

●●●● Michèle Marineau

✓ Montreal, QC



Michèle with her husband, François Gravel

Michèle Marineau is an award-winning French-Canadian author who enjoys the pleasure of sharing stories, emotions and ideas in her work.

Q You studied medicine, art and translation in school. What made you switch to writing?

A I simply realized that I was more interested in books than anything else. I love working with books and the people who make them. But I realized that the writing aspect is more fun and more fulfilling than anything else in the book business.

Q How did you feel when you were first published?

A A part of me (a *big* part of me) was elated! Another part of me found it hard to believe (I am now a writer; I am doing the same job as Victor Hugo and Dickens). Another part of me was a bit frightened (What if everybody hates it?).

Q How do you develop your characters?

A The characters begin to appear in my mind. I see them—not just their features, but the way they move, the way they speak. I begin to feel that I

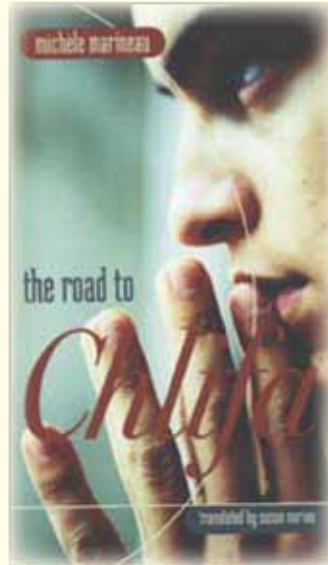
know them. I start to know their joys and their hopes and their small secrets. I used to keep all this in my mind and write about the characters from this intuitive knowledge I had. Now I tend to take notes about them—what they like and dislike, important moments or events in their lives—and my knowledge of them increases as I write the book. I make new discoveries all the time.

Q Are there any social issues you wish to tackle in future books?

A “Social issues” sounds too theoretical for the way I think about my books. I begin with images in my mind, and I let these images come and go for a while. I let the story take form that way. Somewhere in the process, I may realize that the story is in part about racism or guilt or hate, and that is when I try to understand a bit more about these issues. But they don’t come first in the process.

Q Which of your books do you consider most successful? Why?

A *The Road to Chlifa* is certainly my best success, at least in terms of the number of copies sold, the awards it has received, and the wonderful comments about it. But, for me, each book is a success.



9780889951297, pb
World
Ages 14+, Relationships,
Immigration & Relocation,
Friendship, Understanding
Differences
Governor General's Award for
Translation finalist, IBBY Young
People Honor Book, CCBC
Outstanding Book, OLA White
Pine Award shortlist



9780889952300, pb
World Eng.
Ages 12+, Coming of Age,
Relationships
CCBC Our Choice selection



Michael Martchenko
✓ Toronto, ON



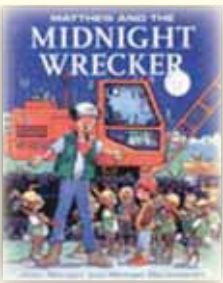
Michael Martchenko is one of the most popular and prolific illustrators of children's books. He is also regarded as one of the fastest, able to churn out a fully completed illustration in as little as four hours. "One of the reasons I work quickly is the medium," he says. "Watercolour is fast. I use the white of the board. I use a lot of washes, which cover a lot of ground quickly. I have a pretty good idea of how a piece should look before I start." Michael illustrates as he reads the text, developing images in his head. "As I read, I get all these great pictures in my mind. I think about funny situations, and then start sketching."

Michael describes the journey involved in becoming a professional illustrator: "Children's book illustration is very unpredictable. It's a wonderful way to make a living, but it can be a terrible way to make a living, too. I illustrated books for years while I kept my day job. It wasn't until I had many books under my belt that I began to do them full-time. As a young artist, all you can do is promote your work, see as many publishers as possible, keep developing your work and build up a respectable portfolio. The advantage that artists have is that kid's books have so many different styles of art, from beautiful, realistic oil paintings to black-and-white line and the silly stuff that

Michael learned a lot about visual humour from cartoons and comic books. By high school, he knew that he wanted to make art his career. After graduating from the Ontario College of Art in 1966, Michael began working in commercial art and advertising. His work was spotted at a graphic arts exhibition by Robert Munsch, and from then Michael started illustrating children's books. "I try to give the kids in my illustrations spunk and make them a bit defiant; they're always sticking out their chests and standing up for themselves," he explains.



Illustration from Matthew and the Midnight Movie



9780773732957, pb
World
Picture Book, Fanciful



9780773761346, pb
World
Picture Book, Fanciful



9780773758537, pb
World
Picture Book, Fanciful



9780773759411, pb
World ex. KR, FrC
Picture Book, Fanciful



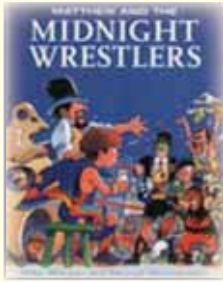
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World ex. KR, FrC
Picture Book, Fanciful



9780773762732, pb
World
Picture Book, Fanciful



9780773758520, pb
World ex. KR, FrC
Picture Book, Fanciful



9780773760530, pb
World ex. KR, FrC
Picture Book, Fanciful



Illustration from Matthew and the Midnight Firefighter



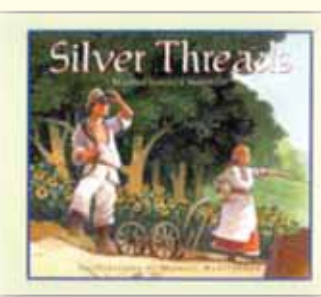
9781550419153, hc
9781550419160, pb
World, ex. KR, FrC
Chapter Book, Level 3



9781550418750, hc
9781550418774, pb
World ex. KR, FrC
Chapter Book, Level 3



9781550419023, hc
9781550419047, pb
World ex. KR, FrC
Chapter Book, Level 3



9781550419016, hc
9781550419030, pb
World ex. KR
Picture Book, Historical Fiction, Ukrainian Internment During WWI
Taras Shevchenko Award, OLA Best Bets, Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Award for Illustration shortlist



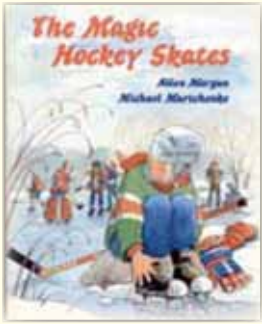
9781550418842, pb
World
Picture Book, Historical Fiction, Famine in the Ukraine
CCBC Our Choice selection, ResourceLinks Best Book



Illustration from Jessica Moffat's Silver Locket



9780773757011, pb
World
Picture Book, Historical Fiction



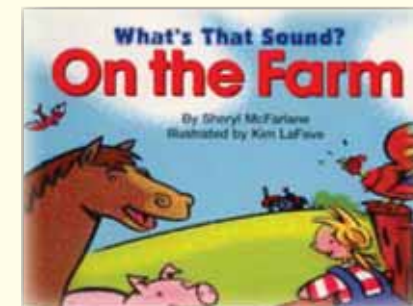
9780773756977, pb
World
Picture Book, Hockey, Imaginative

Sheryl McFarlane admits that she didn't read that much until her teen years. "Junior high opened up a whole new and unexpected world for me—the world of books." Sheryl was entranced by the world of books—stepping beyond the boundaries of her neighbourhood, travelling to distant places and meeting fascinating people. She was convinced that authors must be exciting and exotic. J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* and J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye* were the books that influenced her the most. "*Catcher in the Rye* really resonated with me. As a teenager, I didn't fit in very well. This is one of those great books that helped me to realize that I wasn't alone. *The Hobbit* was an easy leap. It's about quest and good triumphing over evil. It's about stepping into worlds that are unknown even when you are afraid. Perfect reading for a teenager on the threshold of doing the same in real life!"

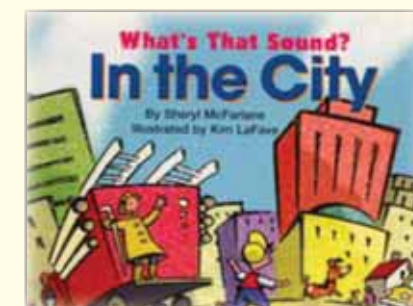
Like most authors, Sheryl endured several years of rejections before finally getting published. "My friends were outwardly supportive of my writing, although I sometimes got the feeling that they thought I should just get on with my teaching career," she says. "My husband, though, always made me feel that I could do anything. Mind you, he was a tad biased. Still, I doubt I could have carried on writing without this total belief in me. Now, I know there is nothing in the world that I would rather do than write books for kids."

Sheryl's advice to aspiring writers is to read, read and read. And, of course, write. "You don't learn how to write by talking about it or thinking about it, but by doing it. Keeping a journal is a good way to start. It also gives you the opportunity to become an observer, which is what writers often are." Her other advice for aspiring writers is not to give up. "When you've rewritten a story many times, and it still isn't any good, it can be very frustrating...but when a story is going well, and you're happy with it, there is nothing more wonderful."

