



FOLD KIDS BOOK FEST

EDUCATOR GUIDE 2024

FULL SCHEDULE AND REGISTRATION AT thefoldcanada.org/kids



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FOLD Kids

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2024 BOOKLIST

FOR VIRTUAL EVENTS

FOLD
KIDS
BOOK FEST



MUHAMMAD'S RECIPE FOR REMEMBERING
By Maidah Ahmad
& illustrated by Shruti Prabhu
4-7 years
978-1773219097
Annick Press



ARCHIE CELEBRATES AN INDIAN WEDDING
By Mitali Banerjee Ruths
& illustrated by Parwinder Singh
4-8 years
978-1623544188
Penguin Random House Canada



IS THERE A BOY LIKE ME?
By Kern Carter
10-14 years
978-1443198424
Scholastic Canada



IZZY WONG'S NOSE FOR NEWS
By Marty Chan
9-12 years
978-1459839373
Orca Book Publishers



LITTLE BLACK LIVES MATTER
By Khodi Dill
& illustrated by Chelsea Charles
3-6 years
978-1644211878
Penguin Random House Canada



LARK GOES THE DISTANCE
By Natasha Deen
6-8 years
978-1459838758
Orca Book Publishers



THE GULF
By Adam de Souza
14+ years
978-1774880739
Penguin Random House Canada



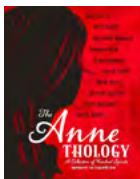
THE SCOOTER TWINS
By Dorothy Ellen Palmer
& illustrated by Maria Sweeney
6-9 years
978-1773066295
Groundwood Books



A CONSTELLATION OF MINOR BEARS
By Jen Ferguson
13+ years
978-0063334229
HarperCollins Canada



ALONE TOGETHER: A Curious Exploration of Loneliness
By Petti Fong
& illustrated by Jonathan Dyck
9-12 years
978-1459837232
Orca Book Publishers



THE ANNETHOLOGY: A Collection of Kindred Spirits Inspired by the Canadian Icon
Edited by Judith Graves
13+ years
978-1773661537
Nimbus Publishing



THE UNFINISHED
By Cheryl Isaacs
13+ years
978-0063287389
HarperCollins Canada



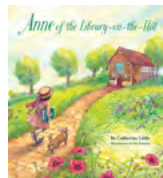
WE ARE PALESTINIAN: A Celebration of Culture and Tradition
By Reem Kassir
& illustrated by Noha Eliouti
9+ years
978-1623717254
Interlink Publishing



AMIR AND THE JINN PRINCESS
By M.T. Khan
8-12 years old
978-0759557970
Hachette Book Group



WHO WE ARE IN REAL LIFE
By Victoria Koops
13+ years
978-1773068893
Groundwood Books



ANNE OF THE LIBRARY-ON-THE-HILL
By Catherine Little
& illustrated by Sae Kimura
6-10 years
978-1738165247
Plumleaf Press



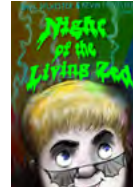
THE BABY-SITTERS CLUB GRAPHIC NOVEL #15: Claudia and the Bad Joke
By Ann M. Martin and Arley Nopra
8-12 years
978-1338835502
Scholastic Canada



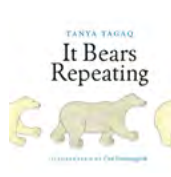
ALINA IN THE DEEP
By Shenaaz G. Nanji
6-8 years
978-1772603903
Second Story Press



I AM A ROCK
By Ashley Qilavaq-Savard
& illustrated by Pelin Turgut
3-5 years
978-1772274752
Inhabit Media



NIGHT OF THE LIVING ZED
By Basil Sylvester
and Kevin Sylvester
8-12 years
978-1443469203
HarperCollins Canada



IT BEARS REPEATING
By Tanya Tagaq & illustrated by Cee Pootoogook
3-7 years
978-1774880555
Penguin Random House Canada



WHERE WOLVES DON'T DIE
By Anton Treuer
12+ years
978-1646143818
Raincoast Books



FOR SHE IS WRATH
By Emily Varga
13+ years
978-1250877383
Raincoast Books

PRIMARY

JUNIOR

INTERMEDIATE

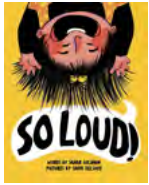
TEENS

To purchase titles from this year's festival, check out our Official School and Library bookseller at tinlids.ca



2024 BOOKLIST FOR IN-PERSON EVENTS

**FOLD
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SO LOUD!
By Sahar Golshan
& illustrated by Shiva Delsooz
4-7 years
978-1773218595
Annick Press



THE ONLY ASTRONAUT
By Mahak Jain
& illustrated by Andrea Stegmaier
3-7 years
978-1525307362
Kids Can Press



TODAY I AM:
10 Stories of Belonging
Edited by Jael Richardson
10-14 years
978-1443192354
Scholastic Canada



SEA SNOOZE
By Sarabeth Holden
& illustrated by Emma Pedersen
3-5 years
978-1772275186
Inhabit Media



**HONK HONK, BEEP BEEP,
PUTTER PUT!**
By Rukhsana Khan
& illustrated by Chaaya Prabhat
3-7 years
978-1774882641
Penguin Random House Canada



SIMONE, HALF AND HALF
A play by Christine Rodriguez
11+ years
978-0369103765
Playwrights Canada Press



**PLEASE DON'T CHANGE
MY DIAPER!**
By Sarabeth Holden
& illustrated by Emma Pedersen
Baby-0 years
978-1772272734
Inhabit Media



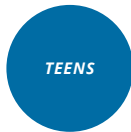
THE BLUE BOWL
Written & illustrated by Flo Leung
4-7 years
978-1771474634
OwlKids Books



NIGHT OF THE LIVING ZED
By Basil Sylvester
and Kevin Sylvester
8-12 years
978-1443469203
HarperCollins Canada



THE BEE MOTHER
By Brett D. Huson
(Hetxw'ms Gyetxw)
& illustrated by Natasha Donovan
9-12 years
978-1774920800
HighWater Press



PETL Peel Elementary Teachers' Local
#PeelZeal



We are proud to continue our partnership with community organizations, such as FOLD, that support equity initiatives and the children we work with everyday!

**#OUR SCHOOLS
OUR FUTURE
OUR FIGHT**

**Together, with families and
the community, we
continue the fight to
preserve the high quality
public education that our
children deserve!**

GETTING STARTED

Hello and welcome to FOLD Kids Book Fest's 2024 Educator Guide! This guide was created to help educators engage with their students while attending the virtual sessions. We have also included connections to the Ontario curriculum. The pre- and post-activities below can be used for all our events. The exercises throughout are deeper dives into specific sessions and students can learn more about the creatives participating in this year's virtual festival through the Author Profiles.

PRE-EVENT ACTIVITY

Before experiencing a virtual session, look up the authors. Make note of the books they've written and discover a little bit about them.

1. *What made you choose this writer or illustrator?*
2. *What was the most interesting thing you learned about them?*
3. *Share why you chose the author and what you learned about them with your classmates and teacher. Prepare one question that you would ask them if you got the chance.*

POST-EVENT ACTIVITY

After experiencing the virtual session, identify:

- a) *three things you learned,*
- b) *two things you found interesting, and*
- c) *one question you still have about writing or about one of the authors*

VISIT THE **LIBRARY IN OUR VIRTUAL CLUBHOUSE FOR SOME EDUCATOR RESOURCES AND MORE STUDENT ACTIVITIES.**

CHECK OUT THE **SCAVENGER HUNT FOR A FUN ACTIVITY TO INCORPORATE INTO THE CLASSROOM.**

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

FOLD Kids Book Fest's 2024 Educator Guide now includes Ontario Curriculum connections. When possible, we have highlighted the Grade, Subject and Strand that connects to each event. There are Language expectations that connect to many of our featured texts. The expectations are listed here and linked below in individual events.

