

From Home and Away

Book Recommendations For Young Readers
(and the Young at Heart)



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From Home and Away

Book Recommendations
For Young Readers (and the Young at Heart)

Compiled by
Yuli Sato

Librarianship.ca
Occasional Paper Series No. 3

May 2021

Librarianship.ca

ISBN 978-0-9952219-3-2

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Title: From home and away : book recommendations for young readers (and the young at heart) / compiled by Yuli Sato.

Names: Sato, Yuli, compiler.

Description: Series statement: Librarianship.ca occasional paper series ; no. 3

Identifiers: Canadiana 20210205202 | ISBN 9780995221932 (PDF)

Subjects: LCSH: Children--Books and reading. | LCSH: Best books.

Classification: LCC Z1037.A1 S28 2021 | DDC 011.62--dc23

Published by:

Librarianship.ca

Ottawa, Ontario

About the Front Cover

Two Kids Reading a Fairy Tale Book, Photo by cottonbro from Pexels

Introduction

Canadian Children's Book Week celebrates the magic that reading brings to children across the country. The festival brings communities together through readings and virtual events to promote the importance of literacy, and in honour of CCBW, Librarianship.ca reached out to prominent Canadians in politics and government, the arts and journalism, and librarianship requesting their favourite children's books recommendations. We also asked foreign diplomats in Canada about their favourite childhood reads from their home country. Contributors share the books that have influenced them, and with so many responses, it was made clear that even as adults, we still have fond memories of our most beloved childhood reads. It was inspiring to learn about children's books from all over the world!

This collection contains book recommendations from a diverse group of people across Canada, and for ease of browsing, contributors have been organized into four broad categories:

- Arts and Journalism;
- Politics and Government;
- Foreign Ambassadors; and
- The Library World.

The index at the end of the collection provides a list of the authors and titles mentioned. We hope to inspire Canadians with this collection and perhaps even evoke memories of their own favourite childhood reads. We aim to promote dialogue by providing unique recommendations to be shared amongst one another, and we are so pleased with the number of responses received and the meaningful conversations we had about respondents' favourite children's books. This collection emphasizes the continued importance of reading and books at any age, and the significance of libraries as stages for discussion.

Great appreciation goes out to Cabot Yu as the motivating force behind this project, and, of course, many thanks to our contributors for taking the time to provide their most memorable childhood reads.

Happy reading, Canada!

Yuli Sato
Ottawa


What was your favourite book when you were a child?

I have fond memories of reading *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister when I was a child. I was very visual and loved the illustrations, plus the message stands the test of time: generosity is a virtue and we all have something valuable to share.

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

The children's book that I would recommend to all Canadians is *A is for Activist* by Innosanto Nagara. I wish I had a book like this when I was very young - it introduces important issues and places value on community, equality, and justice.


Arts and Journalism

	<p>Rosey Edeh CEO, Micha Muse Media Co-anchor, CTV Morning News Ottawa Canadian Olympian</p> <p>@RoseyEdeh</p>
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What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

I highly recommend the Zunik series #1-9 by Bertrand Gauthier. My favorite of the series is *Zunik Dans Le Dragon*. Zunik has an undeterred imagination even when Zunik's nemesis Ariane questions his response during story time at the local library. I read this story so often when my daughter was a child, I could recount it by heart. I even read the story to my daughter's kindergarten class way back in the early 2000's! It is a classic, clear, entertaining, and delightful story.

My second pick I would recommend to Canadian children is Maestro Fresh Wes' new children's book titled: *Stick To Your Vision: Young Maestro Goes To School*. Young Maestro goes on an exciting hip-hop journey in school that uses the power of writing, family, friends and great teachers to overcome doubt and discover the positive power of the written word.

	<p>Jessica J. Lee author of <i>Two Trees Make a Forest</i></p> <p>@jessicajlee</p>
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What was your favourite book when you were a child?

My favourite book when I was a child changed pretty often, but I was completely enthralled by *Misty of Chincoteague* by Marguerite Henry. It combined a horse story (which was right up my alley) with a vivid portrait of place, and it really stayed with me.

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

I'd recommend everyone pick up a copy of *The Fog* by Kyo Maclear. It's a beautifully subtle environmental tale, with stunning illustrations. It's given me so much solace and hope for the future.

