# **2022 Best Bets**

## Picture Books

**Autio, Karen. I Can, Too!. Illustrated by Laura Watson. Scholastic.**

Piper and Kayla love to move! They can both do all sorts of things. From crawling, rolling, standing, and swimming, these two and their friends explore their world. We see and learn about a variety of useful tools for folks who have different ways of moving through the world. At the end, the section about Amazing Ways to Move explains a variety of adaptive equipment for people who are not able to use their legs, or cannot walk far. With these inclusive practices, the reader sees that we can all play together.

**Bailey, Jen Lynn. This Is the Boat That Ben Built. Illustrated by Maggie Zeng. Pajama Press.**

Young Ben sets out to explore the river equipped with a sturdy boat, some sample-collection gear, and his scientific curiosity. Along the way he meets a black bear taking a swim, a moose all wobbly and slim, a goose with a gorgeous grin, and a heron all proper and prim…but things really start happening after the owl HOOs loudly on a whim. This book is a compelling entry point for conversations about ecology, food webs, and species diversity. Ben’s excursion, watched from the shore by his mother and faithful dog, is an outdoor adventure pitched perfectly for kids who dream of independence and exploration, parents who value safety and loving supervision, and educators who seek engaging fiction enriched with information.

**Brar, Kuljinder Kaur. My Name Is Saajin Singh. Illustrated by Samrath Kaur. Annick Press.**

Saajin Singh loves his name! Loves to write it, loves to sing it, and loves to see it in the clouds. Until he starts kindergarten, and his teacher mispronounces his name as “Say-Jin”, instead of “Sah-Jin”. This makes happy-go-lucky Saajin sad. Saajin learns some important lessons along the way to reclaiming his name. This energetically drawn picture book shows us a kind path forward for claiming our hard to pronounce names.

**Carranza, Leonarda. Abuelita and Me. Illustrated by Rafael Mayani. Annick Press.**

An empowering and tender picture book, with expressive illustrations, that addresses racism in everyday life. Abuelita is everything fun. She loves to make pancakes, puddle jump, and spend time with her granddaughter. However, when she leaves the safety of her building, her accent and broken English is met with impatience and suspicion. Our young narrator is frightened and angry with these encounters and vows never to leave the safety of their home again. But she learns that together they are strong and can face anything.

**Paquette, Ammi-Joan. All From a Walnut. Illustrated by Felicita Sala. Abrams Books for Young Readers.**

One day, Emilia finds a walnut, and her grandfather tells her the story of how the tree it came from began. He traveled across the ocean to a new home with one bag and nut in his pocket, and began a new life alongside his tree for his family. As he teaches Emilia to take care of her nut and it begins to grow into a tree, Grandpa begins to slow down until one day Emilia has to say goodbye. As Emilia deals with her grief, her sapling begins to droop, and this helps her realize what she has to do. She realizes the best things take time to grow, and that her grandfather will always be a part of her. The author takes the subject of loss of grief and turns it into a touching story about how the legacies our loved ones leave behind stay with us long after they are gone.

**Silver, Erin. Sitting Shiva. Illustrated by Michelle Theodore. Orca**.

A young girl copes with the death of her mother by sitting shiva, a Jewish seven-day mourning period where the bereaved stay at home and receive solace from friends, neighbours, and family. Initially, Jenny retreats to her bedroom and wants to be alone. When the grieving child does open her door, the visitors’ love and support wrap warmly around her like a cherished hand-knit blanket. An author’s note about grief provides more information about how loss is honoured in many cultures. This poignant story about mourning and finding comfort in community is universally relatable.

**Smith, Heather. Annie’s Cat is Sad. Illustrated by Karen Obuhanych. Feiwel and Friends.**

Annie comes home from school to find that her cat, Delilah, has had a terrible day and is quite sad. She tries to cheer her up with all the things she loves, such as warm milk, TV, and even yoga! However, Annie knows that at the end of the day, no distraction can really make our bad days simply disappear. It is important to face them head-on and find comfort in those you love. This gentle and relatable picture book, filled with colourful and emotive illustrations, is about how we sometimes have to sit in the sadness of a bad day before we can move beyond it.