ONTARIO LANGUAGE CURRICULUM LINKS

LINK→ GR. 1-9 LANGUAGE CURRICULUM (2023)

A - Literacy Connections and Applications

A2 - Digital Media Literacy - Media, Audience and Production (A2.5)

A3 - Applications, Connections and Contributions - Identity and Community (A3.2), First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Perspectives and Ways of Knowing (A3.3)

C - Comprehension: Understanding and Responding to Texts

C1 - Knowledge About Texts - Text Forms and Genres (C1.2), Visual Elements of Texts (C1.4)

C2 - Comprehension Strategies - Pre Reading: Activating Prior Knowledge (C2.1), Monitoring of Understanding: Making and Confirming Predictions (C2.3)

C3 - Critical Thinking in Literacy - Analyzing Cultural Elements of Texts (C3.4), Analysis and Response (C3.6)

Gr. 4-6

D - Composition: Expressing Ideas and Creating Texts

D2 - Creating Texts - Producing Drafts (D2.1)

LINK→ GR. 10-12 ENGLISH COURSES (2007)

Reading and Literature Studies

2. Understanding Form and Style - Texts Forms (2.1), Text Features (2.2), Elements of Style (2.3)

Writing

1. Developing and Organizing Content - Identifying Topic, Purpose and Audience (1.1)



In this bonus storytime event, author and Inuk performer **Tanya Tagaq** reads from her new picture book, *It Bears Repeating*. Grades K–3.

Materials

- Variety of objects that can be counted individually (i.e., rocks, beads, blocks, toys, cars, dolls etc.)
- Number cards to 10 or more (write, type or download free sample)

Kindergarten Activity

1. How do you count to 10? Encourage students to use as many languages as possible.
2. Count out objects to match the numbers you know.
 - a. Match the number card to the objects.
 - b. Students draw their set of materials on each number card.
 - c. Use the number cards to recognize numbers without counting objects one at a time (Subitize).

Extend to Grades 1-3

1. How do you count 50, 100, 200, 1000?
2. How can you show these numbers using objects or drawings?
3. What patterns do you see when you are counting large numbers? How can we use these patterns to count more efficiently?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **K** - Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviors
- **Grades 1-3 Mathematics** - Number Sense, Patterns
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 5)



In this annual storytelling event, Deaf artist and actress **Gaitrie Persaud** presents the incredible children’s book *Archie Celebrates an Indian Wedding* by Mitali Banerjee Ruths and Parwinder Singh in American Sign Language (ASL). Grades K–3.

Suitable for children of all ages, this ASL storytelling event provides viewers with an opportunity to learn a few signs as they discover the art of storytelling. Oral translation will be provided by an ASL interpreter.

Discussion Questions

1. ASL is a language. What languages do you speak? How did you learn that language? How might you learn more ASL?
2. What is one word you learned in ASL that you want to remember?

Book Discussion Questions

1. Before Reading/Predict...
 - a. What events might take place during an Indian wedding celebration?
2. While Reading/Infer...
 - a. How does Archie help Emma to understand the different parts of the celebration? Why might Emma need Archie’s help?
3. After Reading/Connect...
 - a. Which part of the wedding celebrations did you like the most? Have you ever been to a wedding? What was similar or different to the wedding in this story?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 5)



Author **Dorothy Ellen Palmer** reads from her picture book, *The Scooter Twins*, which follows the journey of two siblings getting their very own mobility scooters. The reading will be followed by an activity. Grades K-3.

Book Discussion Questions

1. *Before Reading/Predict...*
 - a. *Where have you seen a scooter? Why do you think the title is "The Scooter Twins"?*
2. *While Reading/Infer...*
 - a. *On page 12 when "Melanie shot a look at her brother that would knock the socks off a superhero" what would that look like? Why does she look at her brother that way?*
3. *After Reading/Connect...*
 - a. *How will the scooters help Melvin and Melanie? What might they use them for? Who do you know that uses a device for accessibility? (ex. Walker, wheelchair, stander, hearing aid etc.)*

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 1 Social Studies** - *The Local Community & Science - Everyday Materials, Objects and Structures*
- **Gr. 2 Science** - *Simple Machines and Movement*
- **Gr. 3 Science** - *Forces and Motion*
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 5)



Author **Ashley Qilavaq-Savard** shows kids how to make a pet rock of their own in this storybook event based on her latest picture book, *I Am a Rock*. Participants are recommended to have the following materials to follow along: a rock, googly eyes, glue, beads, pipe cleaners and pom poms. Paint is optional! Grades K-3.

Book Discussion Questions




1. *Before Reading/Predict...*
 - a. *Where do you find rocks? Do you have a favourite rock and where do you keep it?*
2. *While Reading/Infer...*
 - a. *On page 1, what would your rock say to you if it could talk?*
3. *After Reading/Connect...*
 - a. *Choose your favourite page in the book. What does it remind you of? Have you heard, seen or felt like the rock in the story?*

Activities

1. *Now that you have a pet rock of your own, take your rock outside and fill in the chart on this page.*

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 2 Science** *Living Things vs Non-Living Things*
- **See Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 5)

SEE	HEAR	FEEL
		



In this storytime event, author **Maida Ahmad** reads from her picture book, *Muhammad's Recipe for Remembering*, which explores the story of a Muslim boy rediscovering his family's history in the World Wars as part of Remembrance Day. The reading will be followed by an activity from the book. Grades K-3.

Book Discussion Questions

1. *Before Reading/Predict...*
 - a. Read the note on page 1
 - b. Do you know any of the languages in this book? Read through the word list, are these words familiar or new to you? See how many words you can hear in the story.
2. *While Reading/Infer...*
 - a. How does Muhammad collect details about his family history? What other ways could he learn about his family?
3. *After Reading/Connect...*
 - a. "A Note From the Author" provides a photograph and she explains why she wrote the book. Details about the history of Pakistan and India are included, find these countries on a map. Why was the involvement of these soldiers lost over time?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 2 Social Studies - Heritage and Identity: Changing Family and Community Traditions, People and Environments: Global Communities**
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 5)



In this art workshop, illustrator **Noha Eilouti** (*We Are Palestinian*) leads young artists step-by-step in the creation of an incredible work of art. Get out your paper and pencil for some drawing fun, and bring a question or two to ask Noha! Grades 4–6.

Book Discussion Questions

1. *Before Reading/Connect to Prior Knowledge*
 - a. Find Palestine on a map. What countries are near Palestine? What body of water is it close to?
2. *While Reading/Ask Questions*
 - a. Choose a topic from a section in the book (Geography, cultural symbols, creative minds, agriculture etc.). Record three details you learned and three questions you have based on the information you read.
3. *After Reading/Connect*
 - a. How does your learning about Palestine connect to your life? Are there any similarities? Differences?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 4-6 Visual Arts** - *Creating and Presenting, Exploring Forms and Cultural Contexts*
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 5)



Did you know that storytelling and baking have a lot in common? They both rely on a careful recipe of ingredients to create a delicious treat. In this storytelling workshop, author **Shenaaz G. Nanji** (*Alina in the Deep*) unpacks important tips on baking an incredible story. Grades 4–6.

Book Discussion Questions

1. Before Reading/Connect to Prior Knowledge

- Who do you have fun with? Is this person in your immediate family, extended family or a friend? What do you enjoy doing together?
- When have you had high expectations for an activity or an event and were disappointed with the outcome?
- If a family member from another country visited your hometown, where would you take them and what would you do there?