**Barbara Reid**

Award winning picture book maker, clay illustrator

@barbreidart

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

One children's book that I recommend all Canadians read is the picture book *Dragonfly Kites* by Thomson Highway, illustrated by Julie Flett, published by Fifth House. It's a beautiful celebration of children's imagination and free play in nature, a reminder that there is a beautiful world beyond screens and gadgets. The text is spare, there is a seamless mix of English and Cree words and gentle humour. The art is stunning. Flett perfectly captures the children and the place, and the deceptively simple style makes it easy for readers of any age to step into the world of the story.

**Shelagh Rogers**

Host, The Next Chapter (CBC Radio) and Honorary Witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

@RogersShelagh

What was your favourite book when you were a child?

My favourite book as a child was *The Incredible Journey* by Sheila Burnford. I've always been, as my mother put it, dog crazy. I loved this story of a Labrador retriever, a Siamese cat, and an old bull terrier—their journey, their adventure, their survival (spoiler alert!), and their bond.

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

I would like to recommend two children's books to Canadians. First, for young readers: *When We Were Alone* by David Alexander Robertson, illustrated by Julie Flett. It's a gentle and profound story about a young girl and her kokom (grandmother) talking together about kokom at her age, in residential school. As David told me, "If we want kids to go through school and learn complex math like calculus, we need to create a foundation for that. We don't start out in kindergarten teaching kids calculus. It's too difficult. I think you can take the same approach with residential school history. It is a difficult history and there are a lot of things that aren't appropriate for younger learners to learn. But there are age-appropriate ways to approach the story that are sensitive and that create empathy in young learners. You want them to be able to take the story with them in their hearts and in their minds and carry it forward..." And David succeeds in this, quietly and brilliantly.


The other book is for readers in middle grades to high school: *Speaking Our Truth: A Journey of Reconciliation* by Monique Gray Smith. Monique shares the experiences of residential school survivors whom she interviewed and she spoke with students about this time in Canada's history. This book bears witness to the survivors' courage and resilience and the clear-eyed sense of justice and truth of young people who just "get it." This is a book about love and respect and ultimately hope. Really, I would love to see all Canadians of all ages reading these books.



What was your favourite book when you were a child?

How to even choose a favourite book from childhood? It's a pretty tall order. That feeling when you're little of plunging into a book, and the magical world it creates, is hard to match. So many books inspired me, but one that I read over and over was *Harriet the Spy* by Louise Fitzhugh. Harriet writes down everything she knows about everyone. She's ambitious and excited about becoming a spy and writer. She is often mean and far from perfect. She is methodical and committed to the brutal truth. But she is true to herself and the book shows you, that's ok. It also made me want to document the world around me for a living!

Politics and Government

	<p>Honourable Dominic Cardy, MLA Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development New Brunswick</p> <p>@DominicCardy</p>
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What was your favourite book when you were a child?

My favourite book as a kid was Susan Cooper's *The Dark is Rising*.

	<p>Honourable Marc Garneau, MP Minister of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>@MarcGarneau</p>
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What was your favourite book when you were a child?

The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling. In particular, I loved the story of Rikki-Tikki-Tavi, the pet mongoose and how he saved his family from the cobra.



Honourable Karina Gould, MP
Minister of International Development

@karinagould

What was your favourite book when you were a child?

My favourite book as a child was Richard Scarry's *Animal Nursery Tales*.

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

A recommended book for Canadians to read is *Love You Forever* by Robert Munsch and *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson. The first is my favourite book as a parent, and I cherish reading it with my son. I have to hold back tears each time. And the second is my son's favourite book. He has it memorized. So even though he is only 3, he "reads" it to me!"




Honourable Natalie Jameson
Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning and Minister
responsible for the Status of Women
Prince Edward Island

@NatalieJ_PEI

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

I love the warm and fuzzies that libraries/books bring! My favourite to read to my kids now is *Love You Forever* by Robert Munsch. It makes me cry every time, especially as a parent.

	<p>Honourable David Lametti, MP Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada</p> <p>@DavidLametti</p>
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What was your favourite book when you were a child?