Sheryl with two of her three daughters, Katie and Cloe



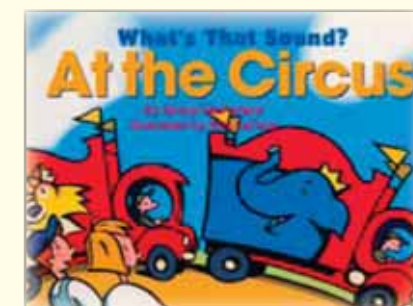
9781550418149, bb
World
Board Book, Concept, Lyrical Text



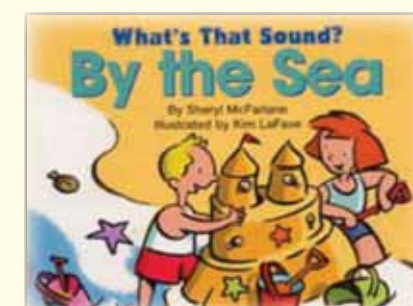
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World
Board Book, Concept, Lyrical Text



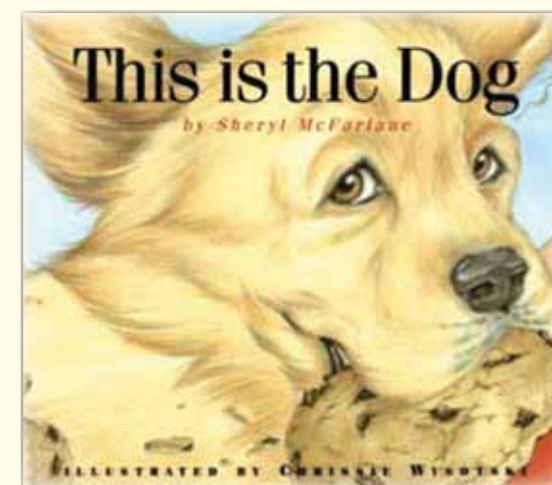
9781550414578, pb
World
Ages 12+, Friendship, Dealing with Death



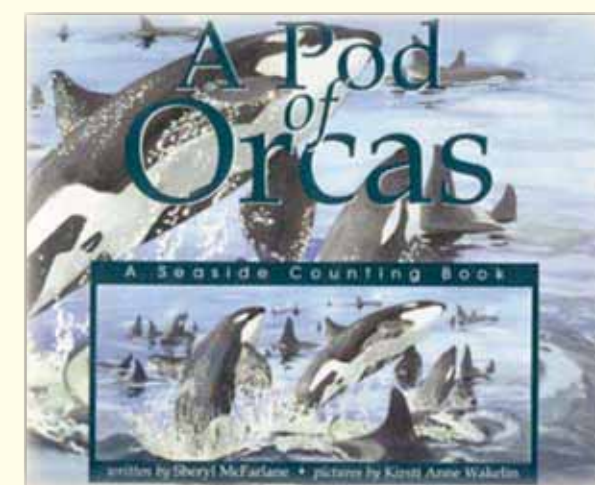
9781550419597, bb
World
Board Book, Concept, Lyrical Text



9781550419573, bb
World
Board Book, Concept, Lyrical Text



9781550415513, hc
9781550418064, pb
World ex. KR
Picture Book, Adventure, Lyrical Text
OLA Blue Spruce Award shortlist, Chocolate Lily Award shortlist, Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Award for Illustration shortlist



9781550416817, hc
9781550417227, pb
World
Picture Book, Concept, Numeracy, Nature
Chocolate Lily Award shortlist, Chosen by the BC government as a title to support their literacy initiative. Every kindergarten child in the province will receive this book in a family literacy package.

●●●●Stephanie McLellan

www.stephaniemclellan.com ✓ Newmarket, ON

Stephanie McLellan has been preoccupied with books for most of her life. At the age of seven, she turned her room into a library, and categorized and classified every book in the house. "I remember reading lots of *Trixie Belden* and straight through The Twins series by Lucy Fitch Perkins," Stephanie says. "As a teenager, some of the authors I enjoyed were Hemingway, Hardy, Eliot, Wouk, Plath, Atwood, Laurence, Munro, Dostoevsky, Yevtushenko, and Solzhenitsyn."

Stephanie holds both an English and a marketing degree, and for a while, she worked in advertising. "I worked both sides of it, most recently as an account director with one of the major agencies," she says, but every step I took wound me further and further away from my goal of writing."

In 2000, Stephanie published her first book, *The Chicken Cat*, which won the Ruth Schwartz Award and the Mr. Christie's Book Award Gold Seal. She also reviews books for the magazine *Today's Parent*. As a reviewer, Stephanie has found an increase in children's books focused on global and historical issues. "Many picture books today must have an ear open to the needs of that market, a relevance beyond pure whimsy," she says. As both a reviewer and a reader of kids' books, Stephanie looks for the sound of the writing and for a core idea that gives the story its own pulse and makes it worth exploring. "I detest books that write down to kids or that try to cloak a lesson as a story," she says. "Fortunately, it's easy to avoid these books as there is no shortage of really wonderful children's books being published all the time."



Jeff and Stephanie on their dogsledding trip in Temagami

Stephanie was recently part of a team of Canadian writers who wrote scripts for a preschool television program called *Roll Play*, which premiered on Treehouse TV last fall. She also has several manuscripts in various stages of development. Stephanie credits and thanks Fitzhenry & Whiteside's Children's Publisher Gail Winskill and editor Ann Featherstone for helping strengthen her stories with insightful direction.



The 12th Annual Mr. Christie's Book Awards
BACK: Jeff McLellan, Sylvia Cassidy, Sean Cassidy, Maggie Cassidy, Janet McNaughton, Irene Britt (Nabisco) MIDDLE: Stephanie McLellan, Pat Little, Jean Little, Arlene Perly Rae FRONT: Erin McLellan, Tristan McLellan, Sarah McLellan, Pippa



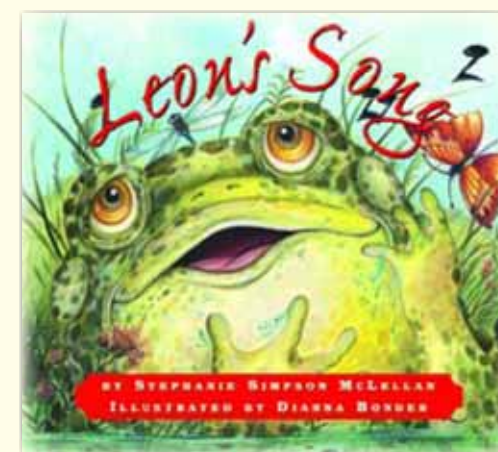
Stephanie with her children after winning the 12th Annual Mr. Christie's Book Award



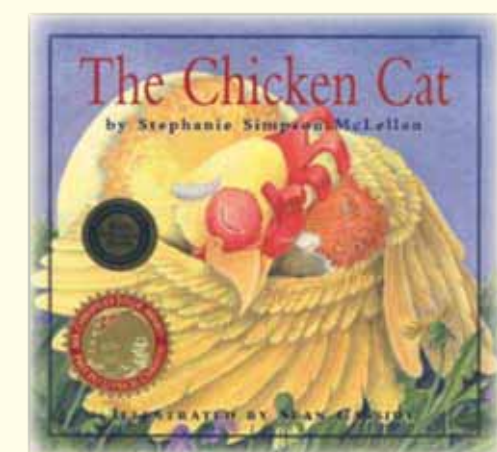
Stephanie's cat, Merlin



Sarah and Stephanie dogsledding in Temagami



9781550418132, hc
9781550418156, pb
World ex. KR
Picture Book, Self-Esteem, Friendship
OLA Blue Spruce Award finalist, Chocolate Lily Award finalist



9781550416770, pb
World ex. KR
Picture book, fanciful
Ruth Schwartz Book Award, Mr. Christie's Book Award Gold Seal, OLA Blue Spruce Award finalist, CNIB Tiny Torgi PrintBraille Award finalist

Sylvia and her husband, Bob, horseback riding in Lake Louise doing research for her new wolf-dog rescue series



●●●● Sylvia McNicoll

www.sylviamcnicoll.com ✓ Burlington, ON

Sylvia McNicoll was born in Ajax, Ontario, grew up in Montreal and graduated from Concordia University with a B.A. in English and economics. She rediscovered her love of writing after she quit her job in the business world to raise her three children. Since then, she has written over 20 novels and taught creative writing at Sheridan College. She continues to write and tour schools and libraries to talk about the writing process.

Q After working in the corporate world, why did you decide to go into writing?

A The corporate world was just a place I rested to earn money to live. I earned my degree at night and the company paid for it, so I indulged my love of literature along with my fascination for economics. When I stayed home for my first child, I stole the time to write. After my third child, I decided that if I didn't have a story published by the time they were all in school full time, I would give up writing forever. My youngest was four when my first novel was published.

Q Based on your experiences as a writer, would you discourage or encourage your kids if they expressed a desire to write professionally?

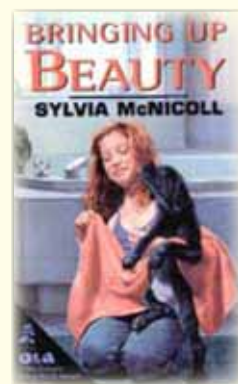
A Of course, I would encourage my children if they expressed a desire to write professionally. But I also encourage them to go out into the world and experience as much of life as possible so they have something to write about. And I tell them that writing can be something that enriches their lives even if they choose another calling.

Q Do reviews or winning awards change the way you think about your writing?

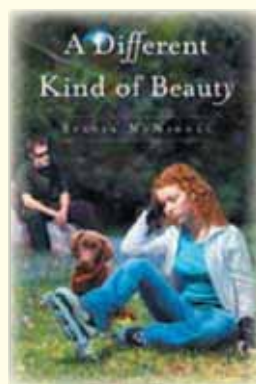
A Whenever I read a favourable review or get shortlisted for an award or, heavens, win one, there's a moment of pure relief. For one instant, I think someone acknowledges I'm good at what I pour my life into.



Sylvia and her dog, Sputnik



9780773674790, mm
NA only
Juvenile Fiction, Guide Dogs, Friendship
OLA Silver Birch Award, Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award



9781550050608, pb
NA only
Ages 12+, Guide Dogs, Coming of Age
OLA Red Maple Award shortlist, CCBC Our Choice selection



9781550051490, hc
9781550051001, pb
NA only
Ages 12+, Guide Dogs, Dealing with Death, Coming of Age



9780773760158, pb
World
Juvenile Fiction, Relocation, Mystery

●●●●Tololwa Mollel

✓ Edmonton, AB

Tololwa Mollel is an award-winning writer and many of his books have won multiple awards. He reflects on the art of writing and on the influences that inspired him to follow the route to literary success.

Q Describe the experience of growing up in Tanzania.

A One of the most powerful memories I have growing up in Tanzania was my fascination with books, which grew out of lack of them. No one I knew had a home library to speak of. The only place you could get a book was school. In high school, for example, my favourite haunt was the library. I looked forward to Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, the library's only opening hours. Since I could borrow only one book at a time, I would try to read a whole, slim book in the library itself and borrow one when I left. I did much writing, too. After reading an inspiring story, I would find myself creating one of my own, usually modelled on English Literature books that filled the curriculum in those days.