2. After Reading/Connect

- List the animals from Kenya that Safi mentions. Choose an animal to learn more about. Where can this animal be found in the world? What is an animal that lives in your part of the world?
- Alina's family traveled from Kenya to live in Calgary, Alberta. What part of the world did your family immigrate from or who do you know that is an immigrant to Canada.

- How many countries are represented in your class? Your family? Your community? Mark all the countries on a map (physical or virtual).

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 4 Social Studies** - Political and Physical Regions of Canada & Science - Habitats and Communities
- **Gr. 6 Social Studies** - Communities in Canada Past & Present & Science - Biodiversity
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 5)



In this session, author **Natasha Deen** shares what she loves about writing mysteries and what inspired her to write her latest book in the Lark Ba Detective series: *Lark Goes the Distance*. Grades 4–6.

Book Discussion Questions

1. *Before Reading/Connect to Prior Knowledge*
 - a. *Have you lost something? Did you find it? How was the mystery solved?*
 - b. *What are the parts of a good mystery story?*
 - c. *If you were a detective, what skills would you need?*

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 5)



The bestselling series *The Baby-sitters Club* is available as a graphic novel series! In this bonus event, artist **Arley Nopra** guides kids through the process she followed converting *Claudia and the Bad Joke* from a chapter book into a middle grade graphic novel. Grades 4–7.

Book Discussion Questions

1. What do novels/chapter books and graphic novels have in common?
2. Think of your favourite novel. What would you need to think of first if you wanted to turn it into a graphic novel? (i.e., how the characters look, the setting, colour scheme etc.)
3. How does a graphic novel tell a story differently than a novel? What are some problems an illustrator would have to solve when turning a novel into a graphic novel?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 5)



Join us for an incredible writing workshop as **Kern Carter** (*Is There a Boy Like Me?*) shares the secrets to writing amazing stories. Discover how to create your own tales—from imagining fun characters to crafting thrilling plots. Grades 6–8.

By the end of the workshop, you'll have written your very own short story. Get ready to unleash your creativity and become a superstar writer!

Create a Story (Warm Up)

1. To create your main character, answer the following questions:
 - a. What are they wearing?
 - b. What does their hair look like?
 - c. What is their height?
 - d. What is something they might say? (How do they sound?)
 - e. What is something they like to do? (How do they move?)
2. To identify your plot, answer the following questions:
 - a. Where does your story take place? What time of day is it? (setting)
 - b. What is a problem that will need to be solved? (conflict)
 - c. How will your problem be solved? (solution)

Book Discussion Questions

1. What are some expectations your parents have of you for the future? What are these based on?
2. What makes a “man”? What are boys taught so they can become a “man”?
3. Can a girl and boy be friends? Name a movie where the relationship between the boy and girl remains platonic.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 5)



Our highly anticipated, annual illustrator event returns with a new crop of artists who will battle it out from their own drawing tables. Grades 5–8.

This not-to-be missed interactive virtual event includes hilarious challenges featuring Canadian illustrators **Noha Eilouti**, **Kevin Sylvester** and our Illustrator-in-Residence **Chelsea Charles**. Join host **Ardo Omer** and special guest **Marty Chan** for this not-to-be-missed showcase of artistic talent.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 5)

Discussion Questions

1. Each of the illustrators had their own unique art style. Which art style did you enjoy the most?
2. Why do you think it's important to develop your own style whether it is in illustrating or other parts of your lives?



What's the difference between being alone and being LONELY? How do you handle the feeling of loneliness, and are you alone in that experience? Using her book, *Alone Together*, as a guide, author and educator **Petti Fong** explores effective ways to navigate loneliness for kids. Grades 6–8.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between being alone and being lonely?
2. What do you do when you're feeling lonely?
3. Name a character that is alone in their story. Are they a hero? A villain?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 5)



Authors **Jen Ferguson** (*A Constellation of Minor Bears*) and **Cheryl Isaacs** (*The Unfinished*) are not just writers, they're also friends! In this bonus event, they discuss their friendship, what it's like writing alone and together, and navigating the publishing industry. Grades 9-11.

Connections to Consider

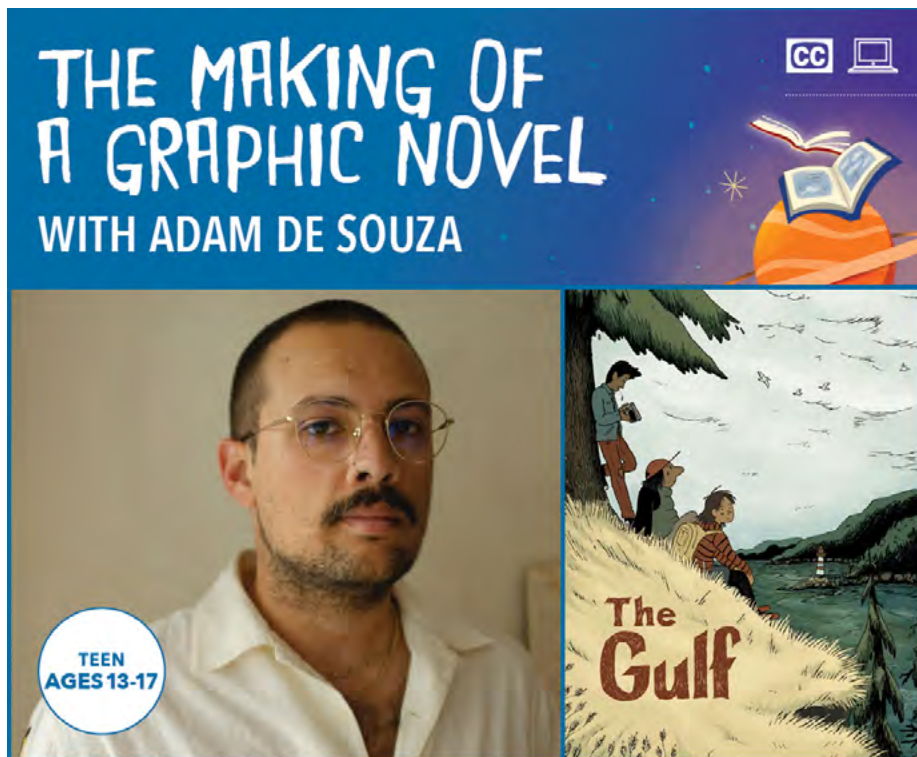
1. Are you a writer? If so, do you have a community of fellow writers to lean on?
2. List the benefits and drawbacks to writing a story with a friend.
3. Who would you want to work with? Why? What genre of story would you write?

Discussion Questions

1. How does a story get published?
2. What are the roles of the author, literary agent, editor, publisher, illustrator, cover designer?
3. How long might it take for a story to get published after the author has finished the first draft?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 11 First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies** - English Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis and Inuit Voices
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 5)



Writer and illustrator **Adam de Souza** shares how he took his graphic novel, *The Gulf*, from idea to published book in this comics-based event that explores the journey of a career in comics. Grades 8-11.

