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Read Up On It

2004-2005



Poetry



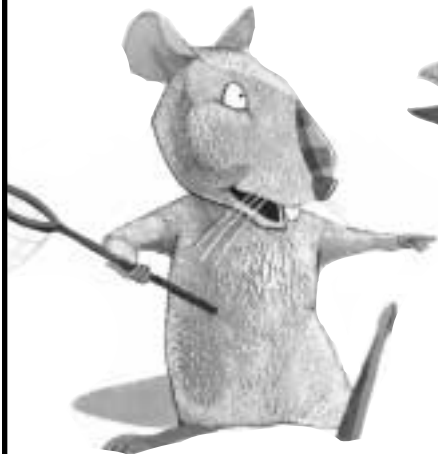
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Read Up On It

POETRY



Compiled by Alfonsina Clemente, Josiane Polidori and Daniel St-Hilaire
Canadian Literature Research Service

Ottawa 2004–2005

*Under the patronage of
Her Excellency the Right Honourable
Adrienne Clarkson, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.,
and
His Excellency John Ralston Saul, C.C.*



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A Message from the Librarian and Archivist of Canada

Reading Poetry

Young people of all ages enjoy poetry. Very small children take delight in repeating the nursery rhymes learned at home, during library activities or, later, at kindergarten. And poetry is a boon to school-age children: it allows them to learn new vocabulary, have fun playing word games, participate in poetry competitions and exercise their memories by learning verses by heart. This literary genre also appeals to teenagers, who sometimes write poems themselves, using the form as a way of expressing their ideas, moods and emotions while drawing upon their linguistic and imaginative resources. Adolescents need to read and express their emotions, and poetry often plays an important role in their lives.

Something of a poetry revival is currently taking place in Canadian children's literature – both English and French. By making Canadian poetry for young people the focus of the 2004-2005 edition of *Read Up On It*, Library and Archives Canada is paying tribute to the important contribution made by Canadian poets who write for children and teenagers, and to the discernment of those who publish poetry for children and youth.

Read Up On It, published annually by Library and Archives Canada, offers a selection of Canadian books for young people. The books are chosen for first readers, children and teens, as well as for their parents and other adults – volunteers or teachers – who read to small children. Since the selection introduces high-quality publications that can be shared by children, parents and grandparents, it can serve as an invaluable tool both for enhancing family and community literacy levels and for strengthening bonds between the generations. *Read Up On It* also aims to



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promote Canadian authors and illustrators and to encourage the reading of children's literature.

This year's cover features an image by award-winning artist Stéphane Poulin, honoured many times over for his densely coloured, brilliantly imaginative and uniquely expressive illustrations. The picture is taken from the book *Vieux Thomas et la petite fée*, written by Dominique Demers and published by Dominique et compagnie.

Made possible by the support of numerous partners and sponsors, including the Canadian Library Association (CLA) and the Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED), *Read Up On It* is distributed to some 40 000 teachers, librarians and parents eager to keep young readers up to date. We are also grateful to other organizations for their help, including the Canadian Federation of University Women, Office Depot Inc., the Canadian Children's Book Centre and Communication-Jeunesse. We are proud that the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) has been assisting us for a number of years in selecting books in alternative formats designed for children and parents who are visually impaired. We offer our sincere thanks to all these organizations.

And to all those who allow themselves to be transported to the boundless land of poetry, moved by the power of the word – Bon Voyage!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ian E. Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ian E. Wilson

Stéphane Poulin

Illustrator



© Stéphane Poulin

Biography

Stéphane Poulin, born in Montréal in 1961, is both an author and an illustrator. An avid drawer since early childhood, he enrolled in graphic arts at Montréal's Ahuntsic College in 1979. In 1983 he won first prize for children's illustration in the "Newcomer" category at the Communication-Jeunesse competition. His first children's book, *Ah ! Belle cité ! – A Beautiful City ABC*, was published in 1985 to critical acclaim. Although several of his own books have been translated into other languages, including *As-tu vu Joséphine ?*, *Benjamin & la saga des oreillers* and *Un voyage pour deux*, he admits to feeling more comfortable as an illustrator than as a writer.

Stéphane Poulin generally works in oils and prefers to illustrate stories where the moral is not too obvious. This prolific illustrator's creations can be admired in over a hundred books, and these days he collaborates frequently with writers from across Canada, the U.S. and Europe. Stéphane Poulin has received many national and international awards.

Awards and Honours

- 1986 – *Album de famille* (1986) and *As-tu vu Joséphine ?* (1986) Canada Council Children's Literature Prize, French-language illustration.
- 1988 – *Peux-tu attraper Joséphine ?* (1987) *Boston Globe* literature contest.
- Peux-tu attraper Joséphine ?* (1987) and the English translation *Can You Catch Josephine?* (1987) Elizabeth Mrazik-Cleaver Canadian Picture Book Award.
- 1989 – *Benjamin & la saga des oreillers* (1989) Governor General's Literary Award / Children's Literature, French-language illustration.
- Vicky Metcalf Award for a Body of Work.
- 1990 – *Album de famille* (1986) Prix Québec/Wallonie-Bruxelles du livre jeunesse.
- Could You Stop Josephine?* (1988) IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) Honour List.
- 1991 – *Un voyage pour deux* (1991) Mr. Christie's Book Award, French-language illustration.
- 1994 – *Un voyage pour deux* (1991) IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) Honour List.
- 1997 – *Poil de serpent, dent d'araignée* (1996) Mr. Christie's Book Award, French-language illustration.
- 1998 – *Petit zizi* (1997) Prix illustrations jeunesse GLV et Salon du livre de Trois-Rivières, picture book category.
- 2000 – *Vieux Thomas et la petite fée* (2000) Mr. Christie's Book Award, 7 and under category.
- 2001 – *Vieux Thomas et la petite fée* (2000) Prix illustrations jeunesse GLV et Salon du livre de Trois-Rivières, picture book category.

Selective Bibliography

Album de famille.

Text and illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Waterloo, Que.: Éditions Michel Quentin, 1986. 23 p.
(Pellicule, photographe animalier)
ISBN 2920438387 (bound)
ISBN 2920438123 (paperback)

Les amours de ma mère. Contes et mensonges de mon enfance.

Text and illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Toronto: Annick Press, 1990. 27 p.
ISBN 1550371517 (bound)

ISBN 1550371509 (paperback)

Published in German under the title *Mutters Lieblinge. Geschichten und Lugen aus meiner Kindheit* (ISBN 3890820999)

Published in English under the title *My Mother's Loves: Stories and Lies from My Childhood* (ISBN 1550371495)

Animals in Winter.

Text by Louise Beaudin; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin. Waterloo, Que.: M. Quintin Publishers, 1991. 23 p.

(Mr. Click, Animal Photographer)

ISBN 292043893X (bound)

ISBN 2920438948 (paperback)

Available in French under the title *Les animaux en hiver* (ISBN 292043814X)

Les animaux en danger.

Text by Michel Quintin; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin. Waterloo, Que.: Éditions Michel Quintin, [1992?] 1989. 23 p.

(Pellicule, photographe animalier)

ISBN 2920438689 (bound)

ISBN 2920438484 (paperback)

ISBN 292043831X (kit, which includes puppets)

Les animaux en hiver.

Text by Louise Beaudin; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin. Waterloo, Que.: Éditions Michel Quintin, 1987. 23 p.

(Pellicule, photographe animalier)

ISBN 292043814X

Available in Braille (Alberta Education)

Available in English under the title *Animals in Winter* (ISBN 292043893X)

Annabel and the Beast.

Text by Dominique Demers; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin; English text by Sheila Fischman.

Saint-Lambert, Que.: Dominique and Friends, 2002.

ISBN 1894363817

Available in French under the title *Annabel et la bête* (ISBN 2895121966)

Annabel et la bête.

Text by Dominique Demers; illustration by Stéphane Poulin. Saint-Lambert, Que.: Dominique et compagnie, 2002. 32 p.

ISBN 2895121966 (bound)

ISBN 2895121958 (paperback)

Available in English under the title *Annabel and the Beast* (ISBN 1894363817)

As-tu vu Joséphine ?

Text by Stéphane Poulin.

Montréal: Livres Toundra, 1986. [24] p.

ISBN 0887761887

Available in video format (Productions Prisma)

Available in Braille (ISBN 061605663X)

Available in English under the title *Have You Seen Josephine?* (ISBN 0887761801)

Un bateau du ciel.

Story by Félix Timmermans; translated from German by Jean Fugère; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.

Montgiscard, France: Les 400 coups, 2000. 32 p.

ISBN 2845960093

Benjamin & the Pillow Saga.

Text and illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.

Toronto: Annick Press, 1989. 29 p.

ISBN 1550370693 (bound)

ISBN 1550370685 (paperback)

Available in Braille (CNIB).

Available as a kit which includes activity cards, teacher's guide and 6 copies of book

Published in French under the title *Benjamin & la saga des oreillers* (ISBN 1550370758)

Benjamin & la saga des oreillers.

Text and illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.

Toronto: Annick Press, 1989. 29 p.

ISBN 1550370758 (bound)

ISBN 155037074X (paperback)

Published in German under the title *Benjamin und die Wunderkissen* (ISBN 3890820891)

Published in Japanese under the title *Benjamin no fushigina makura* (ISBN 4915632970)

Published in English under the title *Benjamin & the Pillow Saga* (ISBN 1550370693)

Can You Catch Josephine?

Text and illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.

Montréal: Tundra Books, 1987. 24 p.

ISBN 0887761984

Available in Braille (ISBN 0616013477)

Reissued in English under the title *Catch That Cat!* (ISBN 0887766420)

Available in French under the title *Peux-tu attraper Joséphine ?* (ISBN 0887762255)

Chouquette et maman Lili.

Text by Gilles Tibo; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.

Saint-Lambert, Que.: Dominique et compagnie, 2004. (Roman rouge)

ISBN 2895123934

The Christmas Elves.

Text by Henriette Major; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin; translation by Alan Brown.

Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1988. [29] p.

ISBN 0771054734

Available in French under the title *Les lutins de Noël* (ISBN 2762525705)

Could You Stop Josephine?

Text and illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.

Montréal: Tundra Books, 1988. 24 p.

ISBN 0887762166

Available in Braille (CNIB)

Available on audio cassette (Manitoba Education and Training)

Available in French under the title *Pourrais-tu arrêter Joséphine ?* (ISBN 0887762174)

Des bonbons et des méchants.

Text by Robert Soulières; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Saint-Lambert, Que.: Soulières Éditeur, 2003. 37 p.
ISBN 2922225755

Les dinosaures.

Text by Michel Quintin; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Waterloo, Que.: Éditions Michel Quintin, 1992. 23 p.
(Pellicule, photographe animalier)
ISBN 2920438743 (bound)
ISBN 2920438557 (paperback)
Available in English under the title *Dinosaurs*
(ISBN 2920438751)

Dinosaurs.

Text by Michel Quintin; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin;
English translation by Alan Brown.
Waterloo, Que.: Quintin Publishers, 1992. 23 p.
(Mr. Click, Animal Photographer)
ISBN 2920438751 (bound)
ISBN 292043876X (paperback)
Available in French under the title *Les dinosaures*
(ISBN 2920438743)

La forêt aux mille et un périls.

Text by Denis Côté; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Montréal: La courte échelle, 2003. 86 p.
(Roman jeunesse; 133)
ISBN 2890216470

Have You Seen Josephine?

Text and illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Montréal: Tundra Books, 1986. 24 p.
ISBN 0887761801
Available in Braille (CNIB).
Reissued in English under the title *Where's That Cat?*
(ISBN 0887766447)
Available in French under the title *As-tu vu Joséphine ?*
(ISBN 0887761887)

Les jeux zoolympiques.

Text and illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Waterloo, Que.: Éditions Michel Quintin, 1988. 24 p.
(Pellicule, photographe animalier)
ISBN 2920438239

Les lutins de Noël.

Text by Henriette Major; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Saint-Lambert, Que.: Héritage, 1987. 29 p.
(Héritage jeunesse)
ISBN 2762525705
Available in video format (Productions Prisma)
Available in English under the title *The Christmas Elves*
(ISBN 0771054734)

La machine à rajeunir.

Text by Denis Côté; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Montréal: La courte échelle, 1999. 95 p.
(Roman jeunesse; RJ 87)
ISBN 289021379X
Available on audio cassette (CNIB)
Available as an electronic file (CNIB)

Marius.

Text by Latifa Alaoui M.; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Montréal: Les 400 coups, 2001. 31 p.
ISBN 2895400458

Monsieur Bardin sous les étoiles.

Text by Pierre Filion; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Saint-Lambert, Que.: Soulières Éditeur, 2004.
(Ma petite vache a mal aux pattes; 55)
ISBN 2896070052

My Mother's Loves: Stories and Lies from My Childhood.

Text and illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Toronto: Annick Press, 1990. 31 p.
ISBN 1550371495 (bound)
ISBN 1550371487 (paperback)
Available in Braille (CNIB)
Available in French under the title *Les amours de ma mère. Contes et mensonges de mon enfance*
(ISBN 1550371517)

Nounours-Lapin.