Q Did listening to your grandfather's anecdotes growing up have a profound influence on your ability and passion to be a storyteller?

A Yes, definitely. Oddly enough, his ability to listen had as much to do with my interest in storytelling. He inspired my love of stories and storytelling, and indirectly my interest in writing.

Q What drives you to write?

A I enjoy reflecting on what motivates and makes each character essential. I like the search for words that successfully marry action to character, setting and theme, while I listen closely to the dictates of the story. In a picture book story, every word is worth its weight in gold. And after the characters have lived their life, I feel rewarded when I find a way to bring the story to a satisfying end.

Q Has your perception of being a writer changed since you became a published author?

A Yes, definitely. I've been humbled. I have come to realize that writing is not all-important. There are many, many other things that are equally important, if not more. Writing can only approach matching these other things in importance if it has a purpose to it, preferably one that makes a difference.

Q What is your advice to aspiring writers?

A An aspiring writer needs patience. It takes time for characters in a story or play to grow and attain credible lives, and it takes us longer than we expect to find just the right words. We need time to let ideas come to us, and to find the language with which to weave them into a story, play, into a work of art.

Q What is your greatest achievement?

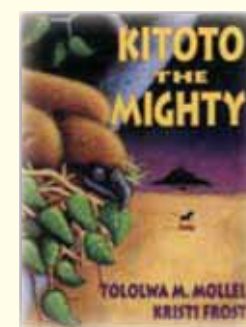
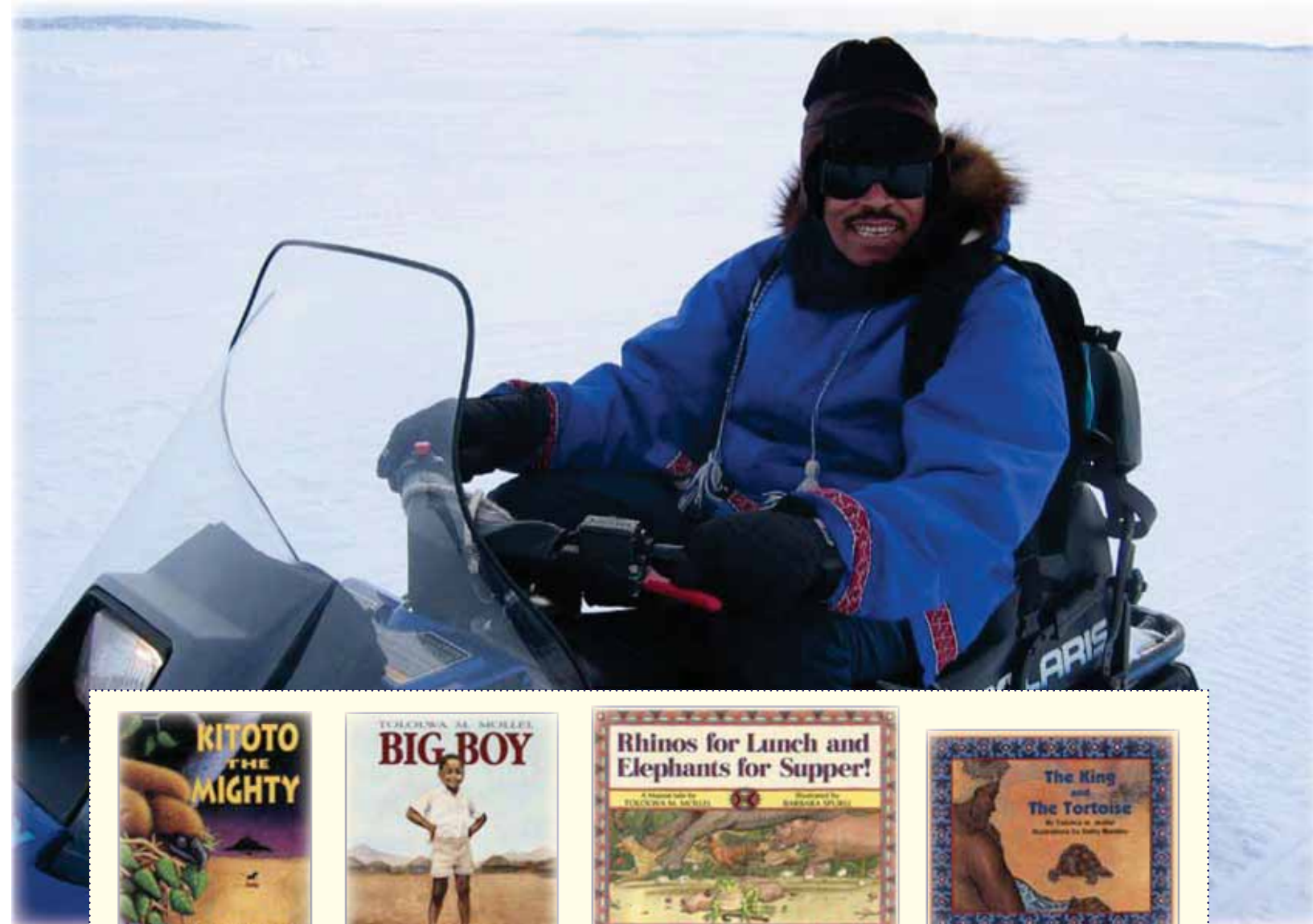
A My wife and I raising our children. Bringing up children is the toughest job going.

Q What are your top three priorities?

A Good health, a clear mind and a clean life, but not necessarily in that order.

Q What do you want to be remembered for?

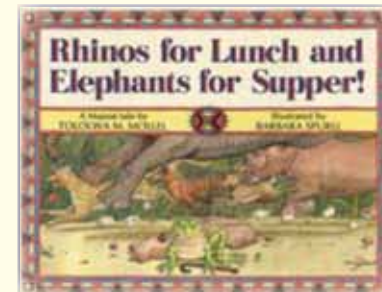
A I would like to be remembered as someone who has given through art and stories, and through connection with people, particularly my family.



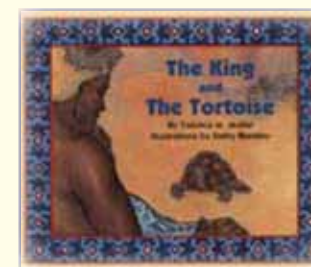
9780773730199, hc
World
Picture Book, Authentic African Story
CCBC Our Choice selection



9780773728516, hc
Eng. CA
Picture Book
CLA Honour Book, Writers Guild of Alberta Award for Children's Literature, CCBC Our Choice selection



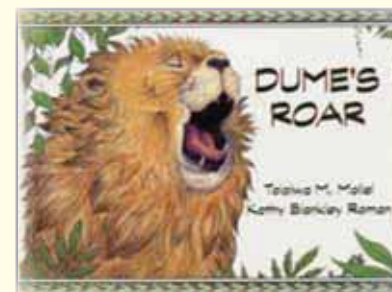
9780773757165, pb
Eng. World ex. US, Afrikaans/Xhosa
Picture Book, Maasai Animal Tale
Florida Reading Association Award, Georgia Reading Association Award shortlist, CCBC Our Choice selection



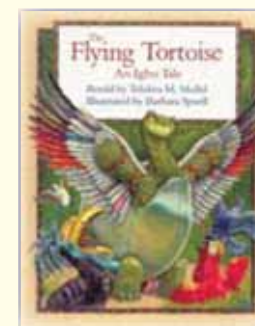
9781895555400, hc
CA only
Picture Book, Legend
Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies, CCBC Our Choice selection



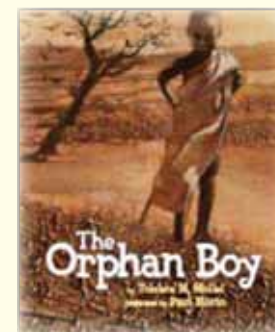
9780773730076, hc
World
Picture Book, Family, Overcoming Fear, Set in Tanzania



9780773730038, hc
World
Picture Book, African Fable, Animals
CCBC Our Choice selection



9780195409901, hc
World ex. KR
Picture Book, Nigerian Traditional Tale, Animals
ABA Pick of the Lists, Bank Street College Children's Book of the Year, OLA Silver Birch Award shortlist, CCBC Our Choice selection



9781550050820, hc
CA only
Picture Book, Maasai Legend, African Art
Governor General's Award, Notable Children's Book in the Language Arts, Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies, Parents' Choice Storybook Award, ABA Pick of the Lists, Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Award for Illustration, Elizabeth Cleaver Award, CLA Notable Books, CCBC Our Choice selection

●●●● Irene Morck

✓ Falkland, BC



Irene and her dog, Riley

Irene Morck grew up listening to stories. The inspiration for her book *Five Pennies* came from listening to stories of her father's early days in Western Canada. "I always loved hearing my father tell stories from his pioneer childhood. In 1974 my dad was badly injured in a car accident, then a few days later, he had a stroke and heart attack. He couldn't work anymore, so I encouraged him to write the story of his life. With shaky hands, he scrawled 800 pages that included stories of his pioneer childhood, his experiences through the Great Depression, and the struggle to finish his schooling." When her father died in 1976, Irene's aunts filled her in on more of the hardships they endured. "Their family pioneer stories helped me bring flesh-and-bones authenticity to *Five Pennies* and then to *Apples and Angel Ladders*. *Old Bird* is based on the true story of my dad's old pioneer school horse."

In addition to doing two years of biochemistry research at the University of the West Indies, Irene taught science at a boys' school in Barbados and Jamaica. "The best part about teaching in the Caribbean was the students," she says. "Most of them craved an education. They worked so hard, with enthusiasm and appreciation. Many of those students pulled themselves out of poverty and became doctors, scientists, lawyers and professors. Some of those students still keep in touch with me, after more than 25 years."

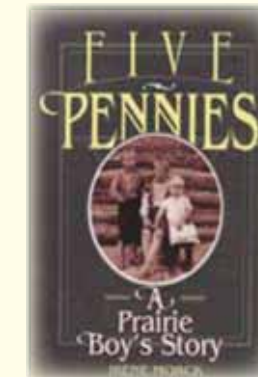
Irene and her husband enjoy travelling, snorkelling, hiking, trail riding their mules in the mountains, learning Spanish and cross-country skiing.