Book Discussion Questions

1. How does a story get published? Do you think there is a difference depending on the type of text? (I.e., novel vs. Graphic novel)
2. What are the roles of the author, literary agent, editor, publisher, illustrator, cover designer?
3. How long might it take for a story to get published after the author has finished the first draft?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- See [Ontario Language Curriculum](#) (page 5)



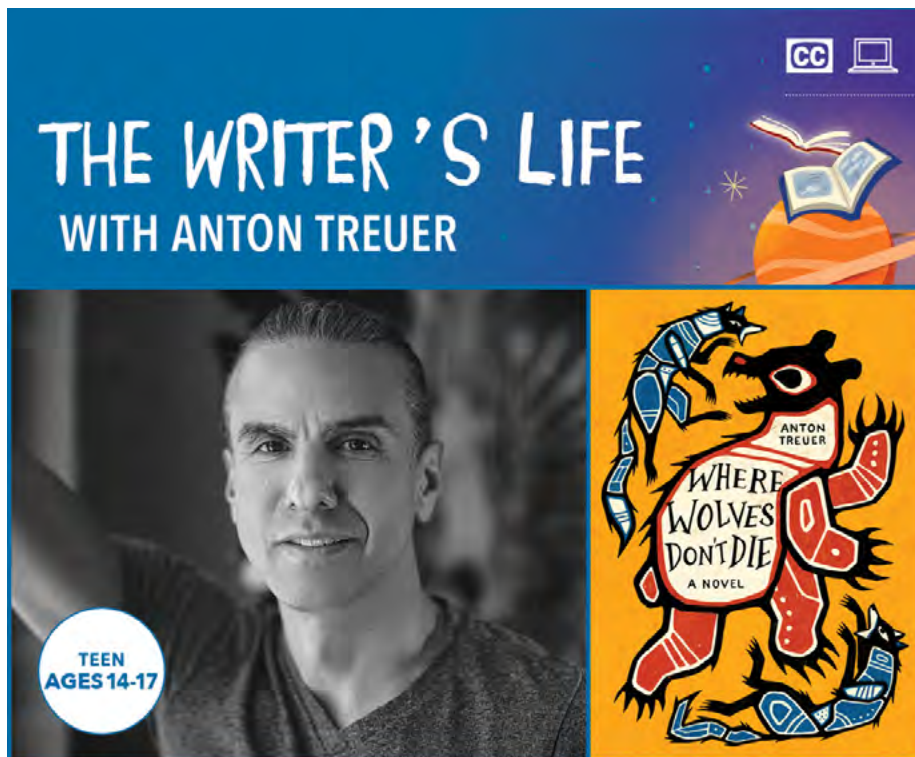
In this teen event, author **Victoria Koops** (*Who We Are in Real Life*) leads teens through a writing workshop inspired by tabletop role-playing games like Dungeons and Dragons. Come prepared with a pen and paper, and your imagination! Grades 9–11.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the appeal of RPGs? Why do you think they're so popular?
2. What abilities would you rate characters on if you created a role-playing game? (I.e., athletics, wisdom, charisma etc.)
3. If you were to create a world for your classmates' characters to roam in, what would that world look like?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 5)



The Writer's Life series focuses on the writer's journey. In this year's segment, author **Anton Treuer** (*Where Wolves Don't Die*) discusses the process behind writing his first novel and how he became a Professor of Ojibwe. Grades 9-11.

From how he became a writer of fiction to being part of preserving and revitalizing an Indigenous language, students will learn there are many paths to publishing.

Discussion Questions

1. *Anton Treuer works to preserve and revitalize an Indigenous language. What steps do you think he takes to make this a reality? Why is this work important in 2024?*
2. *After watching the recording, what surprised you about one of his responses?*
3. *What do you want to learn more about after watching this interview?*

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 11 First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies - English Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis and Inuit Voices**
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 5)

MAIDAH AHMAD

BARRIE, ONTARIO

Maidah Ahmad is a British Canadian author. Her parents are from Pakistan and grandparents from India. Working closely with immigrant families, and children, in particular, she has been able to share her joy of literature with people newly arriving in Canada. She currently lives in Barrie, Ontario, with her husband and 3 daughters.

WEBSITE: maidah.ca

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



***Muhammad's Recipe for Remembering* (2024)**

- Ages 4–7
- ISBN-13: 9781773219097
- Available as: Hardcover

OTHER BOOKS

- *I Remember...Muslim Loyalty and Sacrifice in WWI* (2023)

KERN CARTER

TORONTO, ONTARIO



Kern Carter is a full-time freelance writer and author who has written and self-published two novels — *Thoughts of a Fractured Soul* (novella) and *Beauty Scars*. Kern also has writing credits in *Forbes*, *the New York Times*, *Global Citizen*, *Elle Magazine* and *Fatherly.com*, along with having ghostwritten several books. When he's not penning novels or ghostwriting, Kern is curating stories through *CRY*, his online publication that creates space for artists to navigate through the emotions of their creative journey. He lives in downtown Toronto with his 18-year-old daughter.

WEBSITE: kerncarter.com

X (FORMERLY TWITTER): [kerncarter](https://twitter.com/kerncarter)

INSTAGRAM: [kerncarter](https://www.instagram.com/kerncarter)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Is There a Boy Like me? (2022)

- Ages 10–14
- ISBN-13: 978-1443198424
- Available as: Paperback

OTHER BOOKS

- *And Then There Was Us* (2024)
- *Boys and Girls Screaming* (2022)
- *Beauty Scars* (2017)
- *Thoughts of a Fractured Soul* (2014)

CHELSEA CHARLES

BRAMPTON, ONTARIO

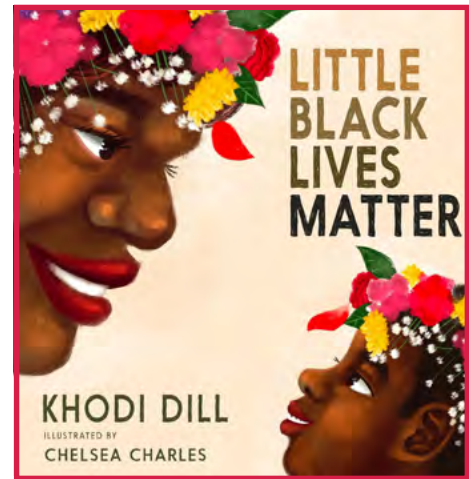
ILLUSTRATOR
IN RESIDENCE



Chelsea Charles is a freelance illustrator with a BAA in Illustration from Sheridan College. She creates digital work, often with a traditional charm. She's built a career from illustrating everything from sports stars and actors to political concepts. Beyond her work, she finds solace listening to music, sharing playful moments with her cat Charcoal and dog Stokley, all the while daydreaming of traveling to Japan.

WEBSITE: chelseacharlesillustration.com

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Little Black Lives Matter (2023)

- Ages 3–6
- ISBN-13: 978-1644211861
- Available as: Boardbook

OTHER BOOKS

- *The Hockey Jersey* (2023)
- *The Trailblazing Life of Viola Desmond* (2023)



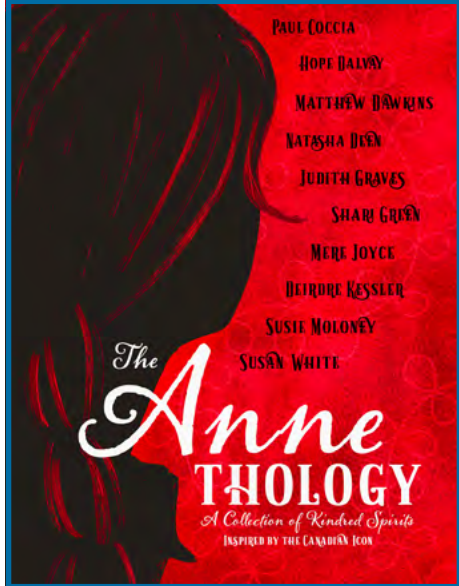
PAUL COCCIA
TORONTO, ONTARIO



*Self-Proclaimed Author of Glitterature, **Paul Coccia** has a specialist in English Lit from the University of Toronto and a Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia. He lives in Toronto and can often be found baking in his kitchen accompanied by his three dogs and a little grey parrot. Despite writing about hockey and basketball, Paul cannot skate and nearly broke his nose trying to spin a basketball on his finger. But, he can bake, play video games, and knows a lot about Cher.*

