

HACKMATAACK

2009

Chocolate River Rescue

by Jennifer McGrath Kent

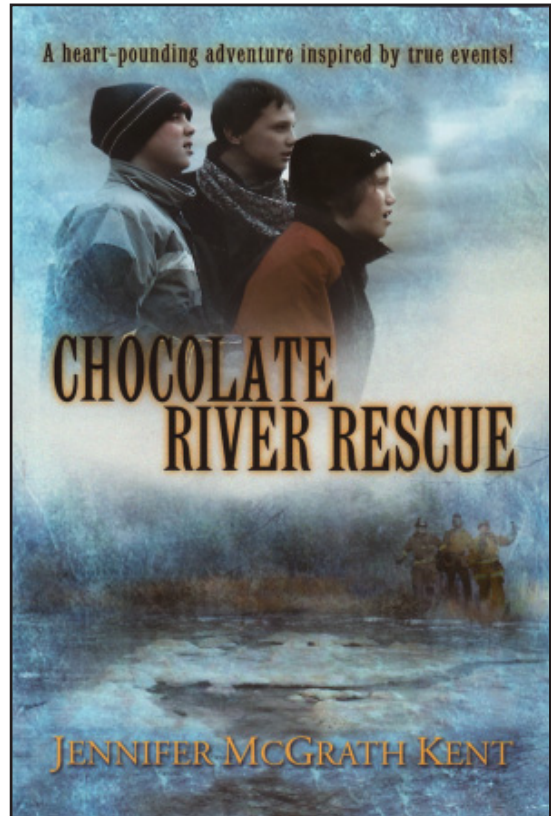
Three boys have become stranded on an ice floe in the middle of New Brunswick's Petitcodiac River in the dead of winter. The river's rapid current is carrying them towards the open ocean, the ice floe is starting to break apart, and hypothermia is setting in. Can anything—or anyone—save them now?

Thematic Links:

New Brunswick Geography & History
Rivers and Tides
Wilderness Survival
First Aid/Search & Rescue
Improvisation & Resourcefulness (How to build something out of “nothing”)

Activity Ideas:

- Design a manual of outdoor safety guidelines and wilderness survival tips.
- Put together a First Aid Kit.
- Interview a Search and Rescue Volunteer or Firefighter.
- Write a letter to your local Fire Fighters, EMS workers or Search & Rescue Volunteers thanking them for putting their own lives on the line to save others.
- Participate in a First Aid course; learn about hypothermia.
- Create a model of the Tidal Bore using a wave tank.
- Build or “invent” something that would help you in an emergency situation.
- Draw an aerial map of the “Chocolate River”.
- Draw a picture of your favorite scene from the story.
- Research some other unusual Canadian place-names (like “Petitcodiac”)—where do these names come from? What do they mean?



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2009

Jennifer McGrath Kent author of ***Chocolate River Rescue***

Jennifer McGrath Kent grew up alongside the Petitcodiac River in Albert County, New Brunswick. She is a writer, story-teller, essayist and occasional playwright. She has been a part-time professor of English at both Mount Allison University and the University of Moncton.

Jennifer loves nature, animals and the great outdoors. She also loves theatre, silly costumes, movies, music, fairy-tales, adventure stories, and good jokes. Jennifer lives just outside of Moncton, New Brunswick with her husband, two sons, a dog, a cat, and a pony.



Chocolate River Rescue is Jennifer's first novel for young readers. She is currently at work on a sequel.

Selected Awards

Chocolate River Rescue has been nominated for the 2008 Diamond Willow Award (Saskatchewan Young Readers Choice Award)

Chocolate River Rescue has also been added to the New Brunswick Department of Education's curriculum reading list.

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2009

Eye of the Crow

by Shane Peacock

In the spring of 1867 in the dead of night, a woman is murdered in a cobblestone alley in foggy London. No one sees the gruesome crime. Or so it seems. Up above, two crows are watching.