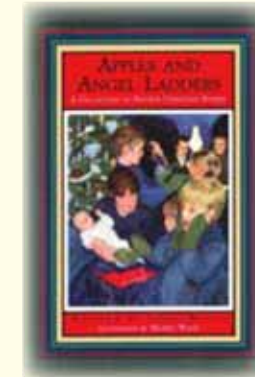
Irene with her mule, Katie



9780773755307, pb
World
Grade 7+, Family
Issues, Coming of Age



9781894004329, pb
World
Grade 7+, Pioneer, Stories
from the West, Immigration
Norma Fleck Award for
Non-Fiction shortlist, CCBC
Our Choice selection



9781550416718, hc
World
Grade 6+, Pioneer Stories,
Immigration
Grant MacEwan Award
finalist, CAA Exporting
Alberta Award, CAA
Children's Short Story
Award, CCBC Our Choice
selection



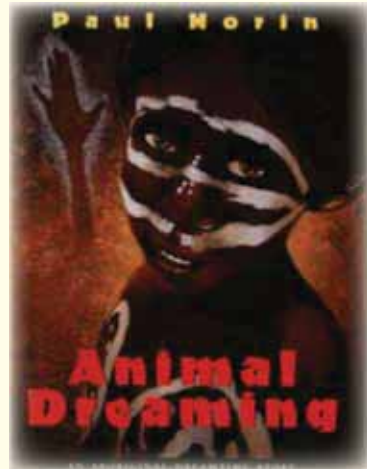
9781550416954, hc
9781550416978, pb
World
Picture Book, Pioneer, Family
Issues
Grant MacEwan Award Honourable
Mention, CCBC Our Choice
selection



9780889951532, hc
9780889951815, pb
World
Picture book, Cattle Herding
CCBC Outstanding Book, Alberta
Children's Book of the Year Award, Alberta
Book Illustration of the Year Award

●●●●Paul Morin

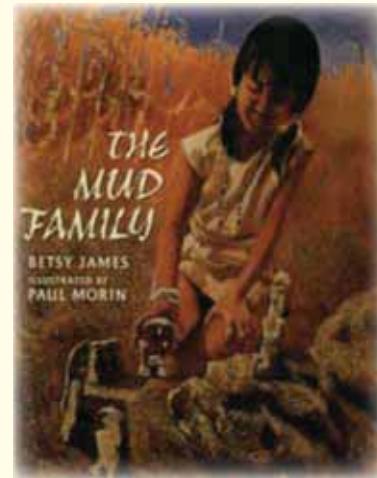
www.paulmorinstudios.com ✓ Rockwood, ON



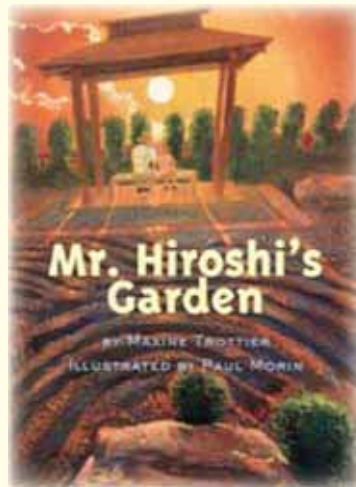
9780773730625, hc
CA only
Picture Book, Australian Aboriginal
Story, Friendship



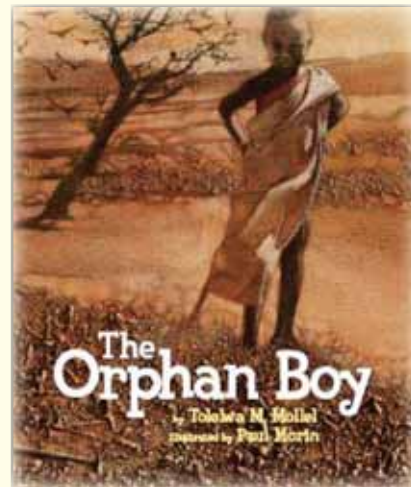
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CA only
Picture Book, Legend



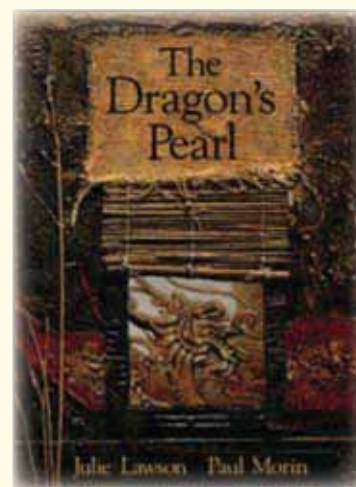
9780195410754, hc
CA only
Picture Book, Anasazi Desert Story,
Ecology



9781550051520, pb
CA only
Picture Book, Historial Fiction,
Japanese Internment During WWII
White Raven Award, Storytelling
World Honor Title, Notable Book,
Social Studies Children's Books
Council



9781550050820, hc
CA only
Picture Book, Maasai Legend, African Art
Governor General's Award, Notable
Children's Book in the Language Arts,
Notable Children's Trade Book in the
Field of Social Studies, Parents' Choice
Storybook Award, ABA Pick of the Lists,
Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Award
for illustration, Elizabeth Cleaver Award,
CLA Notable Books, CCBC Our Choice
selection



9780773728820, hc
9780773757172, pb
World
Picture Book, Chinese Legend,
Dragons
Ruth Schwartz Award shortlist, CLA
Book of the Year Award shortlist,
NAPPA Award for Folklore

Growing up, Paul Morin envisioned himself as an artist for an advertising agency. In school, he produced video animation and photography and did some freelance editorial and illustrating for magazines. But it wasn't any of these experiences that inspired him. Paul's most profound influence was his annual excursions to West Africa to visit to his parents, as well as his trips to remote regions of South America. The exoticism of these cultures was what Paul wanted to capture in art.

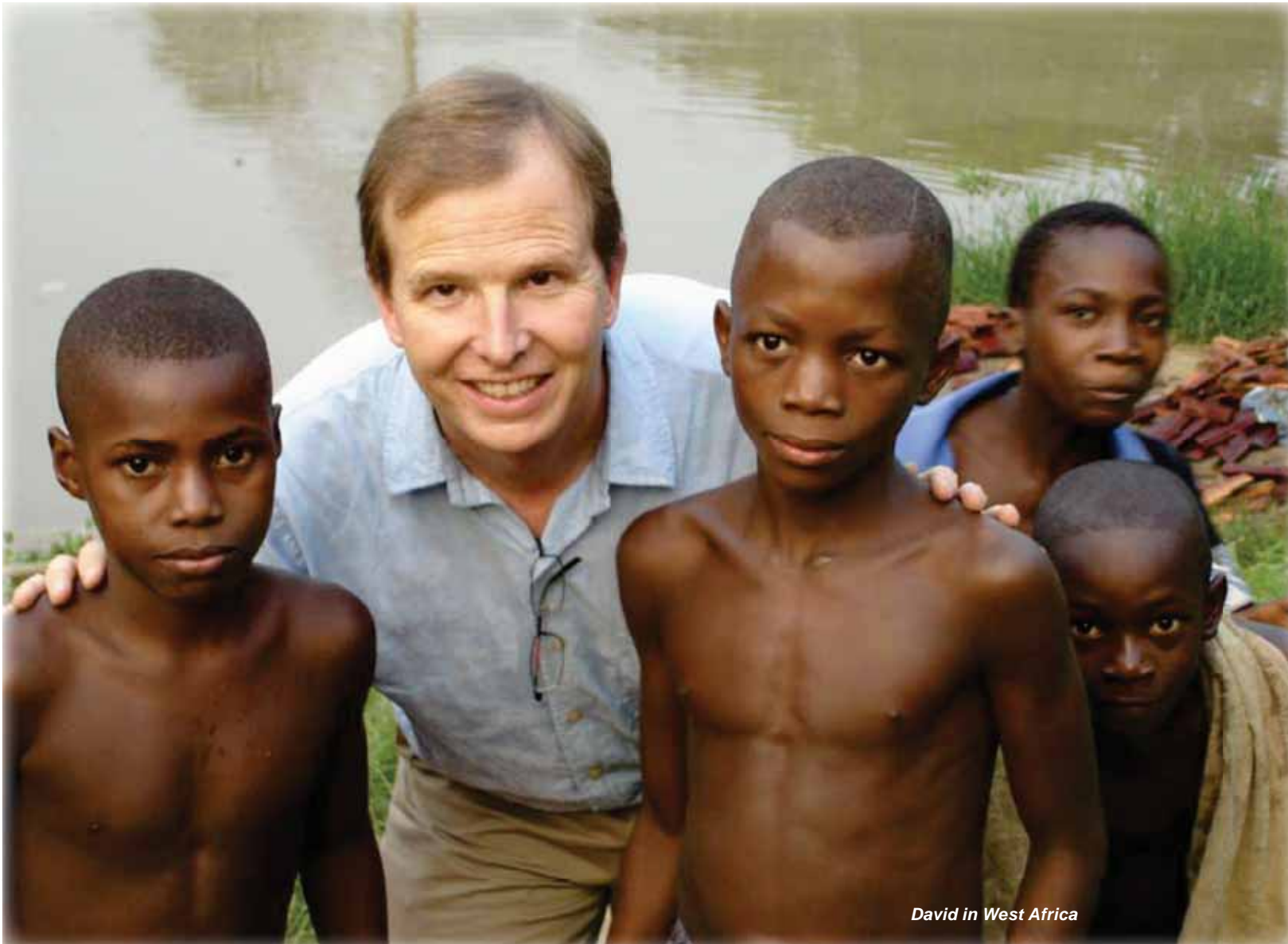
Paul's advice to aspiring illustrators is to spend hours observing and drawing. "Although art school helps a lot, it is by experiencing and practising that one develops an artistic style." Paul has talked to tribesmen and healers, visited sweat-lodge ceremonies, and recorded the sights and sounds of the remote regions he has visited. "I listen to these

recordings while I'm painting to further influence the mood or atmosphere of each project, and many of the paintings have their own musical score." Paul also visits these homemade musical scores and videos when he is feeling uninspired with a particular painting. He also uses the recordings as teaching tools for school programs, where kids can get glimpses into the backgrounds of the global stories he illustrates.