WEBSITE: paulcoccia.com
X (FORMERLY TWITTER): [pauljcoccia](https://twitter.com/pauljcoccia)
INSTAGRAM: [pauljcoccia](https://www.instagram.com/pauljcoccia)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



The ANNEthology (2024)

- Ages 13+
- ISBN-13: 9781773661537
- Available as: Paperback, eBook

OTHER BOOKS

- *Leon Levels Up* (2024)
- *I Got You Babe* (2023)
- *On The Line* (2022)



MATTHEW DAWKINS

TORONTO, ONTARIO



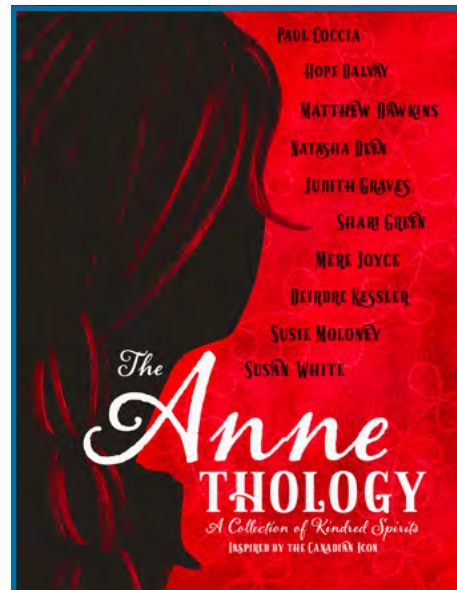
Matthew's work explores subject matters including adolescence, race, nationhood, and mental health. His work has been featured in Westwind Poetry, Indolent Books, Pinhole Poetry, and more. Matthew was the 2022-2023 Student Writer in Residence at Western University where he graduated with a B.A. in Arts and Humanities and English Literature. Born and raised in Jamaica, Matthew is a settler residing on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapéewak, and Attawandaron peoples.

WEBSITE: matthewdawkinswrites.com

X (FORMERLY TWITTER): [matthewd_writes](https://twitter.com/matthewd_writes)

INSTAGRAM: [matthewd_writes](https://www.instagram.com/matthewd_writes)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



The ANNEthology (2024)

- Ages 13+
- ISBN-13: 9781773661537
- Available as: Paperback, eBook

OTHER BOOKS

- *Until We Break* (2022)



NATASHA DEEN

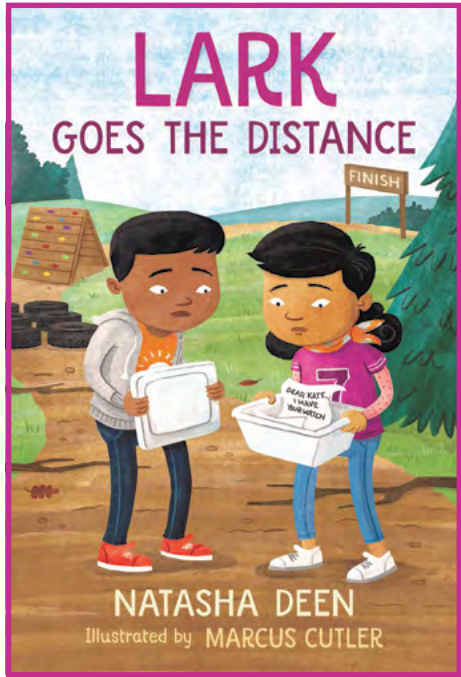
EDMONTON, ALBERTA



Natasha Deen writes for kids, teens, and adults, and believes the world is changed one story at a time. As a Guyanese-Canadian and a child of immigrants, she's seen first-hand how stories have the power to shape the world. When she's not writing, Natasha enjoys visiting schools, libraries and other organizations to help people to find and tell the stories that live inside of them. She also spends an inordinate amount of time trying to convince her pets that she's the boss of the house. Natasha is the author of the Lark Ba series, the Guardian series, and In the Key of Nira Ghani.

WEBSITE: natashadeen.com

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Lark Goes the Distance (2024)

- Ages 6–8
- ISBN-13: 978-1459838758
- Available as: Paperback

OTHER BOOKS

- *The ANNEthology* (2024)
- *The Antiracist Kitchen* (2023)
- *The Signs and Wonders of Tuna Rashad* (2022)



ADAM DE SOUZA

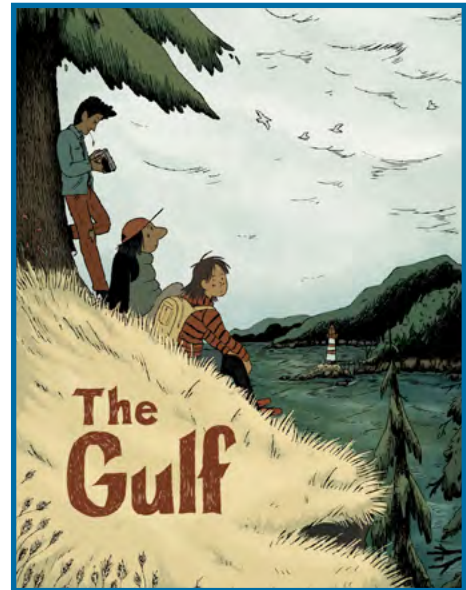
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA



Adam de Souza is based in the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱ wú7mesh (Squamish), and Seíłwítulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, also known as Vancouver, British Columbia. He writes and draws comics, illustrates children's books, and has worked as a freelance designer in animation.

WEBSITE: kumerish.com
 X (FORMERLY TWITTER): [kumerish](https://twitter.com/kumerish)
 INSTAGRAM: [kumerish](https://www.instagram.com/kumerish)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



The Gulf (2024)

- Ages 14+
- ISBN-13: 978-1774880739
- Available as: Hardcover, Paperback, eBook



NOHA EILOUTI

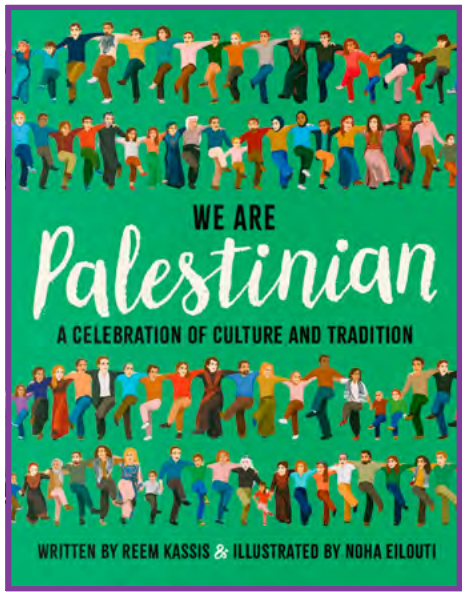
TORONTO, ONTARIO



Noha Eilouti is a Palestinian illustrator and visual development artist based in Toronto. Having been raised in Saudi Arabia, and pursuing her education in the UAE where she received a BSc in Multimedia Design from the American University of Sharjah, her focus lies in visualizing and shedding light on stories inherent to her beautiful home region. What began as a hobby of pencil drawing growing up, transitioned into digital art post-graduation, then evolved into specializing in visual development in both the realms of animation and children’s book illustration.