Text by Kathy Stinson; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin;
translation by Teresa Blanc.
Toronto: Annick Press, 1988. 31 p.
ISBN 1550370308
Available in English under the title *Teddy Rabbit*
(ISBN 1550370170)

La nuit du vampire.

Text by Denis Côté; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Montréal: La courte échelle, 1990. 93 p.
(Roman jeunesse; RJ 22)
ISBN 2890211177
Available in Italian under the title *La notte del vampiro*
(ISBN 8824809340)

L'oiseau des sables.

Text by Dominique Demers; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Saint-Lambert, Que.: Dominique et compagnie, 2003. 32 p.
ISBN 289512311X (bound)
ISBN 2895123128 (paperback)

Old Thomas and the Little Fairy.

Text by Dominique Demers; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin;
English text by Sheila Fischman.
Saint-Lambert, Que.: Dominique & Friends, 2000. [28] p.
ISBN 1894363450
Available in French under the title *Vieux Thomas et la petite fée* (ISBN 2895121389)

Les otages de la terreur.

Text by Denis Côté; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Montréal: La courte échelle, 1998. 95 p.
(Roman jeunesse; RJ 77)
ISBN 2890213412

Un petit garçon qui avait peur de tout et de rien.

Text by Stanley Péan; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Montréal: La courte échelle, 1998. 24 p.
ISBN 289021320X

Petit zizi.

Text by Thierry Lenain; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Laval, Que.: Les 400 coups, 1997. 32 p.
ISBN 2921620162

Peux-tu attraper Joséphine ?

Text and illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Montréal: Livres Toundra, 1987. 24 p.
ISBN 0887762255
Available in Braille (ISBN 0616050364)
Available in video format (Productions Prisma)
Available in Spanish under the title *¿Agarren esa gata!*
(ISBN 9802571113)
Available in English under the title *Can You Catch Josephine?* (ISBN 0887761984)
Reissued in English under the title *Catch That Cat!*
(ISBN 0887766420)

Poil de serpent, dent d'araignée.

Text by Danielle Marcotte; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Laval, Que.: Les 400 coups, 1996. New version. 31 p.
(Billochet; 2^e)
ISBN 2921620049
Originally published under the title *Par la bave de mon crapaud*

Pourrais-tu arrêter Joséphine ?

Text and illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Montréal: Livres Toundra, 1988. 24 p.
ISBN 0887762174 (bound)
ISBN 088776228X (paperback)
Available in Swedish under the title *Ta fast Josefín!*
(ISBN 9151060280)
Available in English under the title *Could You Stop Josephine?* (ISBN 0887762166)

Le retour de monsieur Bardin.

Text by Pierre Filion; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Saint-Lambert, Que.: Soulières Éditeur, 1999. 48 p.
(Ma petite vache a mal aux pattes; 14)
ISBN 2922225321

Teddy Rabbit.

Text by Kathy Stinson; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Toronto: Annick Press, 1988. 31 p.
ISBN 1550370170 (bound)
ISBN 1550370162 (paperback)
Available in Braille (ISBN 1550370162)

Available on audio cassette (Manitoba Education and Training)
Available in French under the title *Nounours-Lapin*
(ISBN 1550370308)

Touche pas à mon corps, Tatïe Jacotte !

Text by Thierry Lenain; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Laval, Que.: Les 400 coups, 1999. 32 p.
ISBN 2895400040

Travels for Two.

Text and illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Willowdale, Ont.: Annick Press, 1991. [28] p.
(Stories and Lies From My Childhood)
ISBN 155037205X (bound)
ISBN 1550372041 (paperback)
Available in French under the title *Un voyage pour deux*
(ISBN 1550372076)

Les trois bonbons de monsieur Magnani.

Text by Louis Émond; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Saint-Lambert, Que.: Soulières Éditeur, 2000. 53 p.
(Ma petite vache a mal aux pattes; 19)
ISBN 2922225429

Vieux Thomas et la petite fée.

Text by Dominique Demers; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Saint-Lambert, Que.: Dominique et compagnie, 2000. 28 p.
ISBN 2895121389 (bound)
ISBN 2895121397 (paperback)
Available in English under the title *Old Thomas and the Little Fairy* (ISBN 1894363450)

Un voyage pour deux.

Text and illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Toronto: Annick Press, 1991. 29 p.
(Contes et mensonges de mon enfance)
ISBN 1550372076 (bound)
ISBN 1550372068 (paperback)
Available in English under the title *Travels for Two*
(ISBN 155037205X)

Where's That Cat?

Text and illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Toronto: Tundra Books, 2003. 24 p.
ISBN 0887766447
Originally published under the title *Have You Seen Josephine?* (ISBN 0887761801)
Available in French under the title *As-tu vu Joséphine ?*
(ISBN 0887761887)

Le Zorro du bocal.

Text by Anne-Marie Desplat-Duc; illustrations by Stéphane Poulin.
Toulouse, France: Éditions Milan, 2000. 38 p.
ISBN 2745900072

A Note to Teachers, Librarians and Parents

Read Up On It can be used in a variety of ways for children's education. Below are some ideas teachers, librarians and parents might wish to use or modify.

- Choose a theme and create an anthology of poems.
- Create a word search with the titles of various poems; words can appear horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forwards or backwards.
- Write a collaborative group poem.
- Find riddles or rhymes from around the world.
- Clothesline: children choose poems they like, and then hang them on a clothesline.
- Choose a poem and illustrate it; display the design in the class along with the poem.
- Suggest alternate titles for a poem that you have read.
- Rewrite a poem.
- Learn a poem from memory, recite it aloud and share it with other classes.
- Cut up poems: find old magazines, cut different text, then stick them on to a clean sheet of paper and make up nonsense poems.
- Happy birthday poets: use a bulletin board to highlight a particular poet, write their biography, and find their picture and the books or poems they have written.
- Bulletin boards: make a "favourite poem" bulletin board.
- Write to the author and explain your reaction to his or her poem or poems.
- Pretend you're a poet and explain why you chose the title of your poem or poems.
- Draw a comic strip of your favourite poem.
- New award: design a new award for children's poetry, select the poem to receive the award, create a medal for the poem and write an explanation of the award and why the poem has earned it.
- Defend a poem: students each choose a poem and explain why they think everyone should read it.
- Keep a journal as you read poems: write your thoughts, feelings and reactions.
- Create a poster or a bookmark for a poem you have read.
- Create a word glossary of unfamiliar words from the poems you have read or are reading.
- Go-around poetry: chairs are placed in a circle, with a poem placed under each chair. The children march around the chairs when the music starts. When the music stops, the children sit down and begin to read the poem under their chair.
- Name the poem: explain to the children how important a title is, and then read a poem without telling them the title. After reading the poem, ask the children to think about what the title should be. Display the poem surrounded by the children's titles.
- Scavenger hunt: divide the class into teams and give each team a copy of the same poem. Have them find objects, events or people in the poem.
- Poem-a-thon: the class could have a daylong poem-a-thon, for which the teacher tabulates the number of poems read. The results could be posted on rungs of a ladder reaching to the sky.
- Write an acrostic poem: each child writes his or her name vertically, then uses each letter to start a line of poetry.
- Poems everywhere: display different things on a table (spoon, popcorn, eraser, etc.). Ask the children to choose one and write a poem. Create a display of the children's poems and objects.
- Poetry race: present several tongue twisters and ask the children to repeat them. Set the record for the most rapid recitation.
- Read poems to the class, and ask the children to clap each time they hear an accented syllable.
- Create a cube with poems written on all sides. Divide the class into groups. Each group will be given a cube, with one person rolling the dice to see which poem their group will be working on. The poem is then recited or acted out.
- Fill-in-the-blank poems: ask the students to complete the fill-in-the-blank poems.
- Study the rules for writing a haiku poem, compose a haiku poem, then illustrate the poem and dedicate it to someone.
- Play spell man (alias hangman) using titles of famous poems.
- Choose a painting, and then make up a poem to go along with the painting.
- Make a poster with pictures of famous poets.
- Draw or paint a picture, then find a poem that relates to it.
- Read a poem and ask the children to recite it out loud or dramatize it.
- Create a poem in a special shape and put in on a bulletin board.
- Create a crossword puzzle featuring world-famous poets.
- Unscramble poetry: give students a list of words and ask them to create a poem using these words.
- Poetry quilt: write a one-sentence poem, then make a poetry quilt.
- Create a class poem asking each student to contribute a line.
- Poetry-mobile: ask the students to write lines on a small piece of paper and make them into a poetry-mobile.

Selection Criteria for the 2004–2005 Edition of *Read Up On It*

- Books published in Canada or abroad of which the author or illustrator is Canadian.
- Books available from bookstores, publishers, public or school libraries.
- Books in English and/or French, with due respect given to geographic distribution and multicultural diversity.
- Books appropriate for age categories covering 2 to 16 years.
- Books from the following categories: poetry, nursery rhymes.
- Books in which the quality of text and illustration is evident, as well as the quality of the text in relation to the illustrations.

“Poetry for Children and Young Adults”* as a Theme

- A poem is a literary work that uses the rhythm and melody of language, and the combination and juxtaposition of various sounds.
- Poetry may or may not rhyme. Poetic works and poems can often be read out loud.
- Poetry uses language-based imagination and creativity; the literary genre often uses imagery, metaphors and a specific choice of words.
- Poems are often presented as a collection (series of poems written by a specific poet) or as an anthology (selection of poems written by several poets on a specific theme or presented in chronological order).
- Poetry can convey ideas, points of view or emotions. Narrative poetry can describe an event or tell a story or anecdote.
- Poetry and its various forms and literary techniques are discussed.

Nursery Rhymes and Poetic Genres Specific to Children’s Literature*

- Nursery rhymes: short rhyming phrase (told or sung) to name a game or a role in a game.
- Nonsense poetry: an absurd five verse rhyming poem that follows the format a a b b a.
- Lullaby: short rhyming verse told or sung to children to put them to sleep.
- Riddle: rhyming verse that encourages curiosity or that solves a problem.

* Definitions inspired by *Dictionnaire des poètes et de la poésie*, by Jacques Charpentreau and Georges Jean (Paris: Gallimard, 1983) and *Une cantine de comptines*, by Pierre Lartigue (Paris: Les Belles Lettres, 2001).

Aspiring Poets

Are you an aspiring young poet who would like to share what you have written? There are Web sites where you can publish your poems. Sharpen your pencils, and let’s get started!

Canadian Web sites

Ado monde – Poésie (in French only)
www.adomonde.qc.ca/poesie/amitie9.htm

L’Escale – Je rêve d’être poète (in French only)
www.lescale.net/poesie

KIDsWWwrite (in English only)
www.kalwriters.com/kidswwwrite/index.html

Net’Ink
An arts magazine for and by Canadian youth (in English only)
www.wetinkmagazine.com/contents.htm

The best poems by Quebec children (in French only)
poemes.csq.qc.net/index.htm

Young Poets (bilingual)
www.youngpoets.ca
www.youngpoets.ca/ezine/ezine.php

International Web Sites (Canadian content)

AnPlus – Poésie en ligne (in French only)
users.swing.be/anplus

Arbre à poèmes (in French only)
www.franceweb.fr/poesie/enfants/index.html

Fun House (in English only)
www.liswa.wa.gov.au/funhouse

Kids on the Net (in English only)
kotn.ntu.ac.uk

Momes.net – Jeunes poètes (in French only)
www.momes.net/Journal/jpoetes.html

Poésie française (in French only)
poesie.webnet.fr

The Poetry Zone (in English only)
www.poetryzone.ndirect.co.uk

Poetry

ENGLISH TITLES



ALLIGATOR PIE DENNIS LEE

ILLUSTRATIONS: FRANK NEWFELD
TORONTO: KEY PORTER KIDS,
2001. 64 P.
ISBN 1552633381 (BOUND)
ISBN 1552634620 (PAPERBACK)
AGES 5 TO 9



Absurd, bizarre and nonsensical, *Alligator Pie* has been a favourite children's book the world over for 30 years. Dennis Lee's verbal ingenuity will pose a challenge to the most agile tongues (have a go at "The Sitter and the Butter and the Better Batter Fritter"), while Frank Newfeld's ornate, circus-inspired illustrations remain as spectacular as ever.

The publication of *Alligator Pie* in 1974 made a significant contribution to creating a distinctive Canadian voice in children's literature, one that had largely been overshadowed by European entries in the genre. Dennis Lee won the 1974 Book of the Year for Children award from the Association of Children's Librarians for this work, and in 2001 became Toronto's first Poet Laureate.

Frank Newfeld has illustrated or designed more than 650 books, earning numerous awards around the world. —TC

ALLIGATOR TALES (AND CROCODILES TOO) FOR CHILDREN (AND GROWN-UPS, TOO) MILES SMEETON

ILLUSTRATIONS: ERIC GRANTVEDT
CALGARY: BAYEUX ARTS, 1998. 45 P.
ISBN 1896209173
AGES 8 TO 12



These poems by Miles Smeeton were originally written on postcards to his granddaughters while the author and his wife were sailing around the world on their yacht. The poems follow a recipe-book formula, with the main ingredients being alligators, caimans and crocodiles. The recipes are not about how to cook those reptilian creatures; they are mostly about what alligators and crocodiles eat.