Paul's fine art exhibitions combine paintings, sculpture, music, sound and video in order to reveal our connection with nature. "In life, I attempt to walk in harmony with the Earth, to allow some of the teachings of nature to influence my daily existence."

Paul with his wife, Janine, and their two boys, Palmer and Kadin





David in West Africa



David Morley

www.savethechildren.ca ✓ Toronto, ON

David Morley was executive director of the Canadian section of MSF/Doctors Without Borders from 1998 to 2005. His humanitarian work has taken him to Congo, Zambia, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Mexico, Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Brazil. He is now the CEO of Save the Children Canada.

Q Why did you decide to pursue humanitarian work as a career?

A When I first volunteered overseas to work with street children in Costa Rica, I went because I enjoyed working with children. I was so impressed with the strength and resilience of the children I spent time with there, and I was so captivated by Latin America, that I decided I would keep on doing this for a while. I've never really thought of it as a career.

Q What was the pivotal moment when you realized that humanitarian work was what you wanted to do?

A There wasn't a sudden pivotal moment. What I wanted to devote my professional life to was playing hockey, but since I am a poor skater and have a weak shot, that was not going to happen. But the people who are doing so much to build strong lives and strong communities in the face of injustice inspire me, and I feel it is a privilege to be able to work with them.

Q What is an unknown or misunderstood issue in the world of humanitarian aid?

A International aid agencies, by their very nature, are professional beggars. We are trying to get some resources from our too-rich northern world to the impoverished places in the countries of the south. But in so doing, we perpetuate the notion

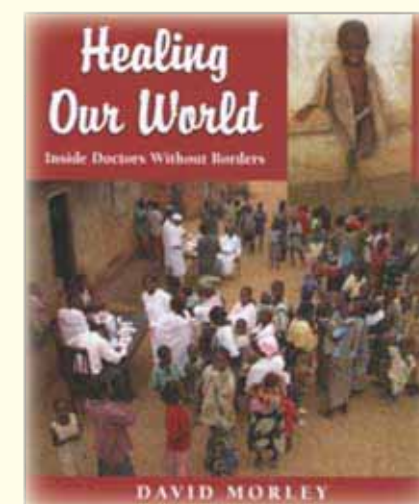
that, without our help, development will not happen. Well, that's not true. There is a wealth of strength and resilience and courage in the people of Africa, and while we can be of assistance and help ease the burden of injustice, true international development takes place when we work together.

Q What do you want young readers to learn from *Healing Our World*?

A What I describe above, and also that anyone can volunteer to help anywhere—overseas or at home. There are many opportunities to help, and these efforts enrich our society.

Q What is your advice to anyone going overseas for the first time as part of a humanitarian assistance team?

A The hardest part of going overseas is coming home. The culture shock when we see our own community with new eyes can be quite profound, and you have to give yourself time for re-entry.

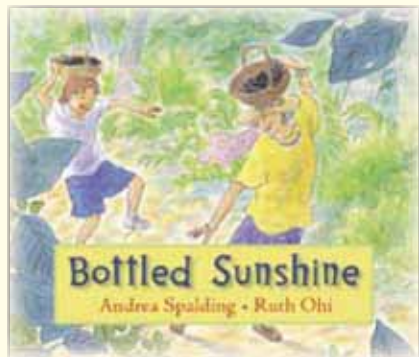


9781550415650, hc

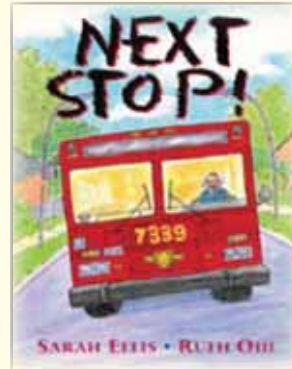
World ex. KR

Non-Fiction, Health, World Issues,
Doctors Without Borders

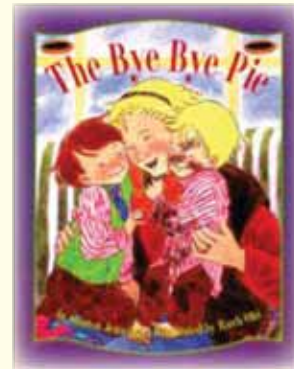
In recognition of his work in international cooperation, Mr. Morley was awarded the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada Medal by the Canadian government.



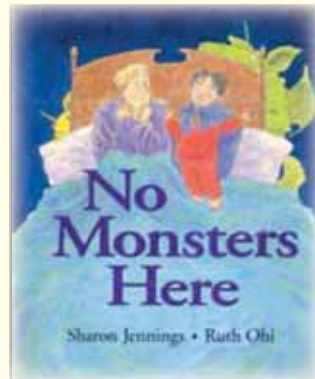
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9781550417053, pb
World ex. KR
Picture Book, Generational Story,
Dealing with Death



9781550415391, hc
9781550418095, pb
World
Picture Book, Transportation,
Family



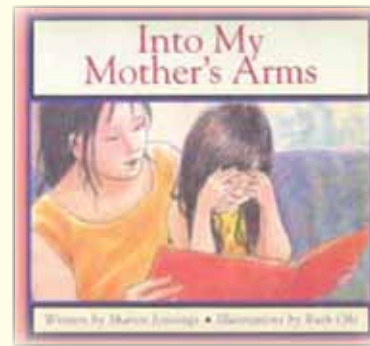
9781550414059, hc
9781550417852, pb
World
Picture Book, Generational
Story, Family Relationships
OLA Blue Spruce Award



9781550417876, hc
9781550417890, pb
World ex. KR, Heb. in IL
Picture Book, Overcoming
Fear
CCBC Our Choice selection



9781550416671, bb
World
Ages 2+, Board Book



9781550418002, pb
World ex. KR
Picture Book, Family Relationships

Ruth Ohi graduated from the Ontario College of Art. Since then, she's been illustrating children's books. "My pictures hopefully will enhance the text, complement the mood the author has so carefully created and make the book worth looking at again and again," she says. "Creating illustrations that touch children and stay with them after they close the book is always a hope I have."

Ruth says each project has its challenges. She cites a good example: "Next Stop by Sarah Ellis basically takes place entirely on a bus. I saw the interior of the bus as a rotating theatre stage and incorporated different angles and focuses to keep the action of the book moving." But the effort is always worthwhile. "Seeing parents read one of my books to a child in their lap, the child totally engaged, is very satisfying."

Ruth teaches drawing workshops to children. "Their art always has a freshness and honesty that is beautiful to witness," she says. "I think the children who draw for me are some of my favourite artists in the world." Her advice to these aspiring illustrators is to keep a sketchbook and draw. "Really look at things as you draw them," she says. "And then draw them again. My two children practise piano every day for 30 minutes each. I have a lot of drawings of dancing fingers, furrowed brows and tapping feet. Hands are fascinating shapes when playing an instrument. I no longer have to look at someone playing the piano to draw someone playing the piano. It is all in the scrapbook up in my head."

Ruth enjoys sharing her work with her children. "I think the sharing of their own stories through pictures, showing them how illustrations in books come to be, help make the books come alive in a whole new way for them. I believe it helps develop and deepen a love of books."



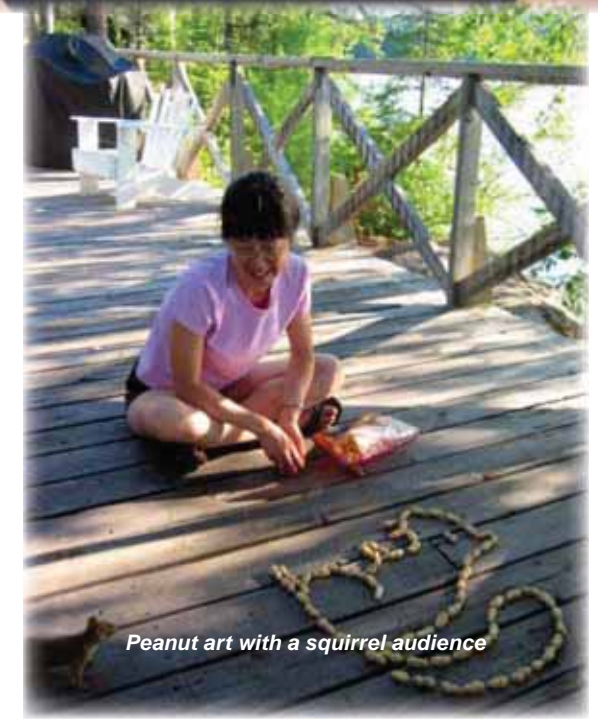
Ruth hiking in the Grand Canyon



Ruth canoeing in Algonquin Park



Illustration from Pants Off First!