Ferdinand by Munro Leaf.

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

In French: *Voyages autour de mon Coeur* by Gilles Tibo et Geneviève Després.

I would also recommend the classic *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Numeroff and illustrated by Felicia Bond because of the fond memories of reading it to my kids when they were small.

	<p>Honourable Marc Miller, MP Minister of Indigenous Services</p> <p>@MarcMillerVM</p>
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What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

Recommendations of children's books from the Indigenous staff in Minister Miller's office

First Nations:

- *Mighty Muskrats* Mystery Series, by Michael Hutchinson
- *Aakomimihitani (Love)* by Sheena Potts
- *As Long as the Rivers Flow* by Larry Loyle

Inuit:

- *A Promise Is A Promise* by Michael Kusugak and Robert Munsch
- *Sweetest Kulu* by Celina Kalluk

Métis:

- *Becoming Métis* by Deborah Delaronde-Falk
- *Call of the Fiddle* by Anne Patton and Wilfred Burton



Dr. Theresa Tam

Chief Public Health Officer of Canada
Public Health Agency of Canada

@CPHO_Canada

What was your favourite book when you were a child?

Winnie-the-Pooh and *The House at Pooh Corner* by A.A. Milne. I still like the stories because they teach us about the importance of friendship, positive thinking and appreciating the simple things in life, such as a game of Poohsticks with friends. The characters in the book taught me that being different and therefore unique is a super power and that I can go further than I think. (There is a connection to Canada so guess what it is?!)

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

I have to recommend anything by Robert Munsch. They've become classics because they're rooted in childrens' real experiences. He has been able to take experiences that all children have gone through, like hearing a strange sound, feeling isolated, or being afraid of the dark, and create stories that are engaging, meaningful and delightful.

Message from Dr. Tam

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to you and to all the librarians across Canada who have been supporting your communities during this very difficult period.

COVID-19 has been very stressful for many individuals, particularly those who are older, those who may be at risk, homeless and struggling with day to day activities. I know that many librarians across the country have been reaching out to support those who may need help with COVID vaccine appointments. Learning of these helpful and meaningful gestures is very heartwarming and are examples of the efforts that will help get us through this pandemic.

I wish you a very successful Canadian Children's Book Week.

**Leslie Weir**

Librarian and Archivist of Canada
Library and Archives Canada

@Leslie_Weir

What was your favourite book when you were a child?

I had many favourites as a child that I read and that were read to me. Growing up in Montréal in the 60's, sadly there were nowhere near the number of Canadian children's books as there are now, or for that matter when my four children were growing up in the 90's. One of my favourites as a child was *The Incredible Journey* by Sheila Burnford, published in 1961 by Hodder Stoughton. While Sheila Burnford was a Scottish author, her book was inspired by her time living with her husband in Northern Ontario. I was over the moon when Disney released a movie in 1963 based on this incredible story of the journey of a terrier, a Siamese cat, and a Labrador Retriever across the Canadian wilderness to rejoin their family.

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

There are so many choices of great Canadian books to read in 2021! I would suggest that Canadians check out the Forest of Reading to be introduced to some of this year's best fiction for children and young adults. My recommendation for Canadians to read is *If I Go Missing* by Brianna Jonnie with art by Nshannacappo, published by James Lorimer & Company. This graphic novel brings to life a poignant story, providing an intimate view on the unique dangers of being an Indigenous teen in Canada today.



Gina Wilson

Deputy Minister, Diversity and Inclusion and Youth and Senior Associate Deputy Minister of Canadian Heritage

What was your favourite book when you were a child?


The Cat in the Hat by Dr Seuss.

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

Nibi's Water Song by Sunshine Tenasco.

Sunshine is my Algonquin relative from Kitigan-Zibi Anishinabeg and writes about a young, indigenous girl and shares teachings while raising awareness of Canada's situation on water in First Nation communities.

Diplomats from Around the World

	Carlos Alberto Viera Rodriguez First Secretary & Chargé d'affaires, a.i. Embassy of the Plurinational State of Bolivia
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What was your favourite book when you were a child?