The main characters lead an interesting life and are well travelled: we read about a sea

captain crocodile and a yachting alligator; we meet a stewardess called Ghariyal (a fish-eating crocodile from India) whose "...uniform is dashing green and mottled brown with patches..."

Yet these creatures from the swamps are not always sophisticated, like the bathroom alligator: "I know that you would leave the soap / Upon the floor / And what is more / You'd leave the water in the bath."

The imaginative poems are filled with wordplay and information about crocodiles, their sharp-toothed friends and their habitats, and each is paired with a descriptive line drawing of the clever and peculiar reptiles. —JP

ALL ON A SLEEPY NIGHT SHUTTA CRUM

ILLUSTRATIONS: SYLVIE DAIGNEAULT
TORONTO: STODDART KIDS, 2001. 23 P.
ISBN 0773733159
AGES 4 TO 8



All on a Sleepy Night is a folksy bedtime story for children under eight years old. A small boy is trying to fall asleep in a house somewhere in the north. The night noises that surround him come from both inside the house and outdoors and are echoed in his dreams. After the source of each sound is

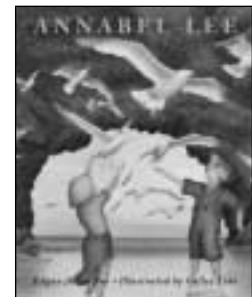
introduced, the onomatopoeic sounds are repeated in a refrain. Inanimate objects, such as the fridge, are personified in the poem. The author includes the names of her own cats, Max and Mandu, and her friend's bird, Whimsy, in the narrative.

The verses, full of imagery and movement, are reflected in the vibrant, coloured-pencil artwork by Sylvie Daigneault. Images of the kindly moon, the windswept trees and stars recur in almost every expressive illustration.

Author Shutta Crum is a children's librarian and has prepared an activity sheet based on her book. It can be found on the Internet at www.shuttacrum.com/sleepynight.html —LS

ANNABEL LEE EDGAR ALLAN POE

ILLUSTRATIONS: GILLES TIBO
TORONTO: TUNDRA BOOKS, 1998. 24 P.
ISBN 0887762301
AGES 8 AND UP



Edgar Allan Poe's gently revealing poem of true love, found and lost in a kingdom by the sea, is a classic portrayal of joy and sorrow.

Accompanied by the airbrushed pencil drawings of Gilles Tibo, a surreal world is created —

a dream-like place where lovers frolic, seagulls fly, and clams are plentiful.

On the Gaspé Peninsula in the 1930s, a young fisherman and Annabel Lee discover an everlasting love. One day, tragedy strikes, and Annabel Lee is lost forever. The young fisherman is overwhelmed with grief, comforted only by the sound of the waves and the luminous moon.

Tibo begins with rich, warm tones to set an innocent and bright atmosphere, and eventually changes to a palette of cool blues and purples, leaving us feeling melancholy but hopeful. The combination of lyrical poetry and warm illustrations brings detail and imagination to a world full of uncertainty. While the rich literature of Poe appeals to the mature, the glowing drawings attract the young, making this a book everyone can enjoy. —MM

ANN AND SEAMUS

KEVIN MAJOR

ILLUSTRATIONS: DAVID BLACKWOOD
TORONTO: GROUNDWOOD BOOKS,
2003. 109 P.
ISBN 088899561X
AGES 13 AND UP



Kevin Major's collection of free-verse poems traces the dramatic story of 17-year-old Ann Harvey, who selflessly helped rescue 160 passengers from an Irish immigrant ship that had run aground off the coast of Isle aux Morts, Newfoundland, in 1828.

Major's poems, part fact and part fiction, tell of Ann's courage and strength, but also of her dreams, her love for her homeland and, ultimately, her fate. In the second chapter, the author introduces Seamus, a young Irishman with dreams of settling down to a new life in America with Ann.

David Blackwood's black-and-white artwork conveys the hardship of life at sea. —ANC

CABBAGEHEAD

LORIS LESYNSKI

TORONTO: ANNICK PRESS, 2003. 32 P.
ISBN 1550378058 (BOUND)
ISBN 155037804X (PAPERBACK)
AGES 7 TO 9



With this nonsense poetry book, Loris Lesynski tries to figure out where ideas come from. She looks at good ideas, bad ideas, crazy ideas, and even those born in a cabbagehead. Each poem asks questions: Where do inventions come from? What happens when a child looks for an idea? Where are they hiding? What happens to ideas when we dream?

"I need an idea / need it fast / need a good one / that'll last..."

Cabbagehead is filled with tongue twisters and rhyming verses that are easy for young children to memorize. The whimsical illustrations were created with ink, coloured pencil and watercolour and

bring the charming rhymes to life. The characters are cartoon-like, and each illustration has a rambunctious and delirious atmosphere.

Loris Lesynski is the author and illustrator of several rhyming picture books for children, including *Dirty Dog Boogie*, *Nothing Beats a Pizza*, *Boy Soup*, *Ogre Fun*, *Catmagic*, *Night School* and *Rocksy*. Her books are suitable for reading to kindergarten classes or early grades, and can be used for developing memory skills and oral traditions in young children. —JP

CANADIAN WILD FLOWERS AND EMBLEMS

COLLEAYN O. MASTIN

ILLUSTRATIONS: JAN SOVAK
KAMLOOPS, B.C.: GRASSHOPPER BOOKS PUB., 1997. 32 P.
ISBN 1895910161 (BOUND)
ISBN 1895910188 (PAPERBACK)
AGES 8 TO 12



One of a series of poetry collections celebrating Canadian wildlife, *Canadian Wild Flowers and Emblems* draws its inspiration from both official and non-official flowers, birds and tree emblems from each of Canada's provinces and territories.

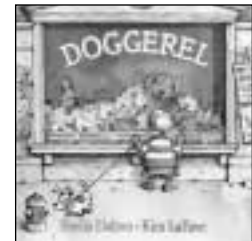
Readers can discover and learn about where and how certain plants grow, which plants are edible and which are used as medicine (the Indian Pipe flower, for example, was used in folk medicine to treat sore eyes and nervous troubles). Each poem is accompanied by a wonderful painted illustration of a Canadian wild flower. An index of 30 wild flowers,

both provincial and territorial, is included on the last page. Between the calming verse and splendid colour illustrations, children will increase their appreciation of art and of the exquisite beauty of nature. —MD

DOGGEREL

SHEILA DALTON

ILLUSTRATIONS: KIM LAFAVE
TORONTO: DOUBLEDAY CANADA,
1996. 32 P.
ISBN 0385255330
AGES 3 TO 7



This busy, playful book follows many kinds of dogs through city streets, parks, circuses, backyards and snowy mountains: "There are shaggy dogs, waggy dogs and dogs that have fleas / There are slow dogs and low dogs and dogs out on sprees." Many more canines run amok in Kim LaFave's sunny cartoon illustrations. Sheila Dalton's text is reminiscent of Dr. Seuss in its creative wording and unorthodox typography, with a clever subtext that suggests that acceptance of differences can be fun too.

Doggerel is a book that will appeal to children for its quick visual pace and goofy tongue twisters. Kids will enjoy multiple readings of this spirited offering. —TC

DOUBLE VISION: A COLLECTION OF CANADIAN POEMS

MARKHAM, ONT.: SCHOLASTIC CANADA, 1999. 87 P.
ISBN 1552684121
AGES 11 AND UP



This collection comprises poems written by famous Canadian poets and those written by everyday kids. Works by Leonard Cohen, Dorothy Livesay, Raymond Souster, Robert Hogg, Nancy Prasad and many others are interspersed with the lines of pre-teen and teenaged writers.

The poems in *Double Vision* are of many different levels and subjects, ranging from Sheree Fitch's silly *Speaking of Speaking* to Robert Priest's environmental warning, *Incredible Inedible Pie*. Many of the kids' poems deal with topics such as animals, hometowns, seasons and the ocean. —SG

FERN HILL
DYLAN THOMAS
ILLUSTRATIONS: MURRAY KIMBER
RED DEER, ALTA.: RED DEER COLLEGE PRESS, 1997. 32 P.
ISBN 0889951640
AGES 8 AND UP



“And as I was green and carefree, famous among the barns / About the happy yard and singing as the farm was home, / In the sun that is young once only...”

Nostalgic and romantic, the above is a snippet from Dylan Thomas's classic poem *Fern Hill*, now a picture book of the same

title with illustrations by award-winning artist Murray Kimber.

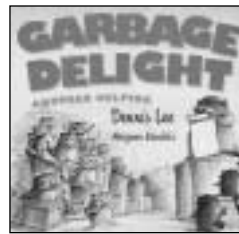
Each page of *Fern Hill* reveals Kimber's love of detail and colour. With a nod to impressionism, he depicts a child's daily life on a farm – an ethereal farm – full of places to run to and places to be. He captures the child's élan and imagination as the boy pauses now and then for rest and reflection.

Young readers are apt to marvel at Kimber's big, buoyant farm depictions, while whetting their verbal appetites with Thomas's strange, long-ago words.

“And then to awake, and the farm, like a wanderer white / With the dew, come back, the cock on his shoulder: it was all / Shining, it was Adam and maiden, / The sky gathered again / And the sun grew round that very day.” —MS

GARBAGE DELIGHT: ANOTHER HELPING
DENNIS LEE

ILLUSTRATIONS: MARYANN KOVASKI
TORONTO: KEY PORTER BOOKS, 2002. 46 P.
ISBN 1552634701
AGES 7 AND UP



Dennis Lee's recent work of rhyming verse will once again delight both children and

adults alike. New verses have been added to favourite poems: from the grotesquely exaggerated “Mulligan Stew,” a sure-fire poetry favourite, to the light-hearted “Summerhill Fair” romance, there is a poem here to win over every heart. “What Will You Be?” playfully flounces the question adults like most to ask children, while “Suzy Grew a Moustache” rings of the absurd. Maryann Kovalski's charcoal illustrations help to bring these scrumptious words to life: “With a nip and a nibble, a drip and a dribble, a dollop, a walloping bite: if you want to see grins all the way to my shins, just give me some garbage delight!” —ANC

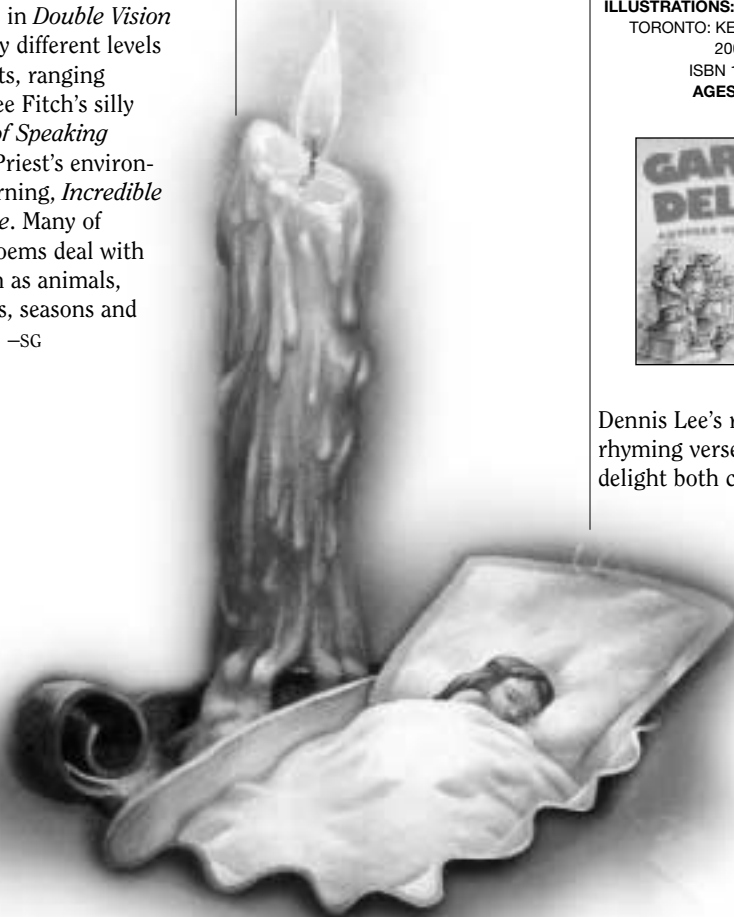
A GRAIN OF SAND

P.K. PAGE
ILLUSTRATIONS: VLADYANA KRYKORKA
MARKHAM, ONT.: FITZHENRY & WHITESIDE, 2003. 24 P.
ISBN 1550418092 (PAPERBACK)
ISBN 1550418017 (BOUND)
AGES 4 TO 8



P.K. Page, one of Canada's most distinguished poets, wrote this poem as part of an oratorio composed in 2000 to celebrate the new millennium. Inspired by William Blake's *Auguries of Innocence*, *A Grain of Sand* is about childhood's limitless imagination and possibility.

Vladyana Krykorka's combination of painting and collage echo Page's words, putting comprehension of the text within the grasp of younger children. The colourful illustrations provide a background for each rhyming couplet in the poem.