Peanut art with a squirrel audience



Margriet during a school visit

●●●●Margriet Ruurs

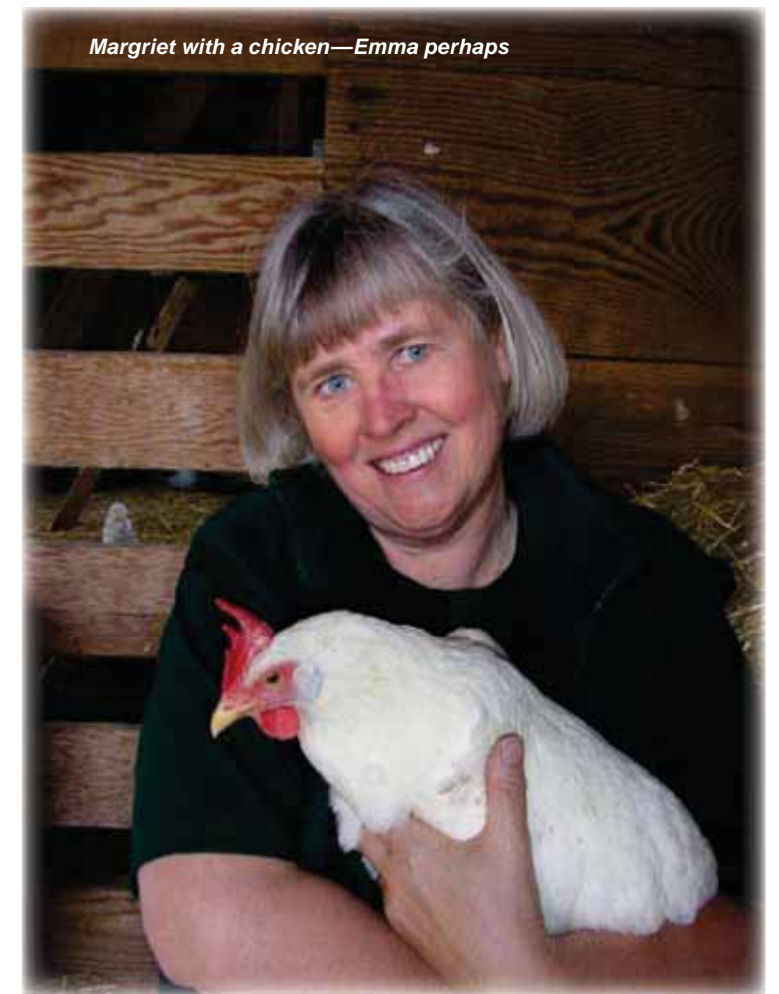
www.margietruurs.com ✓ Shedd, OR, USA

Margriet Ruurs loves her job. Whether writing for kids, inspiring them to read and write, or reading what kids have written, Margriet readily shares her two passions—kids and books.

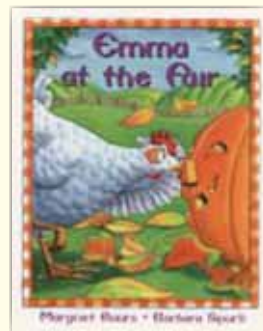
Margriet grew up in The Netherlands reading the works of Annie M.G. Schmidt, beloved by many Dutch children. She adds, “I also loved *Pippi Longstocking!*” Inspired by some of the “clueless chickens” on her farm when she lived in British Columbia, Margriet created her own lovable character in the plucky hen Emma, who has a knack for adventure. Musing over a neighbour’s early-rising roosters and her grown sons’ sleeping habits when they were teenagers, Margriet came up with just the right character for her most recent title, *Wake Up, Henry Rooster!* “One day I wondered how rooster mothers coped with teenager sons! Thus, Henry was born!”

When doing school presentations, Margriet has found a way to get kids hooked on reading and writing. “We often talk about the books we are reading. I share my favourite titles with them, and they tell me about the books they are reading. I also like to show them how to use their own imaginations to write their own fictional stories. I encourage them to write information books about topics that interest them. When you enjoy what you are doing, it makes it so much easier!” As editor of the online *KIDSWRITE* e-zine, Margriet also enjoys the rewards of kids’ creative efforts. “The best part, for me, is seeing the amazing stories and poems that children write for fun. They are not writing these stories and poems to pass a test. That’s why they are so good! Sometimes a poem makes me cry or a story makes me laugh out loud.”

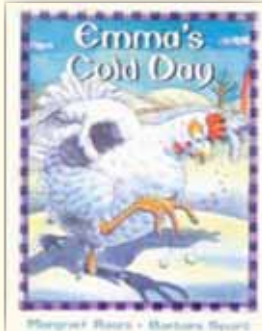
Margriet’s advice for children aspiring to be writers is simple: “READ, READ, READ! Reading books that you like will show you the format of stories. It will help you to get ideas and to see how much fun and how exciting stories are.” She lists Sarah Ellis, Katherine Paterson, Sharon Creech, Linda Bailey and Mem Fox as some of her favourite children’s authors. Margriet faces with an enviable problem. “When I wrote my first story, I was afraid I might run out of ideas. Now I am afraid of running out of my lifetime before running out of ideas!”



Margriet with a chicken—Emma perhaps



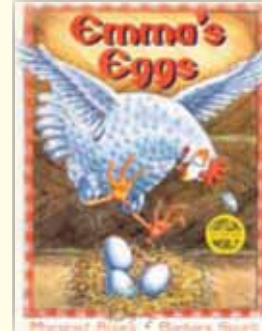
9781550051261, hc
World
Picture Book, Humour, Farm, Barnyard



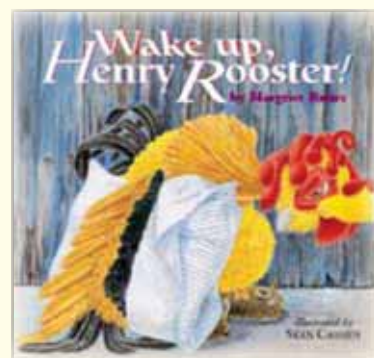
9780773733145, hc
9781550050769, pb
World
Picture Book, Humour, Farm, Barnyard
Shining Willow Award shortlist, Mr. Christie’s Book Award Silver Seal, OLA Blue Spruce Award shortlist, Chocolate Lily Award shortlist, CCBC Our Choice starred selection



9780773732972, hc
9780773762053, pb
World
Picture Book, Humour, Farm, Barnyard
Shining Willow Award shortlist, Mr. Christie’s Book Award Silver Seal, Tiny Torgi Literary Award finalist, CCBC Our Choice selection, Grand Prize, Ex aequo, Luxcanada for Illustration



9780773729728, hc
9780773733343, pb
World
Picture Book, Humour, Farm, Barnyard
Storytelling World Award Honor Title



9781550419528, hc
World ex. KR
Picture Book, Humour
OLA Blue Spruce Award shortlist

Illustration from Wake Up, Henry Rooster!



●●●●Virginia Schwartz

✓ Flushing, NY, USA

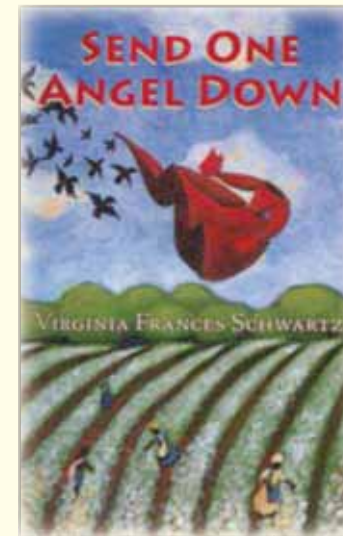


Multiple-award winning author of *If I Just Had Two Wings* and *Send One Angel Down*, Virginia Schwartz grew up in an eclectic neighbourhood in Stoney Creek, Ontario, in a multicultural family—an Austrian grandfather, a Croatian maternal grandmother, and a Ukrainian father and grandparents. “I was fascinated by the language, accents and stories of each neighbour,” Virginia says. “Language taught me to pay attention to nuances even though I couldn’t always understand the words, often in foreign languages. I learned to listen beneath the words for what kind of person was actually speaking, what their personality was, and what motivated them. I was fascinated by characters early on.”

Virginia studied English Literature at Wilfrid Laurier University. When she was 26, she moved to New York and taught the fourth and fifth grades while studying at Columbia University. Virginia was also writing on the side, and receiving lots of rejections. “There were many, many times I wanted to give up,” she admits. “When a manuscript came back for the tenth time with a rejection letter, I got discouraged. Sometimes, I would stop writing for up to three months. I never thought I would get published but

I hoped for it.” In the meantime, Virginia reads lots of fiction, took many writing courses, joined writing groups, and submitted and revised her work. She suggests the same route to aspiring writers who are looking for their voice.

Virginia admits her perception of being a writer has changed since she became a published author. “I thought, like most people I meet, that words just come out of you perfect on the page and that they are never altered,” she says. “Perhaps if I knew the amount of work demanded, how a book spans years of your life, I may have shied away. I thought of myself as lazy. As a writer, you have to be very disciplined.” But, she believes, if aspiring writers make sacrifices, their dream can become a published work. “It begins as a dream in an author’s mind, spreads to the heart, and takes over the soul. If boys and girls weren’t willing to allow the spell of a book to carry them somewhere magical, authors would not be able to do their work. Books need readers. For children are the ones who will shape and change the future of the world with their thoughts, opinions and desires. I thank them for reading with open hearts and open minds.”



9781550051407, pb

Eng. NA

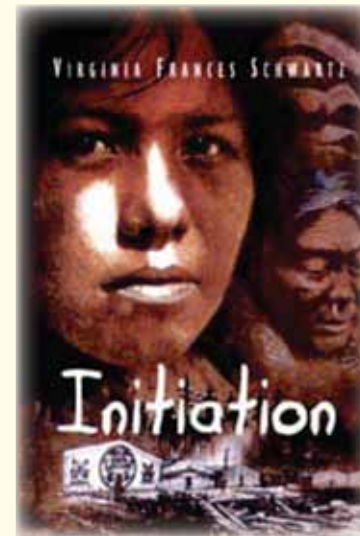
Historical Fiction, Black History
Parents Choice Gold Award for Fiction, Notable Book for a Global Society, ALA Best Book for YA, VOYA Top Shelf Fiction for Middle Readers, New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age, Children’s Literature Choice List, Charlotte Award of NY State shortlist, Mustang Book Award, Iowa Teen Award, South Carolina YA Book Award, Maine Student Book Award, Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award, Georgia Children’s Literature Award, Garden State Teen Award



9781550419467, pb

Eng. NA

Historical Fiction, Adversity, Relocation & Adjustment
New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age



9781550050530, hc

9781550050547, pb

World

Native Transformation Myth
Kuriyama International Prize Notable Book, Manitoba Young Readers’ Choice Award shortlist, Willow Award shortlist, Stellar Book Award shortlist, Rocky Mountain Book Award shortlist, CLA Book of the Year Award shortlist, Sunburst Award for Speculative Fiction shortlist, White Raven selection



9780773761926, hc

9780773761926, pb

World

Historical Fiction, Black History, Underground Railway
Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction, OLA Silver Birch Award, CCBC Our Choice selection, Manitoba Young Readers Choice Award, YA Canadian Book Award shortlist, Rocky Mountain Book Award shortlist, Red Cedar Award, New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age

●●●●Marsha Skrypuch

www.calla.com ✓ Brantford, ON



Marsha Skrypuch didn't begin reading until Grade 4. Determined to shed the label of being a "slow" student, Marsha began reading Dickens's *Oliver Twist*. It turned her into a voracious reader and an aspiring writer.