**Spillet-Sumner, Tasha. Beautiful You, Beautiful Me. Illustrated by Salini Perera. Owlkids Books.**

Izzy, a multiracial child, notices something one day that she’s never noticed before, she looks different than her mother: her skin is the colour of chocolate, yet her mama’s skin is the colour of sand. At first, Izzy feels sad and confused and says that she wants to be beautiful like her mama. But Mama encourages Izzy to see her own unique beauty with a gentle, loving refrain: You’re part of me, and I’m part of you. I’m beautiful like me, and you’re beautiful like you. The warm and beautiful illustrations show Izzy’s journey as she learns to celebrate the differences that make her uniquely beautiful, and the connection to her mother that transcends physical traits. This story about a multiracial child navigating identity and belonging draws from the author’s own experience growing up as an Afro-Indigenous girl. This is a timeless story celebrating how beauty and belonging come in all shapes and sizes.

**Whitecrow, Darcy and Heather M. O’Connor. Wiijibibamatoon Anangoonan/Runs with the Stars. Illustrated by Lenny Lishchenko. Translated by Kelvin Morrison. Second Story Press.**

As they await the birth of a new foal, a man teaches his grandchild about the Ojibwe Horses that used to roam the forests of northwestern Ontario. The horses once ran wild and free, but when Grandfather was a boy, they almost disappeared. Now he is the caretaker of his own small herd, keeping the breed alive for future generations and teaching his grandchild about the loving bond between humans and animals. A dual-language story in English and Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe) about the Ojibwe Horses, their caretakers, and protecting a cultural legacy and bond with animals.

**Wilson, Troy. Hat Cat. Illustrated by Eve Coy. Candlewick Press**

When an old man finds a kitten under his hat, they two become fast friends. There are plenty of scratches, snacks and company, but Hat the Cat is stuck inside. Every day, the old man goes outside to feed the squirrels with nuts he places in his hat, but Hat the Cat is not allowed to join him. What if he runs away, is chased, or worse? When one day the old man does not come home, a young girl and her mother come to take care of Hat until the man gets back. Will they finally give him the freedom he wants? This beautifully illustrated story tugs at your heartstrings and explores the themes of trust, companionship, and family through the eyes of a cat and the man who loves him too much to risk losing him.

### **Picture Books - Honourable Mentions**

**Larsen, Andrew. Bird Feeder. Illustrated by Dorothy Leung. Kids Can Press.**

**Liu, Dane. Friends are Friends Forever. Illustrated by Lynn Scurfield. Henry Holt and Company.**

**Lyall, Casey. A Spoonful of Frogs. Illustrated by Vera Brosgol. Greenwillow Books.**

**Pelletier, Mia. Akpa’s Journey. Illustrated by Kagan McLeod. Inhabit Media.**

**Petty, Dev. How Old is Mr. Tortoise?. Illustrated by Ruth Chan. Abrams/Manda.**

**Syed, Anoosha. That’s Not My Name. Penguin Random House.**

## Junior Fiction

**Christmas, Johnnie. Swim Team. HarperCollins.**

Bree, a young girl who has recently moved to Florida from Brooklyn with her dad, is starting at a new school. Bree loves school, but starts to lose her enthusiasm when the only class for fourth period with an open spot is Swim 101. Bree doe not know how to swim, and is afraid of learning. The story takes us along Bree’s path to gain the confidence and skills to not only learn how to swim, but join the swim team. Along the way we learn about the history of pool segregation in the US, and the impact that that has had on the Black community. This lovingly drawn graphic novel by Canadian resident Johnnie Christmas shows us the power of friendship, perseverance, and community.