This collaboration between poetic and visual artists has resulted in a volume that will appeal to children and adults alike. —MMC

I GAVE MY MOM A CASTLE

JEAN LITTLE

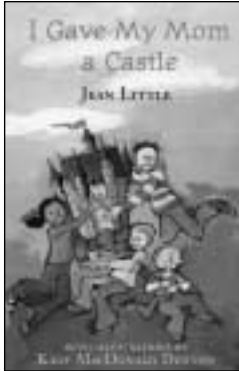
ILLUSTRATIONS:

KADY MacDONALD DENTON

VICTORIA, B.C.: ORCA BOOK PUB.,
2003. 80 P.

ISBN 1551432536

AGES 9 TO 12



Jean Little's most recent collection of poetry is a gift to her readers. All ages are sure to enjoy her selection of mostly prose poems that delve into the joys and pains of giving and receiving. The author was motivated to craft this work by her memories of gifts she had always wanted but never received. She recalls the disappointment of unwanted gifts, but also writes of gifts received that despite not costing a dime touch our hearts forever. We don't always get what we want or expect, but there's usually something to be appreciated or learned from all gifts given and received.

Jean Little's light-hearted poetry is laced with humorous twists and unexpected irony; in "My Mother Got Me," the author's mother gives her many things she feels her daughter should want but had never asked for. The poem ends with, "I'm glad I've got grandma. She has trouble hearing sometimes but no trouble listening." —ANC

**IMAGES OF NATURE:
CANADIAN POETS AND THE
GROUP OF SEVEN**

COMPILED BY DAVID BOOTH

TORONTO: KIDS CAN PRESS, 1995. 32 P.

ISBN 1550742728

AGES 13 AND UP



We each have our own indelible images of nature – cold brook water alive again in early spring, lapping over snowy rocks and punching holes through a sheet of melting ice; the last of the October leaves, ruddy-brown and brittle, curling and twining from maples; a languorous summer sky with clouds jockeying for place above a northern lake.

Many of those kinds of seasonal images have been sketched and painted onto paper, wood and canvas by the Group of Seven. A number of the Group's works have made their way into *Images of Nature*, a poem/picture book that is a stirring whirl of rawness and colour.

Author and anthologist David Booth selected nearly 30 works from the Group of Seven, coupling them with 27 poems by Margaret Atwood, Leonard Cohen, Earle Birney and others, to add verbal texture

and congruity to the brush strokes of Jackson, Thomson, Carmichael and others.

Images of Nature is a revelation of moods – a visual and oral journey through spectacular Canadian landscapes. —MS

**LEAP INTO POETRY:
MORE ABCs OF POETRY**

AVIS HARLEY

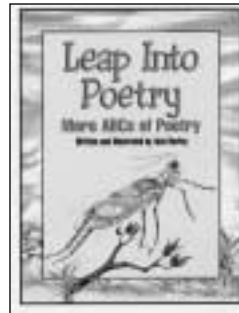
HONESDALE, PENN.:

WORDSONG/BOYDS MILLS PRESS,
2001. 48 P.

ISBN 1563976730 (BOUND)

ISBN 156397438X (PAPERBACK)

AGES 7 TO 11



Curious and creative children will want to make this particular jump into Avis Harley's *Leap into Poetry*. The author

uses the alphabet, from A to Z, to introduce young readers to 26 forms of poetry. With each letter, an insect whose name starts with that same letter is also introduced.

For A: "Alliteration is the repetition of the same initial sound, which creates an interesting effect." Coupled with A for Alliteration is "Ants," a clever, word-crackling poem to illustrate the definition: "Ants, / admiring an amber, / are amazed at an ancestor / appearing almost alive, / all anxious angles and / alert antennae..."

And with each letter of the alphabet and each poem, Avis adds a bright and accurate illustration.

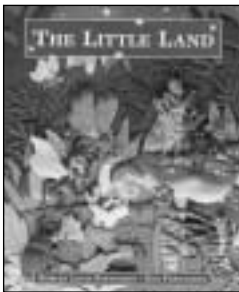
Leap into Poetry encourages readers to tweak their imaginations and consider the playfulness and diversity of words. Children will have their curiosity piqued by the illustrations too – there's a fascinating array of insects that crawl and fly and weave their way through the book.

From Alliteration to Zéjel, Ants to Zebra Butterfly, this is an imaginative, gently informative leap of learning. —MS





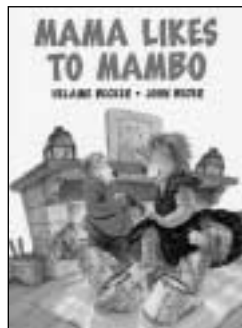
THE LITTLE LAND
ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON
ILLUSTRATIONS: KIM FERNANDES
 TORONTO: KIDS CAN PRESS, 2002. 22 P.
 ISBN 1553373855 (BOUND)
 ISBN 1553377656 (PAPERBACK)
AGES 5 TO 8



Perhaps no child or adult can resist the poet's invitation to indulge in utter make-believe. In this book, celebrated author Robert Louis Stevenson's timeless poem "The Little Land" (selected from *A Child's Garden of Verses*) is given enchanting and sympathetic treatment in Kim Fernandes's three-dimensional, award-winning Fimo (acrylic clay) illustrations.

Although published in 1885, *The Little Land* takes place anytime, when a daydreaming boy imagines himself in the Land of Play. There, he is the diminutive size of his insect friends, the "clover-tops are trees" and the "rain-pools are the seas." Stevenson's miniature world offers children a token of magic inspired by simple visions of nature, and the happiness in imagining ourselves to be no bigger than others. —TC

MAMA LIKES TO MAMBO
HELAIINE BECKER
ILLUSTRATIONS: JOHN BEDER
 TORONTO: STODDART KIDS, 2001. 31 P.
 ISBN 0773733167
AGES 5 TO 9



This is a charming, hip and funny collection of poems whose upbeat and inspired rhymes beg to be read aloud.

The shorter poems, such as "Rumble Bumble Bumblebee," feature inventive wordplay as their main attraction: "roly poly ram-ba-lam / Jambalaya, toast and jam / Hambone, wishbone, Ping-Pong slam..."

Two of the longer poems treat with humour and tenderness the subjects of toddler tantrums and the all-too-quick (from a parent's point of view) progression of a baby into childhood.

What really distinguishes this book is its illustration. It is interesting to note that while only two of the poems mention animals, the pages are chock-a-block with large, colourful cavorting bears, daisy-umbrella-toting ladybugs, festive dinosaurs and temperamental dragons, to name but a few. —MR

MY CAKE'S ON FIRE
DIANE DAWBER
ILLUSTRATIONS: PAT WILKINSON
 OTTAWA: BOREALIS PRESS, 2001. 66 P.
 ISBN 0888872372
AGES 9 TO 12



My Cake's On Fire is a collection of poems, prayers and songs. Its theme is one of hope and good cheer. Each section has the word 'welcome' in its title, such as "Welcome to My Space," which is about a child's home, classroom and neighbourhood. Other sections

include poems about special occasions, such as birthdays or taking a driver's test. The poems are written in a wide range of styles, including a diamante poem (arranged in a diamond pattern of seven lines).

Author Diane Dawber is a three-time winner of the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario Writer's Award. The survivor of a disabling illness, in her spare time she speaks to individuals and groups about chronic pain and fatigue and how to overcome them. —LS

THE NEW TOE: POEMS TO TICKLE YOUR FUNNYBONE
JEANNIE MCGREGOR
ILLUSTRATIONS: BILL BROWNRIDGE
 CALGARY: BAYEUX ARTS, 2001. 45 P.
 ISBN 1896209602
AGES 6 TO 10



This is Jeannie McGregor's first compilation of poetry for children. The volume includes 18 poems that humorously deal with a variety of everyday situations. These include "Clancy Dugan," the disruptive classroom influence who is making Grade 4 fly by; "That Word," in which the family parrot repeats a nasty word learned from an unlikely source; and "Poor Sammy!" about the demise of a pet turtle.

One particular poem finds the author demonstrating sibling rivalry by luring her brother into a well-known winter predicament: "Tomorrow I will tell my friends; / tomorrow I will boast, / of how I got that stupid kid / to lick that metal post!"

A widely exhibited artist, Bill Brownridge provides brightly coloured paintings to accompany McGregor's works. This collection is guaranteed to bring smiles. –MMc

NO TWO SNOWFLAKES
SHEREE FITCH
ILLUSTRATIONS: JANET WILSON
 VICTORIA, B.C.: ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS, 2001. 32 P.
 ISBN 1551432064
AGES 4 TO 8



This story starts off as many stories do, with a simple question. Araba, a young girl from Ghana, mails to her Canadian pen pal the very important question "What is snow?"

The boy writes her a letter in which he explains everything there is to know about snow through poetry. He explains how the taste of snow is white, how it is sometimes like splinter-sharp needles against your skin. It's like tobogganing, snow forts and the crunch of snowy crust under your feet. He also explains to Araba how snow sticks in small, white pebbles to wool mittens. He concludes his poem to his pen pal by saying that words are not enough – snow must be held in your hands to be understood.

Sheree Fitch has written many other well-known poetry books, including *Toes in My Nose and Other Poems*; *There Were Monkeys in My Kitchen!* and *If You Could Wear My Sneakers* (winner of both the Ontario Silver Birch Award and the Atlantic Hackmatack Award). In 1998, she won the prestigious Vicky Metcalf Award for a body of work inspirational to Canadian children. –sc

ON TUMBLEDOWN HILL
TIM WYNNE-JONES
ILLUSTRATIONS: DUŠAN PETRIČIĆ
 RED DEER, ALTA.: RED DEER COLLEGE PRESS, 1998. 29 P.
 ISBN 0889951861
AGES 5 TO 8



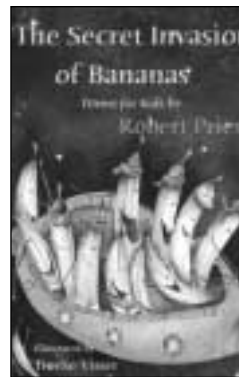
England has its Roald Dahls, the United States its Dr. Seusses – authors whose alluring characters and otherworldly environments manage to be both ingratiating and mischievous all at once.

Tim Wynne-Jones could be considered Canada's contribution to this group of subliminal children's book writers. His collaborations with illustrator Dušan Petričić especially have produced a familiar style that is empathetic to the thoughtful young reader. In *On Tumbledown Hill*, an artist and his pet rabbit set out to paint in the evening air...and encounter 26 monsters determined to put a stop to the intended work.

After much unruly and comic behaviour, the artist knows he must paint these creatures out of his head to overcome his fear of them. Once they disappear, we are left to look on the canvas. What is hidden among the hills, trees and clouds in the painting? What was real and what was imagined?

Unbeknownst to the reader, the block-lettered text is reduced by one word on each subsequent page, revealing more of the illustrations and the monsters' identities. –TC

THE SECRET INVASION OF BANANAS
ROBERT PRIEST
ILLUSTRATIONS: TINEKE VISSER
 VICTORIA, B.C.: EKSTASIS EDITIONS, 2002, ©2001. 159 P.
 ISBN 1896860974
AGES 11 AND UP



This book is a selected compilation from two previous collections of Robert Priest's poems: *A Terrible Case of the Stars* and *The Ruby Hat*. Over 100 poems were chosen, most of them dedicated to the theme of food. Many fruits and vegetables are part of the imagery, among them "Darth Orange," who is from outer space, and a potato that refuses to be used for chips. The main ingredient of this delirious fruit salad is, of course, the glorious banana.

"...Ask not what your banana can do for you / Ask what you can do for your banana..."

Strange creatures imagined by Priest, such as elastic people, bum people, the "beautiful but full of rage" flower people and assorted aliens, are depicted in comically abstract pen-and-ink illustrations by Tineke Visser.

Many of the entries are intended for singing (the author is also a musician), while others are visual experiments appearing in the form described by their titles ("The Top" or "Spiral").

This book is a delightful way for children to discover poetry and play with words and sounds. –JP

SEE SAW SASKATCHEWAN: MORE PLAYFUL POEMS FROM COAST TO COAST
ROBERT HEIDBREDER
ILLUSTRATIONS: SCOT RITCHIE
 TORONTO: KIDS CAN PRESS, 2003. 32 P.
 ISBN 1553373928
AGES 4 TO 8



Kids will find themselves very busy with *See Saw Saskatchewan* as they trek across Canada through Robert Heidbreder's clever game-poems and Scot Ritchie's action illustrations. Each distinctly Canadian poem features a province, territory, animal, sport or occupation as its theme. Symbols above the titles encourage young readers to skip, clap, bounce balls, choose partners, perform character roles or invent their own games. Poems vary from the absurd ("Boss Ross Albatross") to the touching ("Friends"), and several are followed with facts about the poem's theme. Visual re-creations of Canadian particulars (Canada geese, the CN Tower, provincial flowers, hockey and lacrosse) should inspire further creative participation and educational initiatives.