The first book I came across that had an impact on me when I was a child was *The Greatest Salesman in the World* by Og Mandino. It was on my father's shelf of books and he told me he never read it. That was the force that drove me into reading it. I was 9 or 10 y.o., and since then I didn't stop reading books of all types for the next couple of years because I learnt there was so much information in books and I got a thirst for knowledge.

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

I would recommend *Race of Bronze* by Alcides Arguedas from Bolivia because it teaches about cultural competency through empathy by narrating a story, common on many families of native origins at the times the story is told.

	Her Excellency Svetlana Sashova Stoycheva-Etropolski Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria
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What was your favourite book when you were a child?

One of the many stories that made an impact on me as a child was a story by Hans Christian Andersen, *The Ugly Duckling*, which taught me that I shouldn't discriminate against people or judge them by their physical appearance, and to follow my passions.

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

I recommend *The Adventure of the Motts* by the Bulgarian author Rady Nikolova. It tells the story of tiny creatures with big hearts. It is a captivating read which intrigues both children and parents alike and brings smiles to their faces.

Story: The Motts are kind-hearted fluffy creatures, who live in our dressers. Their furs take on the different colours of our favourite clothes. Thus, if people living in the house are gloomy

and sad, they wear dark clothes and so the motts are colored in dark hues. On the contrary, if the people are happy, smiling and enjoy life, their clothes are more colorful and so the motts will be in brighter and lighter hues. There is, however, something that worries them... People have become too dependent on technologies, and this is having an effect on them. Little by little, the Motts begin to lose their colours and they risk becoming extinct. Will the Motts manage to devise a plan to help people?

The book was awarded first prize in Bulgaria for children's literature in 2014.

A peak to the book:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=S_LUiqxcRq4

	Andrea Droppelman Valenzuela First Secretary Embassy of the Republic of Chile
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What was your favourite book when you were a child?

The book that made a huge impression on me when I read it as a child was *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. The character of Jo was an inspiration for me to fall in love with books, literature, and creativity. Later in my life, I wanted to be a writer and I got my first typewriter for my 12th birthday. The friendship between the sisters, the adversity they had to face, and the strength Josephine developed to find her own path in life, are universal lessons and still currently meaningful.

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

Papelucho by Marcela Paz is about an 8-year-old boy who lives with his parents and his sister Jimena, who writes in his diaries all kinds of adventures and misfortunes. Papelucho is the main character of a series of books full of imagination, funny episodes and thoughtful dialogues that transport you to the thinking of this boy, who has a very special way to live and understand the world around him.

	<p>His Excellency Vasilios Philippou High Commissioner for the Republic of Cyprus</p>
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What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

Aesop Fables.

	<p>Her Excellency Hanne Fugl Eskjaer Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark @DKambCanada</p>
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What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

I love *The Ugly Duckling* by Hans Christian Andersen. It is a fairy tale about a newly hatched duckling that is rejected and bullied by others in the animal kingdom for not looking like the other ducks. He wishes to be beautiful like the swans he sees flying in the sky, but he is too young to fly. By spring, he becomes fully grown and tries to join a flock of swans, who welcome him to his surprise. He then sees his reflection in the water and sees that he too has become a beautiful swan.

The story teaches us not to discriminate or judge people by their physical appearance or by our first impressions, and it teaches us the importance of being true to ourselves and appreciate the beauty and strength in all human beings. In other words, do not judge a book by its cover, but give it a second chance, you might just find it a good read.

I would recommend Hans Christian Andersen's Complete Fairy Tales where you can find *The Ugly Duckling* and many other wonderful tales of H.C. Andersen.

	Her Excellency Mária Éva Vass-Salazar Ambassador of Hungary
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What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

It is my pleasure to recommend a Hungarian novel that is available in Canada both in English and in French: *Abigail* by the award-winning author Magda Szabó.

Abigail is a coming-of-age story and the protagonist is Gina, a good-hearted but headstrong 15-year-old daughter of a General who has to leave her privileged life behind and move to a strict boarding school during World War II. The story revolves around her adjustment to the new realities, her friendships, and the challenges of the war. The characters in the story are captivating, including the enigmatic statue of Abigail. The statue stands in the garden of the boarding school and is mysteriously able to help the girls who ask for her help by putting a note in her jar.