WEBSITE: noha.eilouti.com

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



We Are Palestinian: A Celebration of Culture and Tradition (2023)

- Ages 9–12
- ISBN-13: 978-1623717254
- Available as: Hardcover



JEN FERGUSON

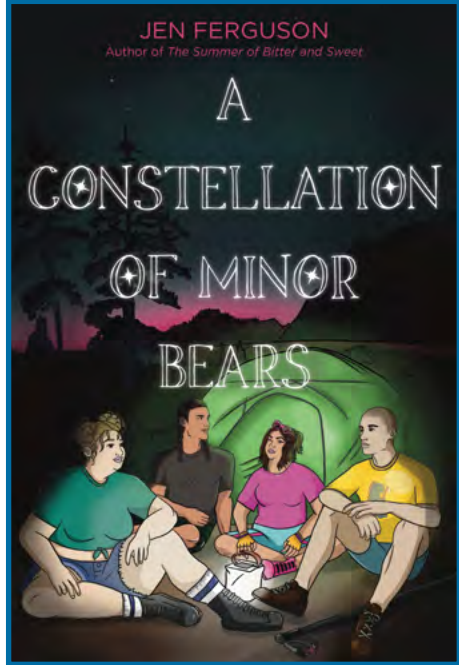
IOWA, UNITED STATES



Jen Ferguson (she/her/hers) Métis (on her father's side) and Canadian settler (on her mother's side) is an activist, a feminist, an auntie, and an accomplice armed with a PhD. She believes writing, teaching and beading are political acts.

WEBSITE: jenfergusonwrites.com
 INSTAGRAM: [jdotferg](https://www.instagram.com/jdotferg)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



- A Constellation of Minor Bears** (2024)
- Ages 13+
 - ISBN-13: 9780063334229
 - Available as: Hardcover

OTHER BOOKS

- *Those Pink Mountain Nights* (2023)
- *Summer of Bitter and Sweet* (2022)



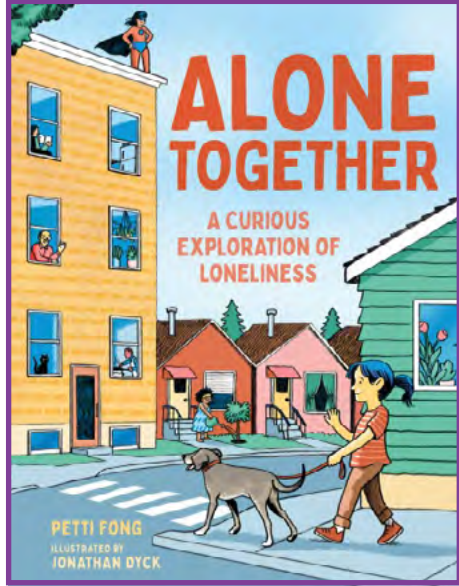
PETTI FONG

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA



Petti Fong is a journalist, educator and author. She was a staff reporter at the Vancouver Sun, the Globe and Mail, the Toronto Star and CBC and now writes for The Economist. Petti teaches journalism, ethics and business communications at Kwantlen University, Langara College and the University of British Columbia. During the pandemic she created and hosted a podcast with interviews from experts around the world on the topics of isolation and loneliness. The podcast, Alone Together, has been downloaded by hundreds of thousands of listeners and heard in more than 30 countries.

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



- Alone Together** (2024)
- Ages 9-12
 - ISBN-13: 9781459837232
 - Available as: Hardcover, eBook



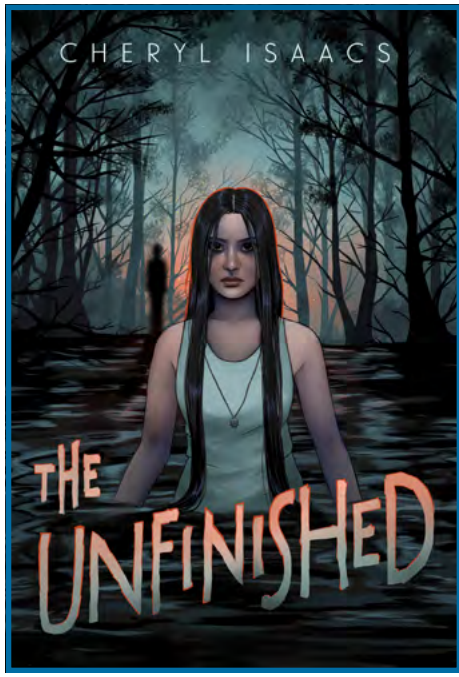
CHERYL ISAACS
ONTARIO, CANADA



Cheryl is a white/Indigenous writer from southern Ontario. She loves running, being with the trees and writing, often all at the same time. Her stories may be dark and eerie, but the dog always lives.

WEBSITE: cherylisaacs.ca

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



The Unfinished (2024)

- Ages 13+
- ISBN-13: 9780063287389
- Available as: Hardcover, eBook, Audiobook

OTHER BOOKS

- *The Others* (coming 2025)



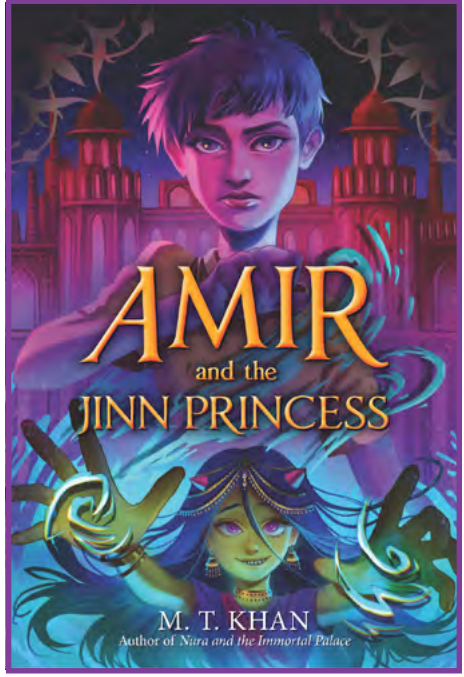
M.T. KHAN
TORONTO, ONTARIO



M.T. Khan is a speculative fiction author with a penchant for all things myth, science, and philosophy. She focuses on stories that combine all three, dreaming of evocative worlds and dark possibilities. When she’s not writing, M.T. Khan can be found travelling the world or cracking physics equations as she graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Born in Lahore, Pakistan, she currently resides in Toronto, Canada, with a hyperactive cat and an ever-increasing selection of tea.

WEBSITE: mtkhan.com
X (FORMERLY TWITTER): [maedakhan](https://twitter.com/maedakhan)
INSTAGRAM: [maedakhan](https://www.instagram.com/maedakhan)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Amir and the Jinn Princess (2024)

- Ages 8–12
- ISBN-13: 978-0759557970
- Available as: Hardcover, Paperback, eBook, Audiobook

OTHER BOOKS

- *Nura and the Immortal Palace* (2022)



VICTORIA KOOPS

TREATY 4, SASKATCHEWAN



Victoria Koops never stopped playing make-believe and often writes while wearing a tiara. Her books are full of epic adventure and swoony romance, and navigate social issues through the power of fandom and geek culture. As a practicing counsellor, Victoria writes, plays, and lives with her family in Treaty 4 Territory. Besides writing, Victoria loves to sing off-key, tease her sisters, and fool herself into believing that maybe, just maybe, she'll choose a different romance the next time she sits down to play Dragon Age: Inquisition.

WEBSITE: victoriakoops.com
 INSTAGRAM: [victoriakoopswrites](https://www.instagram.com/victoriakoopswrites)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Who We Are in Real Life (2024)

- Ages 12+
- ISBN-13: 978-1773068893
- Available as: Paperback



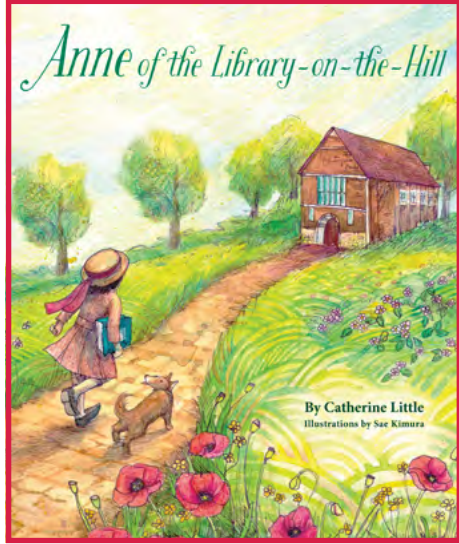
CATHERINE LITTLE

TORONTO, ONTARIO



Catherine Little is an educator, consultant and writer living in Toronto, Ontario with her husband and son. She has a passion for picture books and often used them in the classroom to enhance her mathematics, science and history lessons. She wrote *Endgame: The Secret Force 136* after learning about the force's existence just a few years ago and envisioned a book that could help more families learn of this little-known chapter in Canadian history.