A map of Canada adorns both the front and back inside covers of the book. –TC

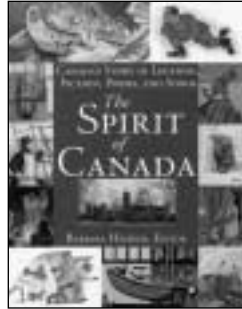
SLEEPERS
DAYAL KAUR KHALSA
ILLUSTRATIONS: DAYAL KAUR KHALSA
 TORONTO: TUNDRA BOOKS, 1999. 24 P.
 ISBN 0887764908
AGES 3 TO 6



The little girl narrating this book claims that people and animals from all walks of life have their particular ways of sleeping, but that she never sleeps. We see father sleeping on the couch, mother sleeping in a hammock, twin aunts sleeping symmetrically on the sofa, the cat snuggled up to a warm teapot and the dog asleep under the baby grand. With each refrain of “But I never sleep,” we see the girl sinking further into her bed until she finally adds, “Instead I count sheep.” By sheep number 11 she is fast asleep and concedes, “Well ... I *hardly* ever sleep.”

The late author and illustrator Dayal Kaur Khalsa’s bright, cheerful drawings are sure to catch a young child’s eye. With any luck, both eyes will be closed by the time the final page is reached. –MR

THE SPIRIT OF CANADA
EDITOR: BARBARA HEHNER
 TORONTO: STODDART KIDS, 2001. 306 P.
 ISBN 0773762000
AGES 8 AND UP



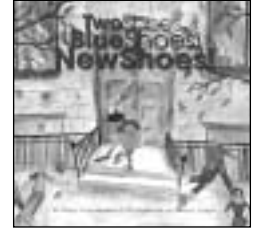
This spectacular collection of stories, poems, mythologies and songs is a historical and cultural embrace of all of Canada. From Native legends of when the world was new, through European settlers, the Acadian tragedy, world wars and modern folk songs, *The Spirit of Canada* draws from each strain of Canadian life and leaves the reader awash in our heritage like the colour reflections of a prism.

Editor and compiler Barbara Hehner undertook this ambitious project after gathering material for several years, prompted largely by her exposure to Native life in the North and the recollections of war veterans. Readers can delight in well-known titles and those that they are discovering for the first time.

In the book’s introduction, Hehner explains that during her childhood the “phrase used for our multicultural nation was ‘the Canadian mosaic’ – a Canada in which every ethnic group contributed its own little piece to the larger design while still keeping its unique identity.”

To demonstrate this vision, each province and territory in Canada is represented in the anthology. Capsule biographies for each of the contributing authors and illustrators are included. –TC

TWO SHOES, BLUE SHOES, NEW SHOES!
SALLY FITZ-GIBBON
ILLUSTRATIONS: FARIDA ZAMAN
 MARKHAM, ONT.: FITZHENRY & WHITESIDE, 2002. 32 P.
 ISBN 1550417290 (BOUND)
 ISBN 1550417312 (PAPERBACK)
AGES 3 TO 6



Many children will be able to recognize themselves in this poem, in which an excited little girl steps out in a special new pair of blue and magical shoes:

“Two shoes, blue shoes, new shoes / See what I can do, shoes!”

She heads out into the city, where her shoes can do everything – skip down the street, jump off a log or tap out a tune. She also encounters strange animals: a purple frog, a whale, and an antelope that swings from a rope.

The rhythmic and lyrical verse is simple, catchy and printed over the double-page, panoramic illustrations. The watercolour work of Farida Zaman is vivid, expressive and full of energy, capturing the spirit of the little girl’s adventures.

The complete poem is repeated at the end of the book, one that children will likely want to read over and over again. –AC



**VOICES FROM THE WILD:
AN ANIMAL SENSAGORIA**
DAVID BOUCHARD

ILLUSTRATIONS: RON PARKER
VANCOUVER: RAINCOAST BOOKS, 1996.
65 P.
ISBN 1551920409
AGES 11 AND UP



This collection features 25 sophisticated poems about wild animals, such as the cougar, sea otter, moose and eagle. The book is divided into five sections: Sight, Smell, Touch, Hearing and Taste. Each section features five animals, and how a particular sense serves them in the natural world.

In Sight, for example, the great horned owl decrees “Who is there Who dares forget me? / Who is there Who dares not know me? / Know how dangerous is the old owl / Know my vision in the dark.”

The book offers a diverse and informative look at nature’s many inhabitants, increasing the reader’s awareness of how precious wildlife is.

A full-page realistic acrylic painting of the featured animal in its natural setting complements each poem. An illustrated appendix provides factual information about each animal.

Voices from the Wild: An Animal Sensagoria was awarded the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award in 1997. –AC



WE’LL ALL GO FLYING
MAGGEE SPICER AND
RICHARD THOMPSON

ILLUSTRATIONS: KIM LAFAVE
MARKHAM, ONT.: FITZHENRY
& WHITESIDE, 2002. 30 P.
ISBN 1550416987
AGES 3 TO 7



The writers-illustrator team of Maggee Spicer, Richard Thompson and Kim LaFave has teamed up for another picture book in the series *We’ll All Go*. In *We’ll All Go Flying*, the three intrepid young friends explore the wide-open sky in a hot-air balloon. They spy clouds, a jet plane, hawks, bats and drift over a town and some mountains. On every second page is a folded inlay asking the reader what might be revealed behind it:

“We’ll all go flying / In the morning sky, / And what will we spy / In the sky so high?”

Then the reader lifts the flap to discover the answer:

“Five wind-dancer kites / And a red balloon! / That’s what we’ll spy / In the midday sky,” or
“Six pea green parrots / And a

loud toucan! / That’s what we’ll spy / In the jungle sky.”

The text is thematic with simple, descriptive rhymes, making the book ideal for group activity as well as private reading.

Kim LaFave’s illustrations are appealingly bright and vibrant. –AC

WHEN THEY ARE UP...
MAGGEE SPICER AND
RICHARD THOMPSON

ILLUSTRATIONS:
KIRSTI ANNE WAKELIN
MARKHAM, ONT.: FITZHENRY
& WHITESIDE, 2004, 30 P.
ISBN 155041707X (BOUND)
ISBN 1550417096 (PAPERBACK)
AGES 5 TO 8



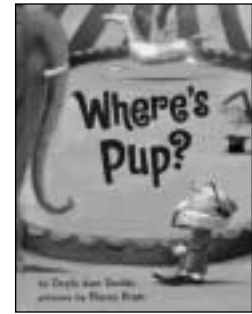
Historical uncertainty over just who inspired the traditional English verse “The Grand Old Duke of York” (some believe it was the second son of George III, others say it was Richard III’s father) will not distract those reading this book. The parody offered here by Maggee Spicer and Richard Thompson lends its own grand nonsense to what they portray as the decidedly madcap adventures of the Duke and his men.

When They Are Up... follows the antics of a group of soldiers who are quite unknown to battle. They march up and down the mountain performing whatever outrageous acts the authors have seen fit to write about. Knitting overcoats for rocks or catching armadillos in bags, these soldiers differ greatly from the real thing.

Kirsti Anne Wakelin’s beautiful illustrations portray the Duke’s men like figures on a deck of cards, with elegant, themed art in the margins. –TC

WHERE’S PUP?
DAYLE ANN DODDS

ILLUSTRATIONS: PIERRE PRATT
TORONTO: TUNDRA BOOKS, 2003. 30 P.
ISBN 0887766226
AGES 3 TO 6



A clown is searching everywhere for Pup, his missing dog. He asks all the circus performers if they know where Pup is, to which they reply using simple rhyming phrases: “Don’t know / Go ask Jo / She’s feeding Mo,” or “No guess / Go ask Jess / He’s training Bess.”

The reader meets silly characters and is introduced to various circus acts: a magician sawing a lady in half, a mouse jumping through a hoop, two trapeze artists and a horseback rider among them.

The acrylic illustrations are simple, captivating and funny; whether it be a gorilla wearing a polka-dot bib or a goggle-sporting pig that is about to be shot out of a cannon, artist Pierre Pratt uses bright oranges, reds and blues to evoke the curious world of the circus.

At the end, the clown finally discovers his beloved dog (a foldout page reveals Pup at the top of a human pyramid).

Dodd’s rhyming text and Pratt’s expressive illustrations make *Where’s Pup?* a great interactive book of humour and playful suspense. –AC

Poetry

ENGLISH TITLES IN ALTERNATE FORMATS

The following titles are available from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) Library in Toronto.

CATMAGIC
LORIS LESYNSKI
AGES 4 TO 7

Arabelle Witch is all set to move into the Witches' Retirement Home – until she finds out that her cat, Izzy, isn't welcome. When Izzy is allowed in, under the condition that he stay out of the way, things get very chaotic. Will Izzy and the witches figure out a way to live together?

FORMATS:
DAISY talking book on CD, recorded cassette, printbraille, and online digital audio through the CNIB Digital Library Web site.

THE ICE CREAM STORE: POEMS
DENNIS LEE
AGES 5 TO 9

Nonsense poems featuring children from Europe, Asia, Africa, Central and South America, the West Indies, Canada and even Mars.

FORMATS:
DAISY talking book on CD, recorded cassette, Braille, and online digital audio through the CNIB Digital Library Web site.

**IN FLANDERS FIELDS:
THE STORY OF THE POEM**
BY JOHN McCRAE
LINDA GRANFIELD
AGES 8 AND UP

The poem "In Flanders Fields" is one of the most famous war poems ever written. This book contains the poem, as well as the story of John McCrae, the Canadian doctor who wrote it, and how the poem came to be written.

FORMATS:
DAISY talking book on CD, recorded cassette, and online digital audio through the CNIB Digital Library Web site.

MABEL MURPLE
SHEREE FITCH
ILLUSTRATION: MARYANN KOVALSKI
AGES 4 TO 10

What if there was a purple planet with purple people on it? And Mabel Murple, who was also purple, with a purple bike and a purple poodle, what would she be like?

FORMAT:
printbraille

**WHAT WILL THE ROBIN DO
THEN? WINTER TALES**
JEAN LITTLE
AGES 12 TO 14

A collection of stories and poems celebrating every phase of winter, from the last leaves

of autumn to the first flowers of spring; Dinah must part with a dog she helped train for the blind; Daniel and Dave adjust to a new step-father; life in the country with a difficult cousin; and the story of Charlotte, a girl whose family doesn't believe in winter holidays and who discovers her own way to celebrate January.

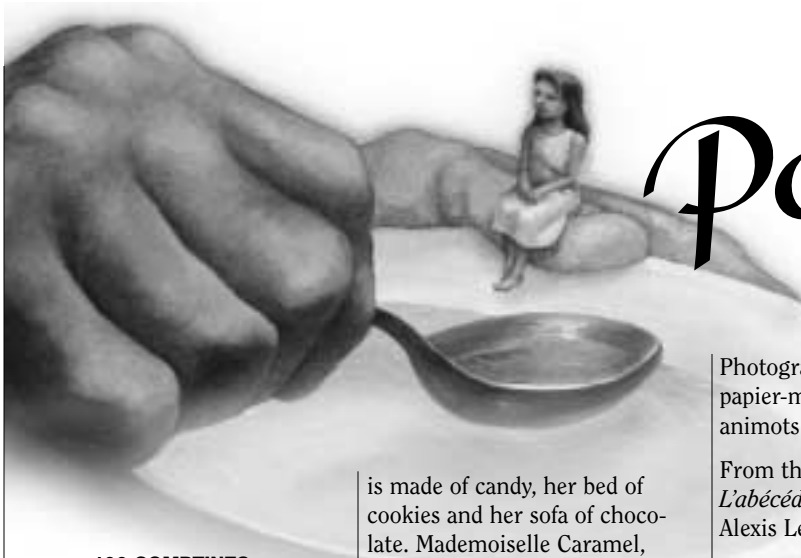
FORMATS:
DAISY talking book on CD, recorded cassette, Braille, and online digital audio through the CNIB Digital Library Web site.

To Contact the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)

Canadian National Institute for the Blind Library
1929 Bayview Avenue
Toronto ON M4G 3E8
(416) 480-7520
1 800 268-8818
Fax: (416) 480-7700
E-mail: webmaster@cnib.ca
Web site: www.cnib.ca

Poetry

FRENCH TITLES



100 COMPTINES
HENRIETTE MAJOR
ILLUSTRATIONS:
CHRISTIANE BEAUREGARD ET AL.
MONTRÉAL: FIDES, 1999. 127 P.
AND 1 COMPACT DISC (44 MIN. 47 SEC.)
ISBN 2762120829
AGES 3 TO 8



In this recent collection of poetry, Henriette Major regales readers with original and traditional nursery rhymes from Quebec, France and other French-speaking parts of the world. The rhymes just beg to be hummed, acted out or sung aloud for the sheer pleasure of perpetuating the oral tradition. As well as delighting young audiences, this selection of short poems will appeal to parents, grandparents and teachers alike. Free translations of a few of the verses convey the mood. Some make us feel like going for a swim: "Little seabird, tell me, is the water chilly? I'll catch you by your feathers frilly." Others make us giggle: "Me, I like to be tickle-ickle-ickled! Me, I like to be hug-huggy-hugged!" And some make our mouths water: "Mademoiselle Caramel's house

is made of candy, her bed of cookies and her sofa of chocolate. Mademoiselle Caramel, your house is good." These rhymes are so catchy you'll find yourself singing them at the most unexpected moments! —ANC

L'ABÉCÉDAIRE DES ANIMOTS
MARJOLAINE BONENFANT AND
ROBERT SOULIÈRES
PHOTOGRAPHS: DANIEL ROUSSEL
GRAPHIC DESIGN: HÉLÈNE BELLEY
QUÉBEC: LES HEURES BLEUES,
2000. 58 P.
ISBN 2922265129
AGES 9 TO 12



By fusing the names of animals and occupations, *L'abécédaire des animots* introduces children to 26 very special beings – the *ânesséthésiste* (donkey-anaesthetist), for example, and the *zèbricoleur* (zebra-handyman) – each one funnier than the last and each wearing clothes appropriate to their job. The rest of us might find it all a bit odd, but children will be thrilled to see their favourite animals busy at work. And as well as perfecting their alphabet, they'll get a chance to learn more about several exotic animal species.