	His Excellency Ambassador Eamonn McKee Ambassador of Ireland to Canada @EamonnMcKee
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What was your favourite book when you were a child?

Oddly enough, the books I remember most were three volumes from an incomplete set of encyclopaedias. They had the simple title 'Knowledge' and were beautifully illustrated with coloured illustrations, not photographs. There does not seem to be any order to the subjects. The Rivers of Asia is followed by King Alfred and the Danes, then an article on Drains and Sewage. The plethora of images on each page left a lasting imprint on my mind. I still have them and when I flick through them it brings back all those decades ago.

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

The story I would recommend is Oscar Wilde's *The Happy Prince*. It is the story of a love between a swallow and the statue of a gilded and bejewelled prince overlooking a town once upon a time. Remembering his selfish life when alive, the prince commands the swallow to strip off the gold leaf and jewels to relieve poor people he sees. The swallow tells of his fabulous adventures on migration south. 'Dear little Swallow,' said the Prince, 'you tell me of marvellous things, but more marvellous than anything is the suffering of men and women. There is no Mystery so great as Misery.' It is a magical story for children evoked by the genius of Wilde's descriptive powers but also by his empathy. At another level it is a very moving one about redemption and sacrifice.

	<p>His Excellency Yasuhisa Kawamura Ambassador of Japan</p> <p>@AmbKawamura</p>
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What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

1. *Lulie the Iceberg* by Her Imperial Highness Princess Hisako Takamado (1998)
This tale telling the story of an iceberg traveling from the North Pole to the South Pole emphasizes the dynamics of the natural environment and creates an opportunity to think about the importance of living together on earth.
2. *Red Demon Cried (Naita Akaoni)* by Hirosuke Hamada (1935)
This best-selling book gives us an opportunity to think a lot about what true friendship is and how we can live peacefully with the ones who look different from us (the red and blue ogres in this story try to be good neighbours to human beings).
3. *Guri and Gura* by Rieko Nakagawa (1963)
This story about two field mice (Guri and Gura) who fall into wonderful adventures and meet fascinating new friends teaches us how to be good and kind to others.
4. *Buying Mittens* by Nankichi Niimi (1943)
This book illustrates how big a mother's love is and gives an opportunity to think about the trust between human beings and animals.

	<p>Dinazat Kassymova First Secretary Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p>
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What was your favourite book when you were a child?

The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.

	<p>Her Excellency Goverdina Christina (Ines) Coppoolse Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands</p> <p>@InesCoppoolse</p>
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What was your favourite book when you were a child?

Kruistocht in Spijkerbroek by Dutch author Thea Beckman. It has been translated into English with the title *Crusade in Jeans*. Also, it has been filmed (with the same title). Beckman has received numerous awards for this book in particular, but also for her other children's books.

It's about a young boy from Amsterdam named Dolf, 15 years old, who was always very interested in the Middle Ages because of his fascination for Knighthood and knightly tournaments. When he has the chance to travel to that period with a travel machine, a small mistake was made and he ends up not in France during a Knights tournament but in Germany, in the year 1212, in the middle of a crusaders procession on its way to Jerusalem. The crusaders were not knights or grownup soldiers though, but children, led by two monks and a very young shepherd boy. Dolf becomes the leader of this group, and it's fascinating to see how he - with his 20st century skills, knowledge, and experience - deals with the customs and superstitions of the Middle Ages.

I was 11 when I read it, and I couldn't stop reading it. The story completely absorbed me. Of course, the idea to travel through time is already fascinating, but the way Thea Beckman managed to build up suspension was beyond compare. The book was responsible for the choice I made later in life: to study history.

Secondly, *The Diary of Anne Frank*. No introduction needed, it's a must read for every child. The War Museum in Ottawa currently runs an exhibition on Anne.

I lived in Amsterdam when I had her age, and I knew the houses and the streets where she had lived, where she had played before going into hiding. I had visited her house and the attic behind the bookcase several times. I was 12 when I read her diary, and at that age I had also kept my own diary. It was so easy to relate to Anne's reflections, her thoughts, observations, and wishes were not so different from other kids that age. The only difference was the fact that she had to live in fear, and had not the freedom to go outside, to play, to laugh out loud with her friends. Her lack of freedom, her lack of privacy, and her 'matter of fact' attitude to deal with it all made a deep impression. Because she had shared her everyday life with me, Anne had become 'my friend', which made it incredibly difficult to accept the betrayal of the Frank family and their subsequent transportation to Auschwitz.

