has always been a tumultuous topic and Robin Stevenson delves deep into the troubling and turbulent history of abortion in Canada and the United States, discussing legislation from both countries, profiling activists on the frontlines of the issue, and testimonials from real women who underwent the procedure. The book also shows the viewpoints and experiences from marginalized women, including those in poverty, women of colour, trans individuals, and disabled persons, and how vastly different the experiences of these women are with regards to accessing abortion compared to women who are wealthy and/or white.

Tate, Nikki. Choosing to Live, Choosing to Die: The Complexities of Assisted Dying. Illustrated by Belle Wuthrich. Orca Book Publishers.

Euthanasia has become a hot topic in Canada with the legalization of the act in 2016. This comprehensive look at the topic is handled with care. Readers will get a history lesson of the issue as well as a thoughtful look at the values, morals, ethics, and laws involved with medically assisted suicide. Stories and case studies are presented for the reader, along with different viewpoints and why people would want to make such a decision. This is an excellent starting point for anyone interested in the topic.

Wesley, Gloria Ann. Africville: An African Nova Scotian Community is Demolished - And Fights Back. James Lorimer & Company.

An often neglected and forgotten part of Nova Scotian and Canadian history is brought to life with real photos and stories of the residents who lived in Africville. The town, situated north of Halifax, began as a community of former American slaves and other black people. It grew into a community of about 400 residents at its peak. However, they faced many problems due to racist attitudes and the development of the town lagged behind Halifax with homes lacking running water, sewage disposal, and garbage collection. In the 1960's, city officials in Halifax made the decision to demolish the community, relocate the residents, and use the land for industrial development. The story of Africville is told through historical photos, documents, and real stories from the descendants of people who lived in the community.