

June 1, 2018

## Winners of 2018 Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Awards

The winners of the 2018 Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award were announced this morning at a ceremony at the Louis Vermeersch Theater of the Centre scolaire-communautaire Samuel-de-Champlain in Saint John, New Brunswick. They are:

English Non-fiction: **Jenny Kay Dupuis & Kathy Kacer** for *I Am Not a Number*

English Fiction: **Ashley Spires** for *Fluffy Strikes Back*

French Non-fiction: **Karin Gottot & Maxim Cyr** for *Les Bleues de Toronto*

French Fiction: **Alex A.** for *Les expériences de Mini-Jean, Tome 1*

*I Am Not a Number* (Second Story Press) is the moving account of eight-year-old Irene, who is taken from her loving family to live in a residential school for Indigenous children where the nuns refer to her not by her name, but by a number. With the assistance of her co-author Kathy Kacer (recipient of two previous Hackmatack awards), Jenny Kay Dupuis tells her grandmother Irene's story in a straightforward, sensitive manner that has resonated deeply with children. Illustrated by Gillian Newland.

*Fluffy Strikes Back* (Kids Can Press) is a graphic novel about the feline head of a secret agency of space pets. When the aliens attack space pet headquarters, Fluffy has to come out from behind his desk to save the world, and his friends. This is Spires's third Hackmatack award; she won in 2011 for *Binky the Space Cat* and in 2014 for *Binky Takes Charge*.

*Les Bleues de Toronto* (Éditions Michel Quintin) follows the adventures of the dragouilles, those tireless traveling potatoes, as they tour Toronto. With them we visit the Bata Shoe Museum, explore the St. Lawrence Market, taste the famous peameal bacon, jump on the ice at the Hockey Hall of Fame, and visit the Toronto beaches. Gottot & Cyr won a Hackmatack award in 2013 for *Les Bleues de New York*.

*Les expériences de Mini-Jean, Tome 1* (Presses Aventure) relays the adventures of Mini-Jean, who is not a child version of Agent Jean, but a clone of him. This curious young hero explores the scientific side of things and always seems to attract trouble.

The Hackmatack award ceremony was the culmination of this year's award week, during which 11 of the nominated Canadian authors visited participating schools and libraries in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. Thousands of children in grades 4 to 6 participated in the Hackmatack program over the course of the school year by reading from the shortlist of 40 titles (20 French and 20 English) and voting for their favourite in each category. The Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award program is presented by TD and supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, Nova Scotia Department of Education, and the New Brunswick Public Library Service, among others.

For more information about the award program, visit [hackmatack.ca](http://hackmatack.ca).

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