Photographs of marvellous papier-mâché sculptures of the animots enhance the texts.

From the same publisher: *L'abécédaire des robots*, by Alexis Lefrançois.

L'abécédaire des animots was included in the exhibition *Beyond the Letters: A Retrospective of Canadian Alphabet Books*, organized as part of the International Forum on Canadian Children's Literature, hosted in Ottawa in June 2003 by Library and Archives Canada. The virtual exhibition is still accessible at the following Web site: www.collectionscanada.ca/abc. —CM

L'ABÉCÉDAIRE DES ROBOTS
ALEXIS LEFRANÇOIS
CHARACTERS: JACQUES THISDEL
PHOTOGRAPHS: CLAIRE DUFOUR
QUÉBEC: LES HEURES BLEUES,
1999. 57 P.
ISBN 2922265110
AGES 9 TO 12



The players in this delightfully witty ABC book are robots created out of papier-mâché by Jacques Thisdel. Each robot represents one of the 26 letters in the alphabet, but instead of appearing at the beginning of the robot's name the letter falls somewhere within it, set off by a typeface that differs in some creative way from the other

letters. *L'abécédaire des robots* thus introduces readers to the letter A with the word "roboA" and the letter B with the word "roBobo."

The poems by Alexis Lefrançois present each character in a whirlwind of wordplay, multi-level references and humour, and the content of the fast-moving verses is lively and amusing. In the poem about the roboA, for example, there's a subtle allusion to the snake in the Garden of Eden, and the roboTTine is said to have a penchant for kicking!

L'abécédaire des robots is suitable for a wide range of ages, since its various reading levels can be decoded by young children or preteens in the context of French, visual arts or integrated arts courses.

From the same publisher: *L'abécédaire des animots*, by Marjolaine Bonenfant and Robert Soulières.

L'abécédaire des robots was included in the exhibition *Beyond the Letters: A Retrospective of Canadian Alphabet Books*, organized as part of the International Forum on Canadian Children's Literature, hosted in Ottawa in June 2003 by Library and Archives Canada. The virtual exhibition is still accessible at the following Web site: www.collectionscanada.ca/abc. —JP

AUTOMNE ! AUTOMNE !

ANDRÉ DUHAIME

ILLUSTRATIONS: FRANCINE COUTURE
SAINT-BONIFACE, MAN.: ÉDITIONS DES
PLAINES, 2002. 25 P.
ISBN 2921353806
AGES 3 TO 6



André Duhaime, author of *Haïku sans frontières* (Éditions David, 1998), specializes in haiku, a classical form of Japanese poetry consisting of just three lines. His collection entitled *Automne ! Automne !*, part of a series on the four seasons in northern climes, contains 12 full-page colour illustrations and 18 poems.

The original vision of illustrator Francine Couture magnifies some of the objects depicted, exaggerating their proportions to striking effect. Her drawings conjure the world of two children – a world filled with things floating or whirling in the wind.

Alternating with the gently swirling images, the short poems evoke the moods of autumn and the changes it brings about in both nature and people: “From morning till night / You must find something to do / The rain has not stopped.” Fall is the season of earthy smells, crisp air, dead leaves, violent winds and the torrential rains that sometimes, ambushed by the cold, turn into the first snow.

The character of autumn is memorably portrayed here in simple, poetic language and dynamic pictures. –JMB

AUTOUR DE GABRIELLE

ÉDITH BOURGET

ILLUSTRATIONS: GENEVIÈVE CÔTÉ
SAINT-LAMBERT, QUE.: SOULIÈRES
ÉDITEUR, 2003. 62 P.
ISBN 2922225941
AGES 7 TO 9



Setting off to explore the world with no guide other than a collection of poems is the adventure that Édith Bourget offers her readers. In some 30 poems, Gabrielle, who “Lives in a white house / Surrounded by a big garden,” invites us to roam with her along the route the verses trace across the page. In a tornado of freshness and feeling, she draws us into her world – a poetic universe inhabited by her family and her cat, but also shaped by the spectacle of a storm and the rhythm of life’s songs. The simple but powerful illustrations, all in tones of blue, bring to life a delightful rural setting. –DSH

**AUTOUR DE LA LUNE :
30 CONTES POUR MIEUX RÉVER**

GILLES TIBO

**ILLUSTRATIONS: STÉPHANE JORISCH
ET AL.**
SAINT-LAMBERT, QUE: DOMINIQUE ET
COMPAGNIE, 2002. 30 P.
ISBN 2895122490 (BOUND)
ISBN 2895122482 (PAPERBACK)
AGES 6 TO 9



In this collection, around 30 lively poems by Gilles Tibo on the theme of the moon are combined with pictures by five well-known illustrators: Stéphane Jorisich, Marie Lafrance, Mireille Levert, Luc Melanson and Stéphane Poulin. A celebrated author and talented illustrator who has won many awards, Gilles Tibo is a leading figure in the world of children’s literature.

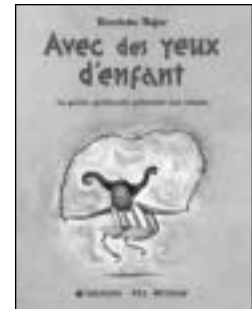
These texts are ideal for reading aloud. One, entitled “La lune de papier,” explains how poets have always yearned to write lengthy love poems on the “paper moon.” Another, “Les ballons blancs,” tells of moonless nights when children of all colours dream they are walking, hand in hand, beneath

a sky filled with huge white balloons. The texts themselves arouse young imaginations and encourage a taste for words and poetry, while the full-page illustrations, packed with fascinating detail, bring a marvelous sense of fantasy to the whole. The pictures have been created in a range of techniques and styles, and each one has a powerful narrative component that permits readers to anticipate the subject of the accompanying text.

In this large-format book, both texts and illustrations can be approached at different levels of reading and understanding. *Autour de la lune* is a beautiful publication that can be read and looked at many times over – an endless source of pleasure for the young and the not so young. –AC

**AVEC DES YEUX D'ENFANT.
LA POÉSIE QUÉBÉCOISE
PRÉSENTÉE AUX ENFANTS**

HENRIETTE MAJOR
ILLUSTRATIONS: MARC MONGEAU
MONTREAL: ÉDITIONS DE
L'HEXAGONE / VLB, 2000. 166 P.
ISBN 2890066347
AGES 8 TO 12



In her quest for that “pearl, the poem that ‘speaks’ to children,” Henriette Major, a writer of school textbooks and specialist in children’s literature, has created this unique anthology which presents 124 poems and 72 selected Quebec authors to children, their parents and their teachers.

The compiler stresses that her aim was not to produce a collection of poems written specifically for children but



rather to present a “fresh view of the world,” one that she feels young people and poets share. To help readers negotiate their way through this treasury, the poems – some of which have never been published before – are presented under 10 themes that include such evocative titles as “Poem Trees,” “Play and Poetry” and “It’s Snowing Poems.”

The coloured illustrations that link the various sections are both inspiring and original, while other amusing and appealing pictures enhance the texts throughout the book. In his acrobatic approach to the alphabet, well-known illustrator Marc Mongeau gives entirely new meaning to the term ‘wordplay!’ –JMB

AVERSES ET RÉGLISSES NOIRES

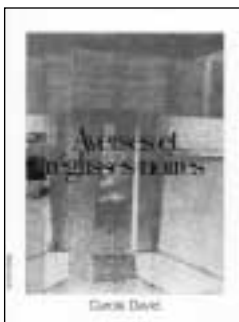
CAROLE DAVID

LITHOGRAPHS: KIKI ATHANASSIADIS

MONTREAL: LA COURTE ÉCHELLE,
2003. 34 P.

ISBN 2890216748

AGES 13 AND UP



With *Averses et réglisses noires*, Carole David, winner of the Prix Émile-Nelligan, presents her first collection of poems intended specifically for teenagers. The essence of this poetry lies in metamorphosis, the search for the other – always ephemeral, receptive to what is beyond understanding, eager for a future world where child and adult will move forward in harmony. In a succession of strokes, *Averses et réglisses noires* portrays that uncharted land, that void bursting with life, that joy



suffused with terror that is adolescence. A mute anguish sometimes deepens the sense of loss that emanates from this choppy, urban language. But once the desert has been crossed, we discern through the darkness the delicate glimmer of a face, the echo of a word. Every sentence seems to illuminate the next in this fragment of a life yet to be invented.

The collection is illustrated throughout with lithographs by artist Kiki Athanassiadis, each symbolizing a window opening from the realm of poetry onto the world, each a kind of sign that inspires reflection. –DSH

CRINIÈRE AU VENT. POÉSIES DU CANADA FRANCOPHONE
MARCEL OLSKAMP

ILLUSTRATIONS: CAROLINE MEROLA

LASALLE, QUE: HURTUBISE HMH,
1995. 85 P.

ISBN 2713016363 (BOUND)

ISBN 2894280882 (PAPERBACK)

AGES 13 AND UP



For the pleasure of discovering the contemporary poetry of Francophone Canada, nothing can beat this short anthology of around 50 poems, presented in six sections whose titles translate roughly as “A Menagerie of Words,” “Love and the Everyday,” “Seasons,” “The Revolving Planet,” “Where Are You, Life?” and “A Dreamer Passes.”

Each section opens with a 19th-century poet, and the writers as a whole, hailing from Manitoba to New Brunswick, represent a range of Canadian experience and include new Canadians and members of First Nations. The collection encompasses free and more traditional verse, some rhyming, some not, although the phonic wordplay and rhythms have a definitely modern flavour. This is reinforced in both the themes (animals and the art of writing, for example) and the forms (most notably in a few poems that are punctuation-free). But readers are invited to share in a variety of creative visions, approaches and styles.

Caroline Merola’s snappy and original black-and-white illustrations instil a sense of pace but also offer certain interpretative pointers, the iconographical vocabulary serving to complement the language of the poets. –BF

**CROQUE-MUSIQUE :
20 COMPTINES POUR CHANTER
ET DANSER**

JOCELYNE LABERGE

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEVE BESHWATY

ET AL.

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS:

ALAIN BLAIS

SAINT-LAMBERT, QUE: DOMINIQUE

ET COMPAGNIE, 2001. 48 P.

AND 1 COMPACT DISC

ISBN 2895122075

AGES 3 TO 7



This book and its accompanying CD feature 20 nursery rhymes for children from three to seven years old. A few of the rhymes – such as “Am Stram Gram” and “Trotte, trotte la souris” – are traditional, while others are brand new. In the book, each is coupled with a picture by an acclaimed illustrator. We encounter the endearing toads, dragonflies and birds that flow from Steve Beshwaty’s colourful brush. Marie-Louise Gay displays her talents as a magician in marvellously subtle collages: the cat with the fish-shaped eyes and the froggy opera diva with her musical-score dress are moments of pure visual poetry.

The sweet softness of Mireille Levert’s pictorial universe incorporates entertaining picture riddles, but the big bad wolf still lurks, ready to send shivers down young spines. Stéphane Jorisch’s dreamy world is gentle and full of fantasy: shoes become flying machines and a snail’s shell morphs easily into a fabulous dwelling.

The CD’s energetically sung versions of the rhymes provide a perfect complement to the book, and each one is followed by a sung musical dictation designed to help small children learn the tune.

A section at the end of the book contains suggestions for a number of teaching activities, including rhythm and sound exercises, musical games and dances. All in all, a book-CD combination that is ideal for day-care centres, nursery schools and kindergartens. —JP

**DEUX SQUELETTES
AU TÉLÉPHONE**

PAUL DUGGAN

ILLUSTRATIONS: DANIEL SYLVESTRE

MONTREAL: LA COURTE ÉCHELLE,
2003. 32 P.