**Daniel, Danielle. Forever Birchwood. HarperCollins.**

In Danielle Daniel’s first work of Juvenile Fiction, Wolf learns she is a tree talker and destined to protect the trees and nature around her. After learning that their treehouse hideaway, Birchwood, is under threat of a housing development, she and her three best friends set out to save the forest. But as each friend works to find themselves, the best friends also face the challenges of growing up. Rich with the changes that happen during middle-grade years and the importance of Indigenous Worldviews, this debut is filled with hope.

**Dumas, William. The Gift of the Little People: A Six Seasons of the Asiniskaw Ithiniwak Story. Illustrated by Rhian Brynjolson. Portage and Main.**

This story is one of hope in times of trouble. William Dumas shares this tale in a way that celebrates the rich history of storytelling of elders within the Rocky Cree.

The Rocky Cree live on the shores of mistiwāsahak (Hudson Bay). They travel upriver to meet the new visitors to the region and trade goods. A few days following the return of the canoe, a sickness runs rampant through the community. The Kākakiw tries his hardest to heal those suffering, but nothing seems to help. So almost without hope, he at last tries prayer.

His prayers are answered as he is visited by “The Little People”, who offer him a way to save his community if he is able to trust the traditional Asiniskaw Īthiniwak teachings.

With beautiful illustrations and a strong message, this book is really something special.

**Galbraith, Bree.** **Wednesday Wilson Fixes All Your Problems. Illustrated by Morgan Goble. Kids Can Press.**

Sometimes the best business ideas pop up when you least expect them. Or that’s what happens to Wednesday Wilson, anyway, the morning her brother, Mister, locks himself in the bathroom because he’s nervous about a school presentation. When classmate Emmet convinces Mister that a worry stone will calm his nerves, Wednesday offers Mister her marble – with the promise that a Worry Marble will fix all his problems! But then Wednesday starts thinking about just how many things kids get nervous about. And, hmm, she does happen to have a whole collection of marbles. Has Wednesday just hit entrepreneurial gold?

**Kadarusman, Michelle. Berani. Pajama Press.**

Set in Indonesia, this affecting middle-grade novel is told from three points of view: Malia, an environmental and animal activist who starts a petition at her school decrying rainforest decimation; Ginger Juice, a caged pet orangutan who misses her mother and home; and Ari, a compassionate, skilled chess player who is able to better his education by working in his uncle’s restaurant. Kadarusman expertly explores how doing the right thing isn’t always easy, and what is easy isn’t always right. This is a multilayered, nuanced novel with a strong message: “One person can make a difference.”

**Richardson, Bill. Last Week. Illustrated by Emile Leduc. Groundwood Books**

Told through the eyes of a young boy, this story is a sensitive and dignified look at medical assistance in dying (MAiD). The young boy knows this week is the last he will have with his grandmother, and he watches and family and friends come to say goodbye. The visits the child witnesses are a strange mix of grief, anger, humour and nostalgia, and during the treasured time he gets to spend alone with her, the child realizes his grandmother’s mind is made up. As he works out how to come to terms with her decision and the unstoppable passage of time, he also tries to think of the best way to say goodbye to the person he loves. Last Week is a book that makes a tough topic accessible for young readers, and the black and white illustrations (with a joyful burst of colour that takes the reader by surprise) help portray the somber nature of the story. Featuring additional resources and an afterword by a leading MAid expert, this book is a valuable resource for the whole family.

**Sylvester, Kevin. Apartment 713. HarperCollins.**

Jake's new home in the Regency is a mess - peeling wall paper, broken doors and strange neighbours. All Jake wants is to go back home and leave this dump behind. But when Jake starts working as an assistant caretaker he starts to care for his quirky neighbours and the old building. When Jake is summoned to apartment 713 - a rundown, vacant apartment - he is pulled back into the past to when the Regency was brand new. Jake searches for any clue that could help him save the Regency and send him back to his own time.