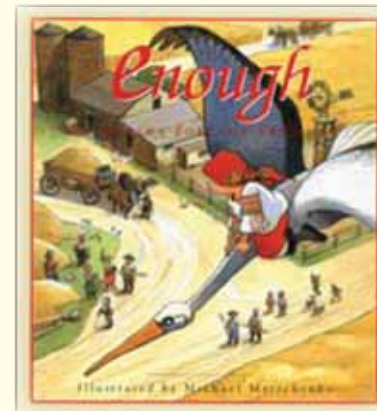
Marsha has many "firsts" to her name. "Everything that I write is a first," she says. "I was the first person in Canada to write a children's story about the internment of Ukrainians in WWI. And I was the first person to write a picture book about the famine in Ukraine. I am the only YA/children's writer in Canada to write about the Armenian genocide."

Marsha loves writing for children. It was while working as a librarian that Marsha developed her passion for children's literature. "Children and young adults are a much more serious audience than adults are. Adults often just want entertainment. Kids problem-

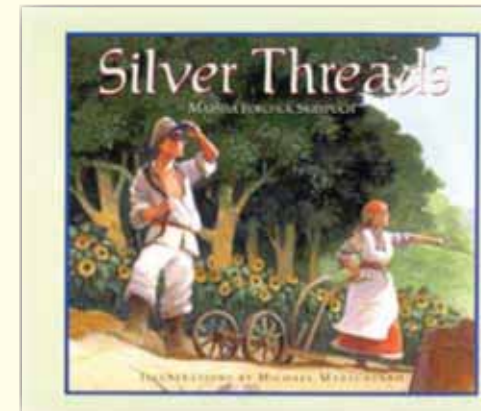
solve through book reading. I consider myself a kid inside, and I basically write what I like to read."

Marsha is also her own strictest editor. At first, she rewrote her manuscripts 60 to 70 times. Now that number has dropped to about 10 rewrites—all to ensure that her books engage and enrich young readers. "I like my readers to be able to step into the shoes of someone else and feel what it would be like to be of a different ethnic group and time period, with different circumstances and challenges. By doing so, my readers will realize how similar we all are in our hopes and dreams and that there is no such thing as *us* and *them*."

Marsha has plans for many more books. "There are so many untold stories. I have a deep need to explore these stories and reveal them to readers."



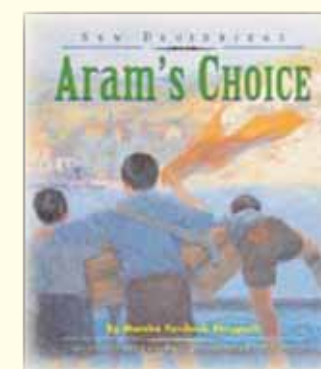
9781550418842, pb
World
Picture Book, Historical Fiction, Famine in the Ukraine
CCBC Our Choice selection, Resource Links Best Book



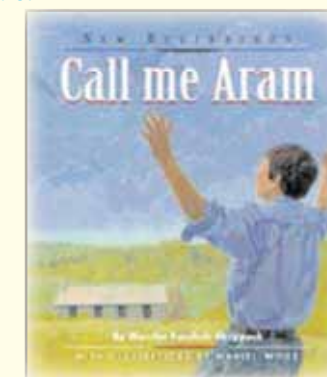
9781550419016, hc
9781550419030, pb
World ex. KR
Picture Book, Ukrainian Internment During WWI
Taras Shevchenko Award, OLA Best Bets, Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Award for Illustration shortlist



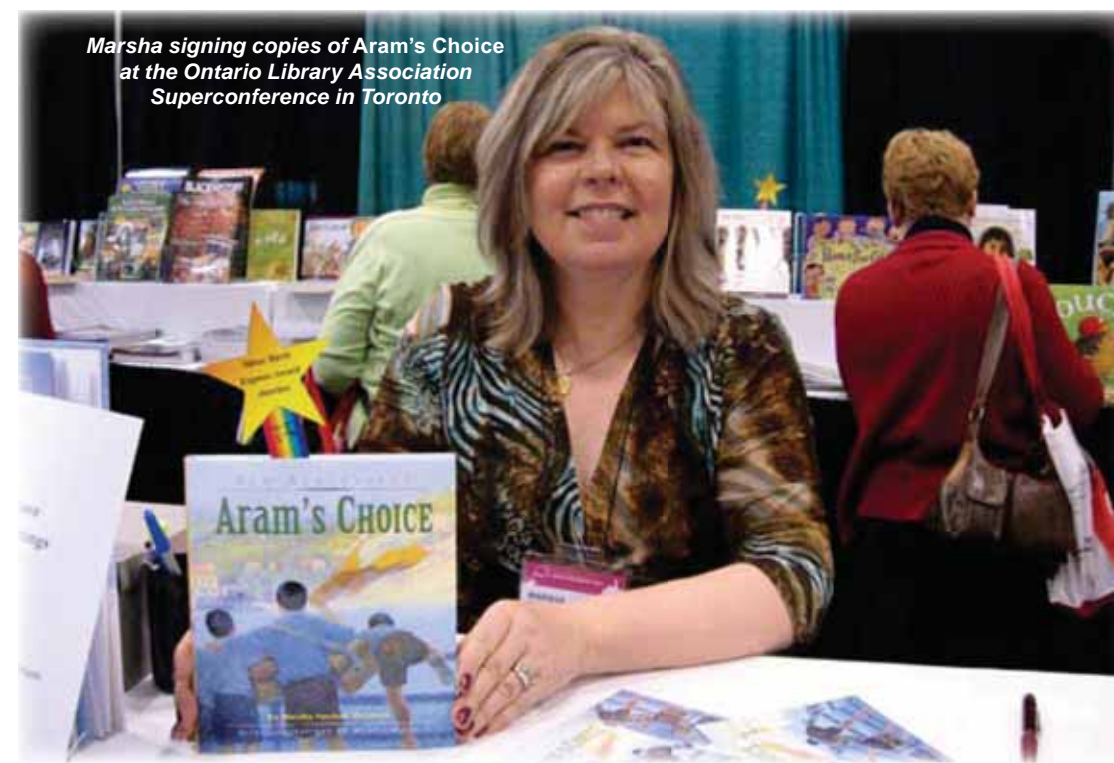
9781550419542, hc
9781550419979, pb
World
Grade 7+, Historical Fiction, Ukrainian Immigration Experiences, Social Issues



9781550413526, hc
9781550413540, pb
World
Grade 3+, Chapter Book, Immigration, Social Issues, Adversity
OLA Silver Birch Express Award shortlist, Resource Links Best Book, CCBC Our Choice selection



9781554550005, hc
9781554550012, pb
World
Grade 3+, Chapter Book, Adjustment & Relocation, Social Issues





A.G. and Nordland's boat



A.G. in his shop building a Norwegian pram

●●●●A.G. Smith

✓ Windsor, ON

Since 1973 A.G. Smith has illustrated over 100 published books, authored two books (*What Time is It?* and *Where Am I?* for Stoddard Publications), and taught printmaking and drawing at both Morehead State University in Kentucky and the University of Windsor in Ontario.

Q How did you get into illustration and develop your style?

A My background was originally in printmaking and drawing. I did a lot of etching and graving, working with a style of art called woodcutting. The fine details needed for these projects came through in the skills needed for drawing and visual arts.

Q How do you work on the pieces for the *Discovering Canada* titles?

A Bob writes a chapter outline, which he gives me to look at. Once I read it, I then start researching the content to make sure it is an accurate portrayal of the era—make sure the soldiers' uniforms are historically correct, the design and architecture is chronologically accurate, and so on. After I draw the first sketches I go back and enlarge or reduce them. Once the sketch is how I like it, I redraw it on fresh paper and ink it with colour.

I also have a large picture file of thousands of pictures I've cut out of magazines and newspapers over the years. Most illustrators have a picture file. They come in handy when you need to draw something. A lot of the time I will refer to the pictures in the file as models for sketches.

Q Your body of work is immense; is there a particular piece that stands out for you as a career highlight?

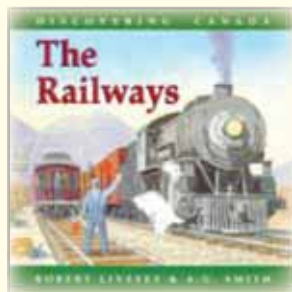
A *Where Am I?* really stands out for me. I like it because it combines writing and illustrating with navigation. I love boats and I do a lot of sailing.

Q What other kinds of art do you create?

A I create paper models using cardstock paper. I've made castles, knights and ships. The *Discovering Canada* series has a section in each chapter called "Things To Do," and often times we include a how-to for constructing paper models. We've had paper periscopes, paper forts, Viking ships and longhouses, to name a few.



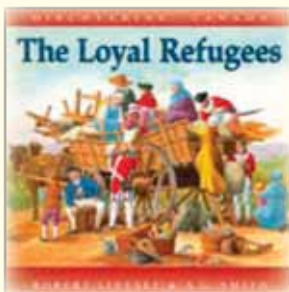
A.G. and Nordland's boat



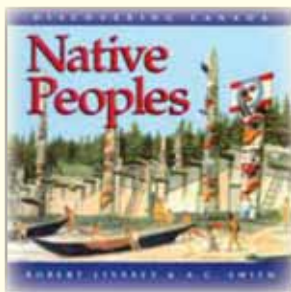
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World
Non-Fiction, Ages 8+,
Canadian History, Building of
the Railway in Canada from
Coast to Coast, Uniting of
Canada, Activities



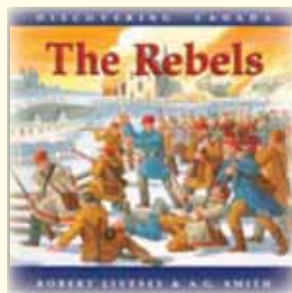
9780773753044, pb
World ex. FrC
Non-Fiction, Ages 8+,
Canadian History, Northern
Fur Trade, Activities, Famous
Men & Women of the Fur
Trade



9780773760431, pb
World
Non-Fiction, Ages 8+,
Canadian History, American
Revolution 1775-83,
Refugees to Canada,
Activities



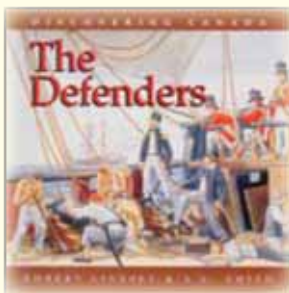
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World
Non-Fiction, Ages 8+, History
of the Canadian North, Life
Before Europeans discovered
the New World, Activities &
Stories



9780773761704, pb
World
Non-Fiction, Ages 8+,
Canadian History, Colourful
Canadian Rebels Who
Changed Life in Canada,
W.L. Mackenzie, Louis Riel,
Norman Bethune, etc.