Anne's diary and the atrocity of the holocaust made me realize how important freedom is, and how lucky I am to live in a part of the world where we have a legal system that protects me. This is why I have chosen a career in diplomacy. To make sure we uphold the rules-based order we have created after the Second World War, and to make sure we cooperate with each other instead of fighting each other.

	<p>His Excellency Rodolfo Robles Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines</p>
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What was your favourite book when you were a child?

The children's book that had an impact on me is *Si Pagong at Si Matsing* (The Turtle and the Monkey). This is a classic Filipino story about a turtle and a monkey who find a banana tree in the river.

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?


There are so many good children's books from the Philippines that are readily available online, including *Si Pagong and Si Matsing*. This story is especially meaningful for the people of the Philippines because it was written by Dr. Jose Rizal, our national hero.

	<p>Peter Vavra Consul Embassy of the Slovak Republic</p>
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What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?


I recommend *Slovak Tales for Young and Old* by Pavol Dobsinsky, with beautiful illustrations of Martin Benka.

This collaborative work showcases to the English-speaking world the Slovak folk tales by Pavol Dobsinky, and 15 color and 50 black and white reproductions of Slovak artist Martin Benka. The book is bilingual, with English translations in the front and the original Slovak version in the back of the book. *Slovak Tales for Young and Old* is the first translation into English and is representative of the Slovak oral tradition, the book is also the debut of the Slovak artist Martin Benka into the English-speaking world.

	<p>Blaz Slamic First Counsellor & Chargé d'affaires, a.i. Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia</p>
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What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

There are several immensely popular and entertaining children's books by contemporary Slovenian authors that are worth mentioning. Many are also translated into English. Of these, I would particularly highlight the book *Daddies* by Lila Prap. It is a series of rhyming bedtime poems about a little boy and his father playing a game and pretending to be different animals. *Daddies* is an entertaining book with colorful illustrations, playful rhymes and offers a fun read to both children and fathers. *Daddies* is also available at the Ottawa Public Library.

	<p>His Excellency Enrique Ruiz Molero Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain</p>
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What was your favourite book when you were a child?

Las Leyendas de Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer is a book that really had an impact on me as a teenager. These are a set of post-romantic narratives written by Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer and published between 1858 and 1865. These Legends have an intimate character that evokes the historical past and are characterized by a credible action with the introduction of fantastic or unusual elements.

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

I'd strongly recommend the book *El Conde Lucanor* by de Don Juan Manuel (1331-1335). It is a medieval book that shows us the ethics and the deepest values of the fourteenth century society. Fables, teachings, and sayings, many of which have endured to this day. A book that I sincerely enjoyed. It contains great lessons for life, such as the story of the young and the old who walk along with a donkey, in relation to the fact that there will always be someone who will criticize us.



Roshan Sithara Khan Azard
Deputy Head of Mission and Acting High Commissioner
High Commission for the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

What was your favourite book when you were a child?

Books by Enid Blyton, especially her detective novels, were an inspiration.

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

The Umbrella Thief by Sybil Wettasinghe. It is an interesting story that depicts Sri Lankan village and culture while also weaving a fascinating tale.



His Excellency Urban Christian Ahlin
Ambassador of Sweden to Canada

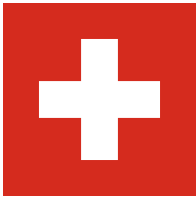
@UrbanAhlin

What was your favourite book when you were a child?

The children's book I loved when I was a kid was Astrid Lindgren's series of books about *Emil of Lönneberga*. The boy had a warm heart but always got in trouble, and when everyone in the village was looking at him as a person with no future, it was his teacher who stood up for him and said. "One day he will be the Mayor of this city"...

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

A book I would recommend for Canadians to read is also a book from Astrid Lindgren about Pippi Långstrump (Pippi Longstocking). A lovely story about a hyperactive girl with super strong will with red hair and ponytails...I guess all Canadians can see the similarities to another great story about an Anne of Green Gables.