**Toten, Teresa. Eight Days. Scholastic.**

Sami Stanic has spent the last ten years making herself useful. That way her grandfather will have a reason to keep her around. But when Sami receives news that her mother has just died, not ten years ago like she thought, her world is turned upside down and she no longer knows where she belongs. As Sami, her grandfather and her neighbour Aggie embark on an eight day journey to Chicago and back, Sami learns about her family and tries to unravel all the secrets of her past. In a heartwarming road trip story, Sami and her grandfather learn the importance of family, community and forgiveness.

### **Junior Fiction - Honourable Mentions**

**Armstrong, Jade. Scout is Not a Band Kid. Penguin Random House.**

**Britt, Fanny. Forever Truffle. Illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault. Translated by Susan Ouriou. Groundwood Books.**

**Ellis, Deborah. Step. Groundwood Books.**

**Lucas, Chad. Let The Monster Out. Abrams/Manda.**

## Junior Nonfiction

**Afzal, Shazia. Journey of the Midnight Sun. Illustrated by Aliya Ghare. Orca**.

This picture book is based on the true story of the collaborative efforts undertaken to ensure that an Islamic community has a place of worship in Inuvik, Northwest Territories. As the Midnight Sun, a prefabricated mosque built in Winnipeg, travels 4,000 kilometers on a semi trailer, many people, from the work crews on job sites to other drivers sharing the road, go the distance to offer a helping hand. Multipanel illustrations cinematically capture the epic journey - on land and water - and the challenges overcome en route. An uplifting, effectively delivered account of acceptance, support, and solidarity.

**Becker, Helaine. The Fossil Whisperer: How Wendy Sloboda Discovered a Dinosaur. Illustrated by Sandra Dumais. Kids Can Press.**

You might not have heard of Canadian paleontologist Wendy Sloboda before, but Helaine Becker’s new book will definitely change that. One of Canada’s preeminent dinosaur hunters, she grew up in Alberta searching and finding fossils in the badlands. Possessing an almost uncanny ability to spot fossils amongst the rocks, she went on to discover a whole new species of dinosaur that was named in her honour – Wendiceratops. Sandra Dumais provides vibrant illustrations to complete this wonderful biography.

**Gravel, Elise. Killer Underwear Invasion! How to Spot Fake News, Disinformation & Conspiracy. Chronicle Books.**

This funny and informative graphic novel explores what fake news is, why people spread it, and how to tell what is true and what isn’t. With her trademark quirky illustrations, Elise Gravel is adept at breaking down complex ideas and providing straightforward advice, making this a rich and accessible media literacy resource.

**Gravel, Elise with Mykaell Blais. Pink, Blue, and You!: Questions for Kids about Gender Stereotypes. Anne Schwartz Books/Penguin Random House.**

Simple, accessible, and direct, this picture book is perfect for kids and parents or teachers to read together, opening the door to conversations about gender stereotypes and everyone's right to be their true selves. Is it okay for boys to cry? Can girls be strong? Should girls and boys be given different toys to play with and different clothes to wear? Should we all feel free to love whoever we choose to love? In this incredibly kid-friendly and easy-to-grasp picture book, author-illustrator Elise Gravel and transgender collaborator Mykaell Blais raise these questions and others relating to gender roles, acceptance, and stereotyping.

**Kaner, Etta. Beware the Burmese Pythons and Other Invasive Animal Species. Illustrated by Phil Nicholls. Kids Can Press.**

A unique and kid-friendly introduction to ten invasive animal species, including killer shrimp, toxic cane toads, and a surprisingly destructive moth, that explores how they got into new ecosystems and the damage they have caused upon arriving in their new habitats. With text presented in fun, eye-catching formats, from posters to newspaper articles to comic strips, this funny, highly visual book will keep young readers engaged and highlights what scientists are currently doing to solve the problems. Each section provides basic information about one invasive animal, including their most distinctive features, habitat, and invasion route; a narrative describing how it became invasive and why it's become a problem; and a list of ideas for what can be done. This informative book also contains a glossary, sources, and a further reading section.