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Anne of the Library-on-the-Hill (2024)

- Ages 6–10
- ISBN-13: 978-1738165247
- Available as: Hardcover (2023)

OTHER BOOKS

- *Endgame: The Secret Force 136* (2023)
- *Dragon's Dilemma* (2023)
- *Twelve in a Race* (2022)



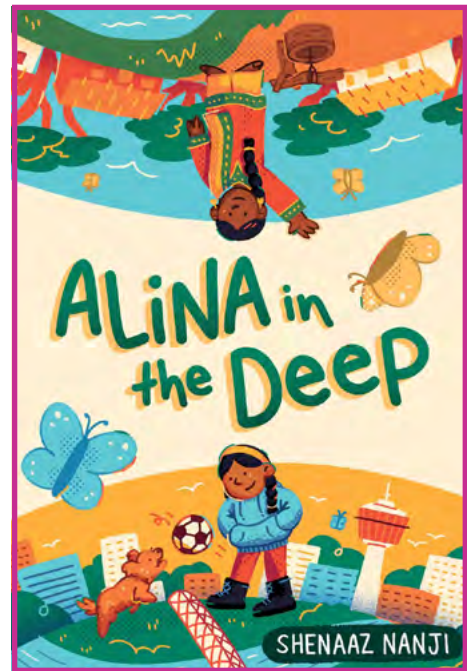
SHENAAZ G. NANJI
CALGARY, ALBERTA



Shenaaz G. Nanji is an internationally published author of over a dozen books for children. She holds an MFA in Writing from Vermont College. Her novel, Child of Dandelions, was a finalist for the Governor General’s Award in Children’s Literature. Her chapter book, Alina in a Pinch, was a finalist for the Silver Birch Express and the Hackmatack Children’s Choice Book awards and is now joined by the sequel Alina in the Deep. Born in Kenya, she now lives in Calgary.

WEBSITE: shenaaznanji.com

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Alina in the Deep (2024)

- Ages 6–8
- ISBN-13: 978-1772603903
- Available as: Paperback

SELECTED OTHER BOOKS

- *Alina in a Pinch* (2022)
- *Ghost Boys* (2017)



ARLEY NOPRA

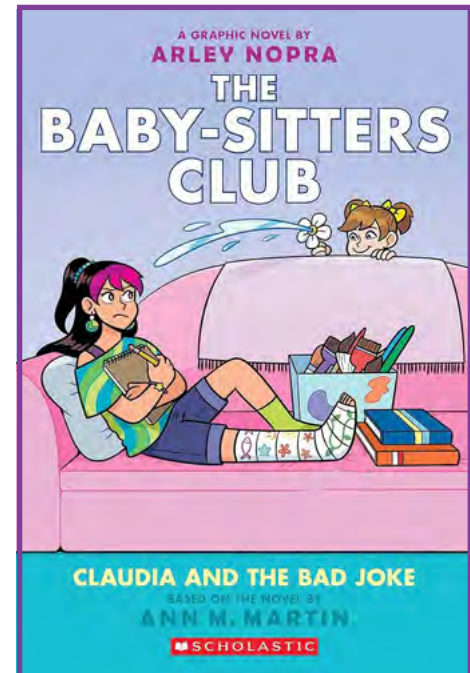
TORONTO, ONTARIO



Arley Nopra is a Filipina-Canadian illustrator and cartoonist and the creator of the New York Times bestselling *Baby-sitters Club* graphic novel adaptation *Claudia and the Bad Joke* by Ann M. Martin. She loves creating stories with relatable characters and finds joy in making readers laugh. She previously worked as the colorist for the second and third *Dragon Prince* graphic novels. When Arley isn't drawing, she's obsessing over TV shows, drinking lots of bubble tea, or reading novels in her favorite armchair. She lives in Toronto.

INSTAGRAM: [leecheedoodles](#)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Claudia and the Bad Joke: A Graphic Novel
(*The Babysitters Club* #15) (2023)

- Ages 8–12
- ISBN-13: 978-1338835502
- Available as: Hardcover, Paperback, eBook



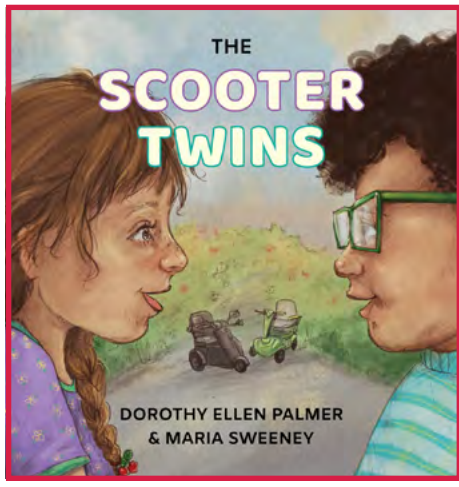
DOROTHY ELLEN PALMER

BURLINGTON, ONTARIO

Dorothy Ellen Palmer is a mother of two, an award-winning disabled senior writer, accessibility advocate and retired teacher. She served on the Accessibility Advisory Board of the Festival of Literary Diversity and regularly appears at literary festivals. She won the Helen Henderson Award for disability journalism, and has published three novels and the memoir Falling for Myself. The Scooter Twins is her first children's book. She lives in Burlington, Ontario, with her mobility scooter, Rosie.

X (FORMERLY TWITTER): **depalm**

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



The Scooter Twins (2024)

- Ages 6–9
- ISBN-13: 978-1644211861
- Available as: Hardcover, eBook

OTHER BOOKS

- *Falling for Myself* (adult, 2019)



GAITRIE PERSAUD

TORONTO, ONTARIO



Gaitrie Persaud, a Torontonians, lives and breathes acting and that is reflected in her amazing identity. She was on Silly Paws on CBC's first ASL Kid show, as the character "Simmi" and was on Blue 's Clues and You as Camila.

INSTAGRAM: [enchante091216](#)

INSTAGRAM: [phoenixthefire1111](#)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Archie Celebrates an Indian Wedding (2024)

By Mitali Banerjee Ruths and illustrated by Parwinder Singh

- Ages 4-8
- ISBN-13: 9781623544188
- Available as: Hardcover



ASHLEY QILAVAQ-SAVARD

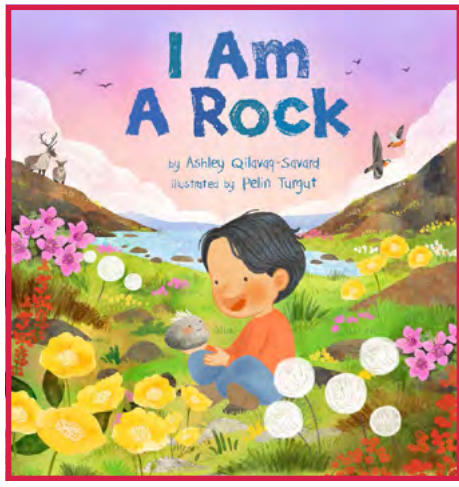
IQALUIT, NUNAVUT



Ashley Qilavaq-Savard is an Inuk writer, artist, and emerging filmmaker born and raised in Iqaluit, Nunavut. She writes poetry about decolonizing narratives, healing from intergenerational trauma, and love of the land and culture. She has published two short stories relating to her Inuit culture, “My Very First Ulu” with Nipiit magazine and “Miki and the Aqsarniit” with Chirp magazine. Since attending the Vancouver Film School, Ashley has led acting and storytelling workshops for children and youth with the Qaggiavuut Performing Arts Society and the Labrador Creative Arts Festival. Ashley also creates sealskin and beaded jewellery, and is a dedicated student of Inuktitut.