ISBN 2890216772

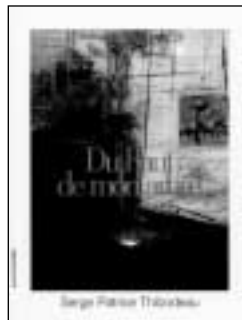
AGES 4 TO 8

Available in English under the title
Murphy the Rat: Tales of Tough City
(Red Deer, Alta.: Reed Deer College
Press, 1992)



This collection of short poems may unnerve the bravest of readers, for Raoul the Rat, Monsieur Unijambiste, Les Frères Fréron, Maurice the Fireman and the rest of the crowd inhabit a realm that is sometimes funny but often dark, and almost always a little bizarre. Monique Grandmangin's translation does full justice to the original text, cleverly capturing the (we have to admit) somewhat tortured imagination of its author. The vocabulary, rhythm and metaphors are right on the nose. And the illustrations! Our friend Raoul the Rat must feel right at home in the colourful but exceedingly strange world portrayed. People with a rather special sense of humour will find *Deux squelettes au téléphone* hilarious. —NS

DU HAUT DE MON ARBRE
SERGE PATRICE THIBODEAU
ETCHINGS: JACINTHE TÉTRAULT
MONTREAL: LA COURTE ÉCHELLE,
2002. 39 P.
ISBN 2890215911
AGES 13 AND UP



The books in the poetry collection published by La courte échelle are beautifully designed and illustrated. In this particular example, Jacinthe Tétrault's etchings resemble blow-ups of microscopic images of the bark, knots and cross-sections of a tree.

Du haut de mon arbre is a map that takes readers on a stationary voyage. The narrator explores the complex symbolism of the tree – a source of stability and refuge but also of dreams.

Readers travel with the narrator at the top of the tree, the crow's nest of a ship that does not move. And as we read, we fall back in the snow, forming an angel, the stars above guiding us on a journey whose rhythm alters with the passing seasons. From the stasis and hibernation of winter, which "lazily draws itself out," we pass to the burgeoning explosion of spring. This is the moment when we meet the narrator's father, a woodworker

whose skilful hands and steady character are frequently associated with the tree as refuge.

A lexicon of regional words, words in Malecite (an Algonquian language) and specialized terminology complete this fine book.

The work of poet Serge Patrice Thibodeau has earned him numerous honours, including the 1996 Governor General's Literary Award. He travels around the world in his work for Amnesty International. This book, perfect for young naturalists and dreamers, is at once an exploration of poetry and a tribute to nature. —JP

LA FILLE ORANGE
GERMAINE MORNARD
ILLUSTRATIONS: CATHERINE FARISH
MONTREAL: LA COURTE ÉCHELLE,
2003. 35 P.
ISBN 2890216233
AGES 13 AND UP



Sarah, heroine of Germaine Mornard's *La fille orange*, is a complex character: with her cut-off jeans, scruffy look and off-hand manner, she sometimes comes across as a surly rebel, while at other times this musical girl seems full of laughter. She's about as hard to grasp as the memory of a dream lying just at the edges of the mind.

The torrent of warm, sensual colours, the longing to escape, the passion for music, the impossible, broken friendship chronicled in these texts are conjured in a poetry filled with unusual juxtapositions and odd images: "Alone among the

squirrels / I fly on the trapeze / My absent afternoons... twirling through the night in the shreds / Of a forgotten coat."

Catherine Farish's orange-toned cover etching is splendid, although those inside the book unfortunately lose much of their impact in the black-and-white reproductions. But, unobtrusive and scarce, they are an accurate reflection of Sarah, who, despite a sometimes-glowing presence and an intriguing halo of mystery, seems to slip through our fingers. —JMB

**GROSSE SEMAINE,
PETITE SOURIS !**
EUGENIE FERNANDES
ILLUSTRATIONS: KIM FERNANDES
MARKHAM, ONT.: ÉDITIONS
SCHOLASTIC, 2004. 24 P.
ISBN 0439966000
AGES 2 TO 5
Available in English under the title
Big Week for Little Mouse (Toronto:
Kids Can Press, 2004)



Eugenie Fernandes's charming series recounts the adventures of an endearing young mouse.

This time, Little Mouse's birthday is coming up and she has only a week to prepare her party. She's going to be busy. Will everything be ready in time?

The story of *Grosse semaine, petite souris !*, told in fast-paced rhyming verse, can be used to teach young children the days of the week and opposites, both of which appear in bold typeface. On Monday, for example, Little Mouse washes the floor, energetically pushing and pulling her mop.

The pages of simple text alternate with illustrations featuring stunning Fimo artwork by Kim Fernandes. The marvellously colourful pictures, brimful

with detail, just beg to be pored over. Reading and looking at this attractive book can help children broaden their vocabulary and learn new concepts while having fun!

The other two books in the series are *Une souris grise* and *Grosse journée, petite souris!* (available in English under the titles *One Grey Mouse* and *Busy Little Mouse*). —AC

J'AI ME LES POÈMES

HENRIETTE MAJOR
ILLUSTRATIONS: PHILIPPE BÉHA
 MONTRÉAL: HURTUBISE HMH,
 2002. 87 P.
 ISBN 2894286082
AGES 5 TO 9

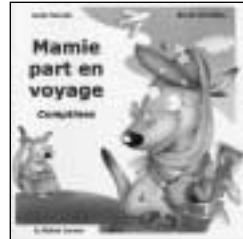


Poetry is currently experiencing a resurgence in popularity, and young people are increasingly interested in the genre. Luckily for them, Henriette Major has contributed to this revival with a collection of poems that shares her love of words.

The poems are grouped under four themes: playing with words, expressing emotion, praising nature and celebrating the imagination. The book also offers a myriad of brightly coloured pictures created using diverse techniques, including watercolour and collage. In some of the more subtle illustrations we see traces of the artist's fingerprints, while others feature magnified faces dominated by Philippe Béha's signature motif, the eye.

The reader is positively bombarded with words and images, and with each picture the illustrator has skilfully zeroed in on the essence of the text. Exquisitely designed, this book is sure to be enjoyed by all. —ST

MAMIE PART EN VOYAGE.
COMPTINES
ANDRÉ HAMELIN
ILLUSTRATIONS: BENOÎT LAVERDIÈRE
 MONT-ROYAL, QUE.:
 MODULO JEUNESSE, 2001. 24 P.
 (LE RATON LAVEUR)
 ISBN 2920660640
AGES 3 TO 7



With its promise of unexpected encounters and new discoveries, the theme of travel is always a popular one. In *Mamie part en voyage*, the illustrations play a major role and the general mood is festive: anything and everything is an excuse for dancing, making music and singing. André Hamelin's collection includes 21 nursery rhymes, some quite delightful. Wordplay is everywhere, and children will be tickled by the surprising rhymes and exaggerated liaisons.

In her travels across the world, Granny – the *Mamie* of the title – meets domestic and exotic animals of all descriptions. The funny happenings and cartoon-style drawings make this joyful menagerie entirely appealing, despite some dangerously large teeth and matching appetites!

Between them, author and illustrator show young readers what it takes to be a good traveller: absorb the rhythm of your surroundings, be ready to have fun, and be open to the customs and traditions of the countries you visit. —JMB

LA MARATHONIENNE
DENISE DESAUTELS
PRINTS: MARIA CHRONOPOULOS
 MONTRÉAL: LA COURTE ÉCHELLE,
 2003. 38 P.
 ISBN 289021673X
AGES 13 AND UP



This collection of fast-moving poems allows us to accompany a young girl on her daily run through a park, offering in the process fascinating glimpses into her life and fears. Her regular marathon soon becomes an escape, a running away that has no goal but the desire to be somewhere else, in some mythical place where, with “an uncluttered, airy head and just enough wind to satisfy a longing to fly,” she can forget her troubles.

As she bolts, she encounters people with whom she never seems to connect, who remain strangers despite their sympathy for her dream of love. She yearns for the consolations of romance, for that other presence that will ease her suffering. In her quest, she realizes she must ultimately renounce silence and find the words that will take her towards that other “voice that perches, victorious, on the topmost branch.”

Denise Desautels paints an intricately observed and compassionate picture of the experiences and emotions shared by many teenage girls. This highly regarded poet has won numerous awards for her work, including the 1993 Governor General's Literary Award and the Prix de la Société des

écrivains canadiens. The etchings and lithographs by Maria Chronopoulos, also well worth noting, reinforce the spirit of the texts and occasionally add a slightly gothic flavour. —SJ

LA MER EN DEVINETTES
JOHANNE GAGNÉ
ILLUSTRATIONS: HÉLÈNE BOULIANE
 MONTRÉAL: LES 400 COUPS, 2001. 32 P.
 ISBN 2895400016
AGES 7 TO 9



As the title suggests, the 14 humorous and musically rhythmic poems in *La mer en devinettes* are chock full of puzzles and riddles. The answers, as well as being provided at the end of the book, are revealed in two-page spread illustrations. Cartoon-like in style, the images are done in brilliant colours – predominantly aquamarine and orange by turns – that are sure to grab children's attention. Most of the pictures show sea creatures of one kind or another, thus providing a useful tool for teaching youngsters about the marine world.

The book's vertical format seems to echo the unfathomed depths of an ocean; it's a thrill to explore, even if we're still a little afraid of the water... —CM

**MINE DE RIEN. COMPTINES
& POÉSIES**
FABIENNE GAGNON
ILLUSTRATIONS: MÉLI
LAC-BEAUPORT, QUE.: ACADEMIE
IMPACT, 2003. 63 P.
ISBN 2922762351
AGES 5 TO 9



As you begin turning the pages of *Mine de rien. Comptines & poésies*, you'll discover a wealth of unique characters woven into amusing little tales that pay verbal tribute to all sorts of animals, fruits and vegetables. Twisty plots and sudden surprises follow in a series of fantastical stories that will have children bubbling with laughter. The book ends with a series of poems about various aspects of the natural world, celestial and terrestrial, that slow the pace and encourage reverie.

The texts have been cleverly integrated into painter Mélisandre Lafond's naïve-



style illustrations, which occupy a large proportion of this attractive book. —CM

NI VU NI CONNU
LOUISE DESJARDINS
ILLUSTRATIONS: MARC SÉGUIN
MONTREAL: LA COURTE ÉCHELLE,
2002. 33 P.
ISBN 2890215938
AGES 13 AND UP



In this marvellous collection of poems, filled with a melancholy and a torment that are generally lightened by a glimmer of hope, Louise Desjardins has excelled in capturing a teenage girl's state of mind. The book, which at first seems a little disjointed due to the complete absence of punctuation, recounts the existential voyage of a lonely, troubled girl. Each text slides like a knife into her day-to-day existence, bringing to light her fears and preoccupations. Louise Desjardins casts a poetic but ruthlessly realistic

eye over the family, school and social environment of a contemporary teenager facing a variety of situations – some difficult, some funny – at this crucial turning point in her life. In a sequence of very short verses and in a style relying heavily on metaphor and ellipsis, the poet has fashioned a world that is deep, dark and unique. The book is soberly illustrated by the magnificent etchings of well-known printmaker Marc Séguin. With its black-and-white images and classical presentation (text and illustration on facing pages), this is a truly artistic book. —BF

L'OISEAU TATOUÉ
HERMÉNÉGILDE CHIASSON
ILLUSTRATIONS: DAVID LAFRANCE
MONTREAL: LA COURTE ÉCHELLE,
2003. 39 P.
ISBN 2890216756
AGES 13 AND UP



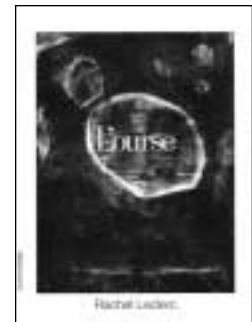
The Acadian poet Herménégilde Chiasson, who was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick in August 2003, has earned many honours, including the 1999 Governor General's Literary Award for his collection of poems entitled *Conversations*. In *L'oiseau tatoué*, he takes us on a nocturnal walk in the company of a young musician. Trapped in solitude, the young man searches desperately for love, affection and musical inspiration. "All that unborn music," he broods, "that I have yet to hear."

The protagonist's mental world seems dominated by the cacophony of his surroundings: "At this crossroads / all sounds

merge ... the shadows of things shift / every sound swells." But around him, "morning noises / a murmuring of voices" thrust him back into the reality of a hectic world: "A car's horn restores me to my century / the blue and pink and red and yellow / of endlessly flashing signs."

David Lafrance's etchings, 12 in all, blend beautifully with the chiaroscuro of this sleepless night, drawing their haunted figures out of the distorting darkness. —JMB

L'OURSE
RACHEL LECLERC
LITHOGRAPHS: DANIEL SYLVESTRE
MONTREAL: LA COURTE ÉCHELLE,
2002. 37 P.
ISBN 2890215563
AGES 13 AND UP



"I am a bear and a girl, for inside my head a storm silently rages."

The adolescent heroine of Rachel Leclerc's book *L'ourse*, rebellious and secretive, struggles with emotions that seem to tear her apart. She wonders about life and about her own life, her inner world and the world around her. She longs passionately to find the key to the mystery of existence.

Her classmates have nicknamed her "l'ourse" or "the bear," perhaps because they sense something wild about her, perhaps because she's somewhat antisocial.

But while on this earth we must, despite our fragility, stand firm and resist. The bear, after all, is also a symbol of strength, of life and of renewal.