**MacEachern, Muinji’j & Shanika MacEachern. Muinji'j Asks Why: The Story of the Mi'kmaq and the Shubenacadie Residential School. Illustrated by Zeta Paul. Nimbus Publishing.**

Written by a mother/daughter duo, *Muinji’j Asks Why* is a poignant look at the the history of the Mi’kmaq peoples, from pre-Columbian contact, through early confederation, to the introduction of residential schools and the devastating impact this has had on the Mi’kmaq community. Above all else it is a story of resilience and hope as readers will be reminded that the Mi’kmaq are still present today and still practicing their culture.

**Poliquin, Rachel. The Museum of Odd Body Leftovers: A Tour of Your Useless Parts, Flaws, and Other Weird Bits. Illustrated by Clayton Hanmer. Greystone Books.**

Come one, come all! Step right up to the Museum of Odd Body Leftovers! Tour guides 'Wisdom Tooth' and 'Disappearing Kidney' will take you on a wild, whirlwind adventure through the museum. Readers will learn about some truly odd body parts that we still carry with us but that don’t really help us to survive. Instead, these odd parts can tell us a lot about how our ancestors used to live. Save your questions for the end of the tour, and don’t forget to visit the gift shop! Readers will definitely want to visit this museum again and again and again.

**Ruurs, Margriet. Where We Live: Mapping Neighborhoods of Kids Around the Globe. Illustrated by Wenjia Tang. Kids Can Press.**

The neighbourhoods of 16 real children from around the world are explored in this colourfully illustrated map book. From big cities, such as Amsterdam and Beijing, to small communities, including British Columbia’s Salt Spring Island, each child highlights the places that are important to them, as well as interesting facts about their lives. Not only an engaging primer on maps, this book is also an excellent global cultures resource.

**Wagstaffe, Johanna. Little Pine Cone: Wildfires and the Natural World. Illustrated by Julie McLaughlin. Orca.**

Little Jacky is a Jack pine cone who loves living in the woods with all of her animal friends. When a fire breaks out in her forest, all her friends run to safety and the firefighters battle the flames. The fire threatens to get too close to a neighboring village and Jacky watches as the people who live there, and the fire crew, take measures to make sure everyone is safe. While the village is protected from the fire, Little Jacky is scorched by the flames and finds out that the heat is important for her to continue her life cycle.

**Yellowhorn, Eldon and Kathy Lowinger. Sky Wolf's Call: The Gift of Indigenous Knowledge. Annick Press.**

Continuing to expand upon their previous books, Eldon Yellowhorn (Piikani Nation) and Kathy Lowinger turn their focus to enlightening readers of Indigenous knowledge systems, from astronomy, to medicine, and the importance of protecting knowledge and passing it on. Readers will meet notable Indigenous figures, will become familiar with issues facing Indigenous Peoples today, and learn different ways of looking at the world. Full colour photos bring the book to life, and the authors have also included a list of further reading materials.

### **Junior Nonfiction - Honourable Mentions**

**MacLeod, Elizabeth. Meet Mary Ann Shand. Illustrated by Mike Deas. Scholastic.**

**Matas, Carol. Who’s Looking? How Animals See the World. Illustrated by Cornelia Li. Orca.**

**Mosco, Rosemary. Flowers are Pretty…Weird!. Illustrated by Jacob Souva. Tundra.**

**Newman, Carey and Kirstie Hudson. The Witness Blanket: Truth, Art, and Reconciliation. Orca.**

## Young Adult Fiction

**Deen, Natasha. The Signs and Wonder of Tuna Rashad. Running Press Kids.**

Tuna is determined to date her crush before she leaves for College. But this is not an easy feat with an overbearing, grief-stricken older brother, constant signs from her Caribbean ancestors, and a looming deadline. This Forest of Reading White Pine reading list YA story is more than a romantic comedy, it is rich with Caribbean traditions, the grief process, and family dynamics.