- TWITTER:** Qilavaq
- INSTAGRAM:** aqilavaqsavard
- FACEBOOK:** Ashley Qilavaq-Savard
- YOUTUBE:** ashleykilabuk-savard

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



- I Am a Rock** (2024)
- Ages 3–5
- ISBN-13: 978-1772274752
- Available as: Hardcover

OTHER BOOKS

- *Where the Sea Kuniiks the Land* (2023)



KEVIN SYLVESTER

TORONTO, ONTARIO



Kevin has written and/or illustrated more than thirty books, including *The Almost Epic Squad #1: Mucus Mayhem*, *the Neil Flambé Capers* (now at six books), and *the MINRs trilogy*. His sci-fi series *MINRs* is already a bestseller and critical success. *MINRS* was a *Red Maple* and *MYRCA Honour Book* in 2017.

WEBSITE: kevinsylvester.online
 X (FORMERLY TWITTER): [kevinarts](#)
 FACEBOOK: [Kevin Sylvester](#)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Night of the Living Zed (2024)

- Ages 8–12
- ISBN-13: 9781443469203
- Available as: Hardcover, eBook

OTHER BOOKS

- *Apartment 713* (2022)
- *The Fabulous Zed Watson* (2021)



TANYA TAGAQ

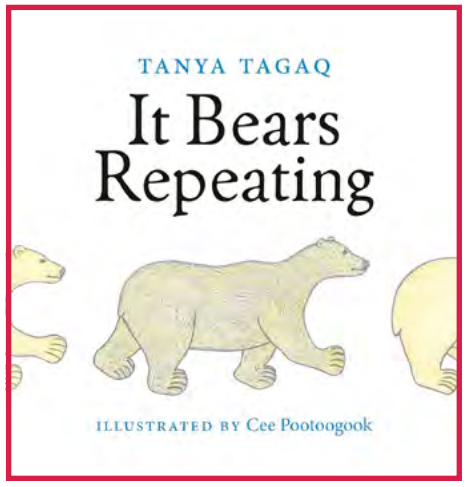
TORONTO, ONTARIO



Tanya Tagaq is from Ikaluktutiak (Cambridge Bay, Nunavut), internationally celebrated as an improvisational singer, avant-garde composer and bestselling author. A member of the Order of Canada, Polaris Music Prize and JUNO Award winner and recipient of multiple honorary doctorates, Tagaq is an original disruptor, a world-changing figure at the forefront of seismic social, political and environmental change.

- WEBSITE: tanyatagaq.com
- TWITTER: [tagaq](#)
- INSTAGRAM: [tanyatagaq](#)
- FACEBOOK: [Tanya Tagaq](#)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



- It Bears Repeating*** (2024)
- Ages 3–7
 - ISBN-13: 978-1774880555
 - Available as: Hardcover, eBook

- OTHER BOOKS**
- *Split Tooth* (adult, 2018)



ANTON TREUER

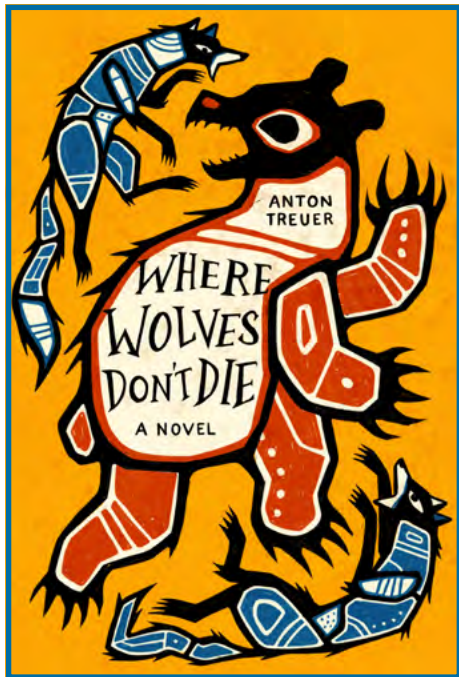
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA



Dr. Anton Treuer (pronounced troy-er) is Executive Director of the American Indian Resource Center at Bemidji State University. He has a B.A. from Princeton University, M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. He is Editor of the Oshkaabewis (pronounced o-shkaah-bay-wis) Native Journal, the only academic journal of the Ojibwe language and author of 9 books.

- WEBSITE: antontreuer.com
- X (FORMERLY TWITTER): [antontreuer](https://twitter.com/antontreuer)
- INSTAGRAM: [treuera](https://www.instagram.com/treuera)
- INSTAGRAM: [Anton Treuer](https://www.instagram.com/Anton_Treuer)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Where Wolves Don't Die (2024)

- Ages 12+
- ISBN-13: 978-1646143818
- Available as: Hardcover, eBook, Audiobook

SELECTED OTHER BOOKS

- *Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians but Were Afraid to Ask: Young Reader's Edition* (2021)
- *The Cultural Toolbox: Traditional Ojibwe Living in a Modern World* (2021)



EMILY VARGA

WESTERN CANADA



Emily Varga is a fantasy author with a fondness for getting lost in bookstores and watching a lot of terrible reality tv. She has lived all over the world, but currently calls the Rocky Mountains of western Canada home, where she lives with her family and their menagerie of pets. When she’s not writing, Emily is a co-host of the ON THE WRITE TRACK podcast and works as a family lawyer, where she learned more about storytelling than she ever expected.

WEBSITE: emilyvargabooks.com
 X (FORMERLY TWITTER): [emilycvarga](https://twitter.com/emilycvarga)
 INSTAGRAM: [treuera](https://www.instagram.com/treuera)
 INSTAGRAM: [emilyvargabooks](https://www.instagram.com/emilyvargabooks)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



For She is Wrath (2024)

- Ages 13+
- ISBN-13: 978-1250877383
- Available as: Hardcover, eBook, Audiobook



Celebrate the diverse voices all around us

Find your next adventure, your next friend, your next inspiration, right here in the stories we share.

PICTURE BOOKS



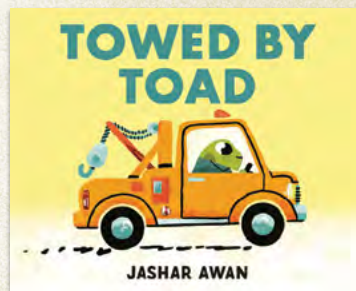
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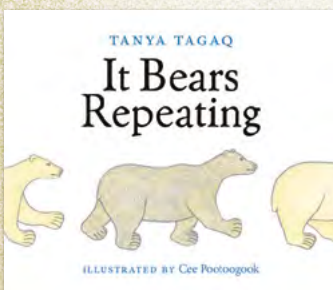


9781774882436



9781774883488

PICTURE BOOKS



9781774880555



9781774883570

CHAPTER BOOK



9780735269460

TEEN GRAPHIC NOVEL



9781774880753

MIDDLE-GRADE NOVELS



9781774880524

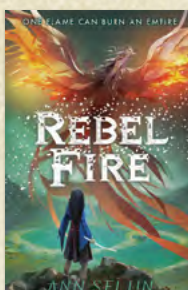


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TEEN NOVEL



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