Her Excellency Salome Meyer
Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation

What was your favourite book when you were a child?

The Red Silk Scarf by Federica de Cesco. I read the book when I was around 10, and was captivated by the independence, civil courage and curiosity of the main character, young Ann, and how one decision can have far reaching consequences. The story of Ann is empowering, and it inspired me to go out and explore the world. De Cesco wrote the book when she was only 16, and that too, was inspiring.

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

All Aboard with Johanna (original title: *Johanna im Zug*) by Kathrin Schärer. This wonderfully illustrated book tells the story of the adventurous piglet Johanna, as she takes a trip on a train. What makes this book so great is that Johanna starts to ask questions to the author, and the reader, about herself and fellow passengers. Johanna, the author, and the reader all become part of the story. It engages young readers and makes them – and the adult reading the book to them – think about our role in creating stories, and the power of stories.



Pınar Deniz Yapici
Deputy Head of Mission
Embassy of the Republic of Turkey

What was your favourite book when you were a child?

Novels by authors such as Astrid Lindgren, Louisa May Alcott, Robert Louis Stevenson, and Jules Verne have had a huge impact on me.

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

I would personally recommend books by Turkish author Gültan Dayıoğlu, whose literary works have been also published in different languages.

	<p>Her Excellency Ruth Masodzi Chikwira Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe</p>
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What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

I recommend two books: *Stories from a Shona Childhood* by Charles Mungoshi as this in the interest of creating understanding and cultural diversity at a time when inclusivity and diversity are prominent issues. This book will give Canadian understanding of the childhood of the dominant ethnic group of Zimbabwe. The Shona constitute more than 70% of the Zimbabwean population.

The second book is *Some Kinds of Wounds and Other Short Stories* by the same author, Charles Mungoshi. This one is a narration of the Zimbabwean people's emotional issues brought about by colonialism and how this affected the ordinary Zimbabwean. In this era of "Black Lives Matter" and countries grappling with discrimination based on race, this book gives another insight on this issue.

Library World



Jeff Barber

Library Director and CEO
Regina Public Library

What was your favourite book when you were a child?

It was a new book in my childhood but sailing in and out of weeks and over years to visit Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are* has been the best journey for decades. It has stood the test of time as a favourite of my own children and will be on the shelf for the (hopefully) next generation. This glimpse into Max's momentarily focused, creative mind sympathizes with the plight of the over-tired child and celebrates the healing power of a nap. Relatable in its depiction of a common childhood occurrence, fun is had, and dignity restored.



Karin Borland

Administrative Coordinator of Youth Services
Winnipeg Public Library

What was your favourite book when you were a child?

Harry the Dirty Dog by Gene Zion, illustrated by Margaret Bloy Graham and published by Harper & Brothers in 1956. This picture book made a big impression on me at a young age: disobedience, theft, running away, breaking the rules! It's a simply told story of a family pet who buries the scrub brush to avoid a bath and then runs away for a series of adventures that leave him unrecognizably dirty. The illustrations perfectly convey the high drama, tension, and ultimately happy ending.



Michele Fedyk
Library Director
Fort Saskatchewan Public Library

@MicheleFedyk

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

I would recommend Canadians to read the picture book *The Bone Talker* written by Saskatoon author Shelley A. Leedahl and illustrated by Bill Slavin. It's an endearing story of how hope and one act of kindness can touch and spread throughout a community. The text and illustrations are playfully woven with fond reflections of the prairies.



Sarah Gallagher
Outreach Librarian
Whitehorse Public Library

What was your favourite book when you were a child?

One of my favourite books as a child was *The Hiding Place* by Pauline Palmer Meek (1971). It is a sweet and simple story about the friendship of two boys who live in an apartment building in a big city. I remember reading it over and over again, and I'm sure if I could find a copy today it would still stand up, with its whimsical drawings and diverse characters.



Ron Knowling
Manager, Library Services
Nunavut Public Library Services

@RonKnowling

What was your favourite book when you were a child?