**Deo, Jesmeen Kaur. TJ Power has Something to Prove. Viking Books for Young Readers.**

A body positivity must-read for teens and adults. TJ Power has it all. She is smart, popular, and traditionally beautiful. But she has a secret that she thinks about every waking minute: body hair. After an unflattering picture of her cousin is shared on Instagram, TJ decides to reveal her secret in an effort to prove that she is just as worthy and beautiful with facial and body hair as she is without it. Smart, funny, and sometimes uncomfortable, *TJ Power Has Something to Prove* pushes us to think about traditional beauty standards and what they mean to us.

**Everett, Sarah. How to Live Without You. HarperCollins.**

Emmy’s sister Rose has disappeared without a trace and Emmy feels absolutely lost without her. Immediately she knows where she needs to be, back in their Ohio hometown. She knows that if Rose is out there, only she can find her. Upon her arrival; however, Emmy feels like something in the town has changed. Searching for her sister proves fruitless and exhausting. And every new clue uncovers pieces of her sister she has never seen before. Told with heart from the perspective of a grief stricken seventeen year old, this book asks a number of hard questions. How do you find someone who does not want to be found? And what do you do if the answers you are looking for are also the ones you never want to know? This book is the perfect addition to your library’s youth fiction section and an excellent read for a high school English course. It covers important topics involving suicide, suicide prevention, and mental health.

**Falaye, Deborah. Blood Scion. HarperCollins.**

Blood Scion follows Sloane, the descendant of Shango, the god of heat and fire, as she is drafted into the army who conquered and colonized her country Nagea. Sloane’s power has yet to be harnessed; but nonetheless, she chooses to not run away from her duty in the hopes of finding out what happened to her mother. Fantastic world building and relatable characters support this Nigerian mythology–inspired book.

**Ferguson, Jen. The Summer of Bitter and Sweet. HarperCollins.**

Lou, a Métis teen, hopes that she will have an uneventful summer running the Michif Creamery with her best friend Florence and her (newly) ex-boyfriend while her mom is away selling beadwork at Powwows. But that doesn’t prove to be the case, as a long lost friend named King comes back to town and her abusive father is released from prison after serving time for the violent sexual assault of Lou’s mother when she was just a teen. Lou finds herself at a junction, when her father harrasses her and the ice cream business. With the help of King, Lou begins to process the legacy of trauma and her own sexuality.

**Katouh, Zoulfa. As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow. Little Brown & Company.**

Salama was a pharmacy student with dreams of working at the local hospital when the war broke out in Syria. A few months later and she is now a voluntary doctor struggling to help patients injured by the bombs. Torn between fulfilling her role in a wartorn hospital and leaving Syria to keep her pregnant sister-in-law safe, Salama PTSD manifests in the form of Khwaf. Khwaf haunts Salama day and night in an effort to convince her to leave Syria and protect herself. In a heart wrenching novel filled with war and death, Salama's love for her family and commitment to her patients and country shine through. This beautifully written story is a must read.

**Lin, Judy I. A Magic Steeped in Poison. Feiwel and Friends.**

A Magic Steeped in Poison is fantasy that packs a punch. Ning lives with her father and sister in a rural village. Her mother died less than a year ago of a strange incurable illness. She was known for once being the Shennong-shi to the royal family, methodical and intentional in her approach to the practice of curing her patients. Tragically only months after her mother’s death, Ning’s sister Shu comes down with the same illness. Ning is desperate for answers. What is this illness? Why are villagers getting sick? Her time to understand is running out.

The palace is hosting a competition to find the Kingdom’s greatest Shennong-Shi. They are masters of tea; the perfect combination of leaves and spices can help them cast the perfect spell, or bend anyone to their will.