Among the major honours awarded to Rachel Leclerc for her poetry are a couple that celebrate the names of two great poets who have marked the history of Quebec literature: the Prix Émile-Nelligan (1991) and the Prix Alain-Grandbois (1994). —MD

LA PAROLE NOMADE.
POÉSIES FRANCOPHONES
 BERNARD MAGNIER
 ILLUSTRATIONS: STÉPHANE JORISCH
 LASALLE, QUE: HURTUBISE HMH,
 1995. 86 P.
 ISBN 2894280610
 AGES 13 AND UP



This anthology brings together works by 37 poets from various French-speaking regions of the world. The group includes poets from Lebanon, France, Switzerland, Belgium and the Caribbean and features 15 writers from Africa. Quebec is represented by Gilles Vigneault, Louise Dupré, Mona Latif-Ghattas, Nadine Ltaif, Pierre Morency and Bernard Pozier.

Each poem is accompanied by a biography of its author, and the collection is grouped under five main themes that revolve around the notions of homeland and exile. Some writers explore the idea of belonging, while others offer musings on the world, anger, writing, and the impact of words and poetry. Whatever the theme, the voices are powerful and widely diverse. On the subject

of belonging, the editor has selected Gilles Vigneault's famous poem "Mon pays, ce n'est pas un pays, c'est l'hiver" (My country is not a country, it is the winter). Under the same heading, Mona Latif-Ghattas sings the praises of Montréal in "Concerto pour une île," while the Mauritanian poet Idoumou Lemine speaks sadly of a "country in distress / buried beneath the far-off sand." In the section devoted to anger, Nadine Ltaif expresses the pain of exile and of "dying free but rootless."

La parole nomade is illustrated by roughly 30 pen-and-ink drawings by Stéphane Jorsch. These vigorously sketched images portray a series of rather disquieting characters, either beaked or masked, shown full-face, in profile, or occasionally seated and gazing towards a painting/window.

This anthology presents teenagers with a broad selection of French-language poetry that offers glimpses into a number of different cultures and encourages reflection on the ideas of exile and immigration. —JP

PLAISIRS DE VACANCES
 ROGER PARÉ AND
 BERTRAND GAUTHIER
 ILLUSTRATIONS: ROGER PARÉ
 MONTRÉAL: LA COURTE ÉCHELLE,
 1995. 24 P.
 (PLAISIRS; 7)
 ISBN 289021253X
 AGES 3 TO 6

Available in English under the title
On the Go (Toronto: Annick Press, 1996)



As we open this large book, we are struck first by the full-page illustrations (one facing each four-line page of text), which picture the two mice, Mimi and Lili, as they embark on

their vacation. No destination is too exotic for them, and no activity too daunting. They go on a photo-safari, they take advantage of a glorious summer's day to go butterfly catching in the countryside, they go rock climbing, and they even take a trip in a hot-air balloon! While the details of the narrative are captured in the illustrations, the short texts by Bertrand Gauthier and Roger Paré, in large typeface, serve to stimulate the young imagination and establish a poetic mood. —ST

LES PLUS BEAUX POÈMES DES ENFANTS DU QUÉBEC
 MONTRÉAL: ÉDITIONS DE
 L'HEXAGONE / VLB, 2002. 175 P.
 ISBN 2890066770
 AGES 9 TO 12



This collection of verse was selected in 2001–2002 from among 17 000 poems written by Quebec schoolchildren between the ages of eight and 12. The many themes include time, writing, flowers, the moon, love, difference, wind and bicycles. Taking evident delight in playing with words, the young authors employ a host of amusing and inventive turns of phrase. Sometimes the words are sad and heavy with meaning; sometimes they reflect an awareness or introspection.

At first glance the book resembles a traditional school exercise book, where we might pen our own poetic efforts. But its superb graphic design does full justice to the richness of the young poets' texts, presenting

each one to best advantage. On one side, the words cluster against a highly coloured background, while on the other the eye is drawn by a close-up of some element of the illustration. Page after page, as new poems and new pictures are revealed, we remain captivated. —ST

QUE FERAIS-JE DU JOUR
 MARTINE AUDET
 LITHOGRAPHS: DANIEL SYLVESTRE
 MONTRÉAL: LA COURTE ÉCHELLE,
 2003. 39 P.
 ISBN 2890216217
 AGES 13 AND UP



Short-listed for the 2000 Governor General's Literary Award for her collection *Orbites*, Martine Audet has garnered a number of poetry prizes, including the Prix Alain-Grandbois and the Prix Alphonse-Piché. She is clearly deeply interested in the genre, for aside from her own compositions she has included a few verses by famous poets in *Que ferais-je du jour*.

A troubled soul seeks the ideal refuge. At night there is greater freedom and contacts seem to come more easily, in contrast to daytime, when harsh reality paralyzes. This painful quest for identity is marked by the constant contrast between darkness and light, death and life, silence and speech. Some of the observations are surprisingly direct: "It's not so terrible / an empty day / first / and as carefully as possible / I experience nothing." Or: "The world is not what I imagine / it shapes the sharp glass / of a poem."

Daniel Sylvestre's abstract lithographs seem to echo the haziness of this nocturnal atmosphere, and his skilful use of chiaroscuro conjures the melancholy of someone sick at heart. —JMB

SI TU ALLAIS QUELQUE PART
PAUL CHANEL MALENFANT
ILLUSTRATIONS: LISA TOGRON
 MONTRÉAL: LA COURTE ÉCHELLE,
 2003. 38 P.
 ISBN 2890216225
AGES 13 AND UP



The outstanding visual quality of the poetry series put out by La courte échelle is confirmed here: Lisa Togron's etchings enhance these poems with the elegant regularity of a metronome.

An inner voyage through individual memory, this collection also focuses on the present. The young narrator muses on the passage of time, the death of his grandfather, the deranged behaviour of his sick grandmother, but also on the events of a childhood barely over. Faced with the inevitability of time's flight, the narrator is torn between a feeling of absence and the all-too-real presences around him. Some memories bring sadness, others pain or anger. Contemporary events, such as acts of terrorism, inspire horror and a sense of helplessness.

From a formal point of view, the language of each poem revolves around the passage of time, a litany that reinforces

the impact of the themes explored. The emotions evoked by the realization that time is finite are described with remarkable subtlety.

Paul Chanel Malenfant has received a number of honours for his poetry, including the 2001 Governor General's Literary Award, the Prix Alain-Grandbois and the Prix Arthur-Buies. *Si tu allais quelque part*, which is his first collection of poems aimed specifically at a young audience, gives a convincing voice to teenagers wrestling with the changes and questions they must inevitably face. —JP

**LE SOLEIL CURIEUX DU
 PRINTEMPS**
ANDRÉ DUHAIME
ILLUSTRATIONS: FRANCINE COUTURE
 SAINT-BONIFACE, MAN.: ÉDITIONS DES
 PLAINES, 2003. 25 P.
 ISBN 292135392X
AGES 3 TO 6



This book, on the theme of springtime, is like a breath of fresh air. Many of this hopeful season's signs are captured in the verse: the first warm rays of sunshine, migrating birds returning north, the great thaw and the gradual blossoming of nature. It's also a time for spring-cleaning and playing outdoors.

The language here is simple and perfectly attuned to the full-size illustrations on every facing page. Several of the dozen or so pastel-toned images will make youngsters laugh.

The three other books in this "seasonal" series are entitled *Châteaux d'été*, *Automne ! Automne !* and *Bouquet d'hiver*. —CM

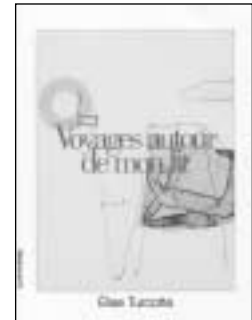
LE VERBE CŒUR
ROGER DES ROCHES
ILLUSTRATIONS: VLADIMIR ZABEIDA
 MONTRÉAL: LA COURTE ÉCHELLE,
 2002. 35 P.
 ISBN 289021592X
AGES 13 AND UP



In 2001, Roger Des Roches, an established and talented author, was awarded the grand prize at the Festival international de la poésie in Trois-Rivières, Quebec. *Le verbe cœur* testifies once again to this poet's rigorous style, presenting – despite the simplicity of the words – a highly complex picture of the emotion that is love. Torn between the thrill of passion and a fear of failure, a teenage boy reflects on his relationship with the object of his affections and on the nature of time.

The verse switches from present to past and back, following the meanderings of the young lover's musings and doubts: "This morning, too much time ahead, behind. / I raise my head: / I'm afraid of the dark in your eyes, / Yesterday has become the past / Imprisoned in the park / Without proof or gentleness." The poems seem to tell us that love is an uneasy move towards the other, whom we can never entirely know. Vladimir Zabeida's etchings are a fine complement to the texts. —SJ

VOYAGES AUTOUR DE MON LIT
ÉLISE TURCOTTE
ILLUSTRATIONS: ELMYNA BOUCHARD
 MONTRÉAL: LA COURTE ÉCHELLE,
 2002. 35 P.
 ISBN 289021558X
AGES 13 AND UP



In a refined, intimate style, *Voyages autour de mon lit* presents the interrogations of an adolescent confronted with a world that seems, ultimately, to suit no one. Although his questions remain unanswered, they give him a new awareness of human vulnerability: "I'd like to stifle / Death / And make life / Right again."

The poems embody moments of great intensity and grace, where the author successfully reconciles the feelings of fear and awe that the world inspires in the boy. He is accompanied on his wanderings by Scarlett, an imaginary dog we glimpse here and there like a shade from another world, whose symbolic presence adds to the richness of the text. "He passes through a village / That I don't know / Before returning / With my bird on his back."

With her usual skill, Élise Turcotte has imbued these poems with a universal quality, describing a realm where adults and young people meet and share similar anxieties. The black-and-white etchings by Elmyrna Bouchard complete the book.

In 2003, Élise Turcotte received the Governor General's Literary Award for her novel *La maison étrangère*. —SJ

Poetry

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HENRIETTE MAJOR
AGES 8 TO 12

In this collection of 124 poems by 72 Quebec authors, texts are grouped under 10 themes that include "Creatures, Big and Small," "Poem Trees" and "Children and Childhoods."

FORMATS:
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ANNE SYLVESTRE
AGES 5 TO 8

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ANNE SYLVESTRE
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FORMAT:
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**YAYAHO, LE CROQUEUR
DE MOTS**
GENEVIÈVE LEMIEUX
AGES 3 TO 8

A Yayaho is a word nibbler. He bites little pieces off words, and then rushes off home to make new ones. In fact, he's absolutely mad about words.

But his schemes have surprising results: Madame Hortense ends up with two *niches* (nests) instead of two *caniches* (poodles), and Olivier with a *nouille* (noodle) instead of a *grenouille* (frog)! This original and lively tale opens a window

onto the fascinating world of words. And the charming images are worth at least a thousand...

FORMATS:
Print and Grade 1 Braille

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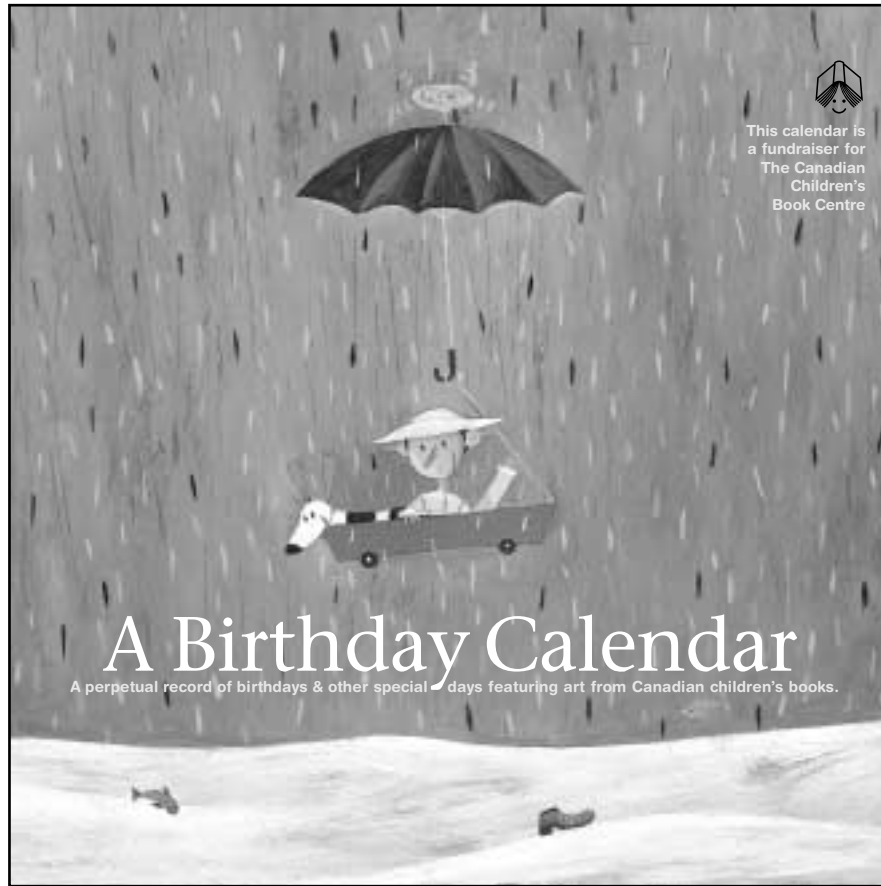
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