As a child, I always had access to books, and they were a significant part of my life and continue to hold that role. These are some of the books I recall fondly from my childhood:

- *Are You My Mother* by P. D. Eastman
- *Harry the Dirty Dog* by Gene Zion
- *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson
- *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack

As a child, my Mother read to my sisters and I - most of these books are out of fashion as they date from the heyday of the British Empire; however, they had the virtue of being well crafted narratives which I think is lacking in a lot of modern fiction:

- Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*
- Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden* and *Little Lord Fauntleroy*
- Rudyard Kipling's *Just So Stories*, *Kotick the White Seal*, and *Rikki Tikki Tavi*
- JRR Tolkien's *The Hobbit*

**Leslie Weir**

Librarian and Archivist of Canada
Library and Archives Canada

@Leslie_Weir

What was your favourite book when you were a child?

I had many favourites as a child that I read and that were read to me. Growing up in Montréal in the 60's, sadly there were nowhere near the number of Canadian children's books as there are now, or for that matter when my four children were growing up in the 90's. One of my favourites as a child was *The Incredible Journey* by Sheila Burnford, published in 1961 by Hodder Stoughton. While Sheila Burnford was a Scottish author, her book was inspired by her time living with her husband in Northern Ontario. I was over the moon when Disney released a movie in 1963 based on this incredible story of the journey of a terrier, a Siamese cat, and a Labrador Retriever across the Canadian wilderness to rejoin their family.

What children's book would you recommend Canadians to read, and why?

There are so many choices of great Canadian books to read in 2021! I would suggest that Canadians check out the Forest of Reading to be introduced to some of this year's best fiction for children and young adults. My recommendation for Canadians to read is *If I Go Missing* by Brianna Jonnie and art by Nshannacappo, published by James Lorimer & Company. This graphic novel brings to life a poignant story, providing an intimate view on the unique dangers of being an Indigenous teen in Canada today.

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Credits

Front Cover

Two Kids Reading a Fairy Tale Book, Photo by cottonbro from Pexels

Back Cover (inside)

2021 Canadian Children's Book Week poster. Illustrated by Philippe Béha

Back Cover

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Calendar of Events

May 2 to 8, 2021

Canadian Children's Book Week 2021

Organized by the Canadian Children's Book Centre, Canadian Children's Book Week connects Canadian authors and illustrators with children and teens across Canada. Tour participants speak to their audiences about the pleasures of reading and the delights of Canadian children's books through their presentations and workshops. Meeting authors, illustrators and storytellers can be a turning point in a child's life, inspiring a lifelong love of reading.

2021 Theme: Readers Take Flight/Tournée Lire à tout vent

September 8, 2021

International Literacy Day

Since 1967, International Literacy Day (ILD) celebrations have taken place annually around the world to remind the public of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights, and to advance the literacy agenda towards a more literate and sustainable society. Despite progress made, literacy challenges persist with at least 773 million adults worldwide lacking basic literacy skills today.

October 2021

Canadian Library Month

Launched in 2006 by the Canadian Library Association (CLA), Canadian Library Month (CLM) provides "an opportunity for Canadians not familiar with their local library to come down and experience all the services available to them." CLM serves as a way to establish new relationships between the libraries and local communities while at the same time developing existing relationships.

Canadian Children's Book Week May 2-8, 2021
Semaine du livre canadien pour la jeunesse 2 au 8 mai 2021

Readers Take Flight



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From the Introduction:

Canadian Children's Book Week celebrates the magic that reading brings to children across the country. The festival brings communities together through readings and virtual events to promote the importance of literacy, and in honour of CCBW, Librarianship.ca reached out to prominent Canadians in politics and government, the arts and journalism, and librarianship requesting their favourite children's books recommendations. We also asked foreign ambassadors in Canada about their favourite childhood reads from their home country. Contributors share the books that have influenced them, and with so many responses, it was made clear that even as adults, we still have fond memories of our most beloved childhood reads. It was inspiring to learn about children's books from all over the world!



YULI SATO is a recent graduate of the Library and Information Technician Diploma program at Algonquin College in Ottawa. She has experience working in independent bookstores in Canada and New Zealand and is currently the co-host of the podcast “Big Little Books,” which explores two friends’ shared love of reading. Yuli is also a locally and internationally published photographer. She lives in Ottawa.
(Photo by: Kenneth Charlebois)