Fraught with worry about her sister’s welfare, Ning travels across the kingdom to enroll in the tournament. She hopes that coming to the Imperial City, the Shennong-Shi competing will help her access a remedy to aid in her sister’s recovery. Little does Ning know that she might be in for much more than she bargained for. Foul play and larger schemes await. Full of references to Chinese mythology and history, this adventure is action packed. I highly recommend for lovers of Xiran Jay Zhao’s Iron Widow series!

**Nasemian, Abdi. The Chandler Legacies. HarperCollins.**

Five mismatched teens come together to challenge the status quo at their elite boarding school. The Circle is a coveted writing group that is known for creating life-long friendships and revealing truths about the members that they did not even know about themselves. Beth, Sarah, Spence, Ramin and Freddy are told by their professor to write their truth, but is the truth enough to take down the culture of abuse that has permeated Chandler for generations? And can their friendship survive the fallout? Reminiscent of bestseller My Dark Vanessa, Abdi Nazemian tells a story about the power of coming together to expose a longstand tradition of bullying, hazing and powerful men taking advantage of those subordinate to them. Featuring a diverse cast of characters this book is full of courage, hope, and the vision of the future where things change from “the way it has always been”

**Tamaki, Mariko. Cold. Roaring Brook Press.**

Cold is an odd, quiet and melancholic book, the kind that many readers may have not encountered before. The book follows the ghost of Todd, and Georgia, who, though not knowing Todd, feels bound to solve his murder. One of the most compelling parts of Cold, is that pretty much no one knew Todd. It adds a poignancy to his death, and to the memories of homophobic bullying he encountered, but also to the fact that his life is being pieced together by people other than himself. Some moments of joy shine in Cold. Many truths are uncovered, and many parallels are found between Georgia’s and Todd’s life. In the end there is no redemption for Todd’s reality: he has died, but the reader does see hope in Georgia’s future.

### **Young Adult - Honourable Mentions**

**Hur, June. The Red Palace. Feiwel and Friends.**

**Khan, H.N. Wrong Side of the Court. Penguin Random House.**

## Young Adult Nonfiction

**Beaton, Kate. Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands. Drawn and Quarterly.**

Before there was Kate Beaton, New York Times bestselling cartoonist, there was Katie Beaton of the Cape Breton Beatons. After university, Katie heads out west to take advantage of Alberta''s oil rush, part of the long tradition of East Coasters who seek gainful employment elsewhere when they can't find it in the homeland they love so much. Arriving in Fort McMurray, Katie finds work in the lucrative camps owned and operated by the world''s largest oil companies. Ducks is an untold story of Canada: a country that prides itself on its egalitarian ethos and natural beauty while simultaneously exploiting both the riches of its land and the humanity of its people.

**Daguzan Bernier, Myriam. Naked: Not Your Average Sex Encyclopedia. Orca.**

The 150 entries cover key ideas about identity, relationships, self-image, sex and body positivity—and no topic is taboo. From bisexuality to Kamasutra to #MeToo, Naked offers answers to questions about sexuality that teens have always had but have been afraid to ask. What is consent? What does gender fluid mean? What kind of contraception should I use? With contemporary examples, vibrant illustrations and additional information and resources for young readers with more questions, Naked is essential reading for today's teens.

**Eriksson, Ann. Urgent Message from a Hot Planet: Navigating the Climate Crisis. Illustrated by Belle Wuthrich. Orca.**

The latest addition to the “Orca Issues” series, “Urgent Message from a Hot Planet”, is a call to action to teens and young people around the globe. Author Ann Eriksson begins with an overview of climate science and then moves into how increasing global warming is causing rapid changes to environments around the world. Readers will not be left with a sense of despair however, as the author also dedicates a chapter to introducing climate activists and organizations who are having positive changes and impacts, including many that are Indigenous led. Another excellent addition to this series from Orca. Readers who want a more in-depth look at the current climate crisis will find it here.