9780773752092, pb
World ex. FrC
Non-Fiction, Ages 8+,
Canadian History, Life of the
Vikings Who First Discovered
Canada, Activities & Stories



9780773756656, pb
World
Non-Fiction, Ages 8+,
Canadian History, War of
1812, Activities, Canadian
Heroes



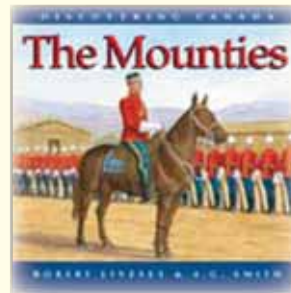
9780773753419, pb
World ex. FrC
Non-Fiction, Ages 8+,
Canadian History, Life in New
France, Famous Explorers &
Men & Women from the New
World, Activities



9781550051360, pb
World
Non-Fiction, Ages 8+, WWI,
Canadian History, War
Heroes, Women's Role in
WWI, Activities



9781550051377, pb
World
Non-Fiction, Ages 8+, Black
Canadian History, To Present
Day, Activities, Sports
Heroes, Inventors



9781550051353, pb
World
Non-Fiction, Ages 8+,
Canadian History, Royal
Canadian Mounted Police



Barbara's wedding portrait

●●●● Barbara Smucker

September 1, 1915 – July 29, 2003 ✓ Bluffton, OH, USA



Barbara Smucker's books have been published in 16 countries and translated into French, German, Japanese, Swedish, Spanish, Dutch, and Danish. These questions about Barbara were answered by her son, Tom Smucker.

Q What three traits do you remember the most about your mother while you were growing up? What is your favourite memory of your mother?

A Mom was compassionate. She really liked to write and was frustrated when she couldn't. And she was deeply religious but not doctrinaire.

Q Was Barbara Smucker the writer any different from Barbara Smucker the mother?

A Writer and mother were just about the same. Her personality comes across in her books. She loved to interview people, and do historical research for her books. She met Dad when he came to Kansas from Ohio, and she interviewed him for the local paper, where she was a journalist.

Q Do Barbara's three children have literary talents or aspirations?

A My sister is a voracious reader; my brother worked in the public schools of Atlanta until he retired; and I have a spotty but lengthy career as a rock critic. But, alas, none of us displays any literary talent.

Q Do you know the inspiration behind the character of Selina?

A My mother actually grew up on the same block with both sets of her grandparents in Kansas, but my parents moved to Canada during the Vietnam War years. I believe somehow this was the inspiration for the Selina books, and in some way Mom identified with Selina.

Q Who was your mother's favourite author, or her favourite book?

A Mom liked E.B. White's and Carl Sandburg's children's books and, of course, books by her friends who were children's book authors living nearby in Ontario. She made it a point to visit the setting for *Anne of Green Gables* on Prince Edward Island.

Q What was the highlight of your mother's literary career?

A I believe the highlight was the recognition she received in Canada for her books.

Q What did your mother want readers to take away from her books?

A Almost all of Mom's books were about people crossing borders, geographic and otherwise. I believe she wanted people to appreciate these journeys, in the past and in the present. In particular, I believe she wanted children to appreciate the border crossings their ancestors may have made, and to appreciate the journeys of their friends and peers. She had a deep appreciation and understanding of the importance of tolerance, inclusion and freedom.

Q Is there anything you would like to say to readers on behalf of your mother?

A Besides interviewing and writing, Mom most enjoyed meeting with school children across Canada, and loved reading the letters that they wrote to her. Thank you, children of Canada and children of the world.



9781895555707, hc
9780773758377, pb
World ex. US
Ages 5+, Picture Book,
Pioneer Life
Amelia Frances Howard
Gibbon Award, Elizabeth
Mrazik-Cleaver Award, Ruth
Schwartz Award



9780773730182, hc
World ex. US
Ages 5+, Picture Book,
Pioneer Life

●●●●Ted Staunton

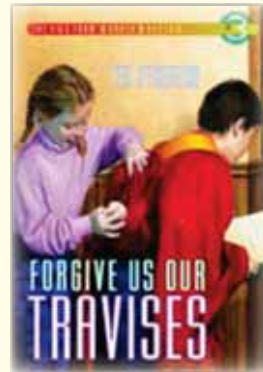
tedstauntonbooks.tripod.com ✓ Port Hope, ON



9780889952058, pb
World
Juvenile Fiction, Humour
CCBC Our Choice
selection



9780889952065, pb
World
Juvenile Fiction, Humour



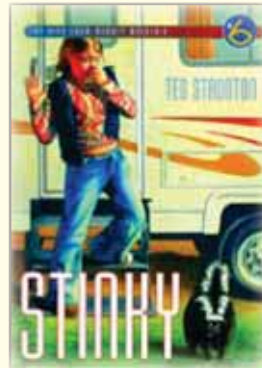
9780889952072, pb
World
Juvenile Fiction, Humour
CCBC Our Choice
selection



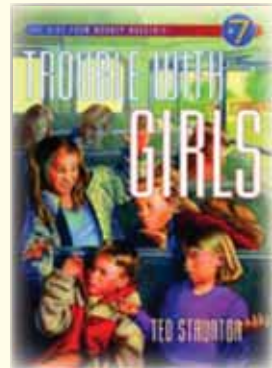
9780889952423, pb
World
Juvenile Fiction, Humour



9780889952416, pb
World
Juvenile Fiction, Humour



9780889952638, pb
World
Juvenile Fiction, Humour



9780889952645, pb
World
Juvenile Fiction, Humour



9780889951747, pb
World
Juvenile Fiction, Humour
OLA Silver Birch Award
shortlist, Hackmatack
Children's Choice Book
Award shortlist, CCBC
Our Choice selection



9780889951907, pb
World
Picture Book
CCBC Our Choice selection



9780889952935, pb
World
Ages 12+, Coming of Age,
Relationships, Humour
CCBC Our Choice
selection

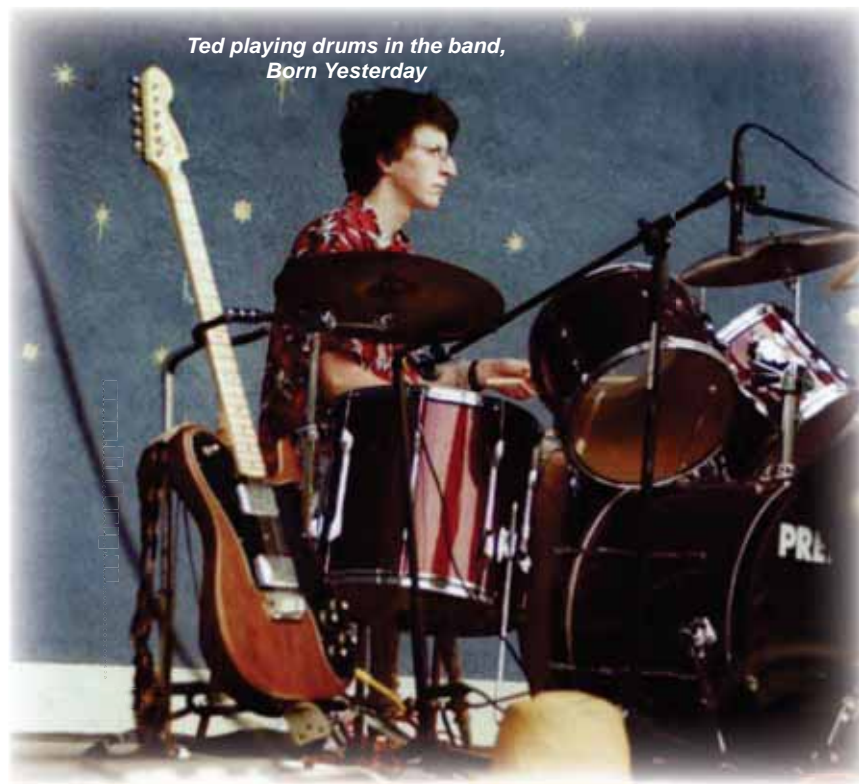


Ted Staunton has been entertaining readers of all ages since his *Puddleman* was published in 1983. He also developed the workshop series, Creating Picture Books and Creating Novels, for students in the junior grades and up. Ted is also an instructor in the Writing for Children course at George Brown College. "It seems to me that the toughest thing for writing students to grasp is how to show character in a story, rather than telling about it," he says. Trained as a teacher, Ted is also a speaker and performer in venues across Canada. He has appeared before the International Reading Association, the Canadian Booksellers Association, Reading For The Love Of It, the Harbourfront International Children's Festival, and on numerous Canada Council tours.

Ted is a member of the musical group Born Yesterday. "I'm the songwriter and front man," he

explains. "My main talent, though, is for carrying the equipment. Lately the band has been busy recording, and we have two new CDs that will be released over the course of this year. In the meantime, we perform as much as we can." Ted's band plays in and around the town of Port Hope, Ontario, which is his hometown. "Life in Port Hope is much the way I describe it in my novels *Hope Springs a Leak* and *Sounding Off*...People know things about everyone, but nobody's mean about it, because, after all, everyone knows about you, too."

Michael in *Puddleman*, Ted admits "is based a bit on me as a kid, though I didn't realize that when I wrote about him."



Ted playing drums in the band,
Born Yesterday



Ted and his first car