The son of a disinherited upper-class woman and her poor Jewish husband reads about the villainy in an illustrated newspaper. Gifted, but hounded by racist schoolyard taunts, the boy spends his days playing hooky on the streets, dreaming of a better life, and reading about spectacular crimes. This murder intrigues him. So do the city's crows: brilliant black birds that fly free, but are objects of prejudice.

Circumstances bring young Sherlock to the crime scene. He soon believes that the accused, a young Muslim butcher, is innocent, and knows the crows were eye-witnesses. But he too becomes implicated. While on the run, he pursues a solution through brilliant deductions and daring exploits, though a terrible price is eventually paid.

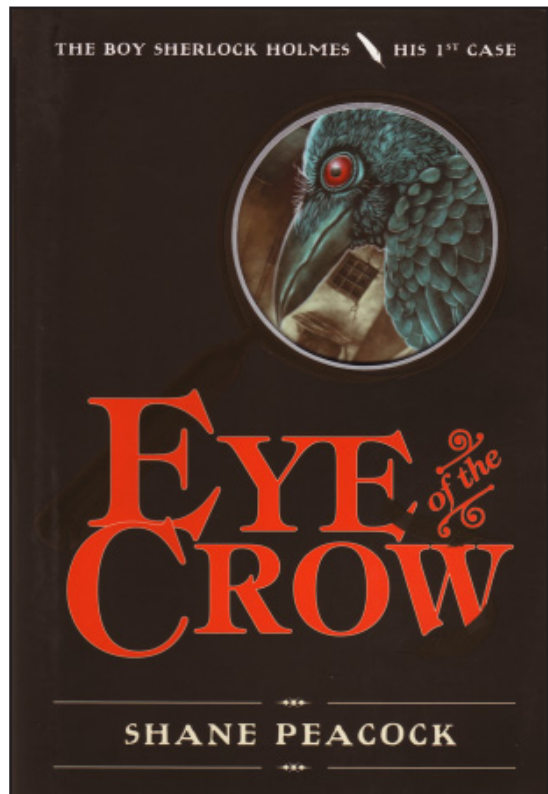
This story was not originally about Sherlock Holmes. It was a dark, Victorian-London murder mystery about prejudice and crows. Then someone suggested that my eccentric, driven hero *was* a young Holmes. And so I dared to invent the great detective's childhood.

Thematic Links:

Detective novels / Crime Fiction
Victorian London: it's history, politics, character
Crows and ravens
Sherlock Holmes / Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Activity Ideas:

- Read a few original Sherlock Holmes stories, and then have students make up their own childhood for the great detective.
- Get students to try writing detective stories, showing them how such tales are like slowly solved puzzles. Students can then read their stories out loud, making them as dramatic as possible.

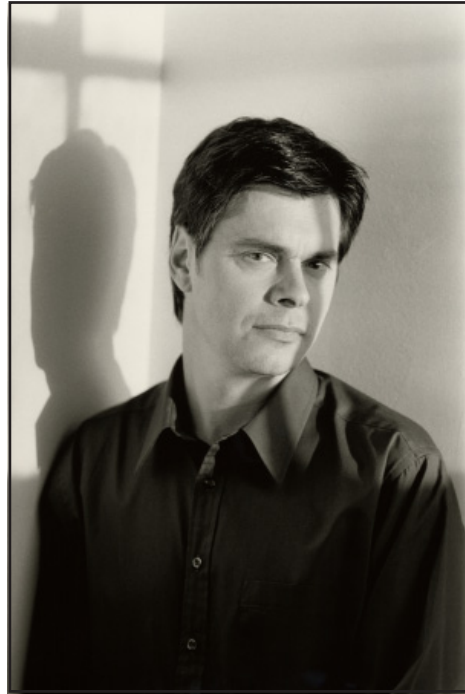


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2009

Shane Peacock

author of
Eye of the Crow



I am a novelist, documentary screenwriter, playwright, and journalist, and I write for kids, teens, and adults. My work is often set in historical times and tells tales of extraordinary people who do dramatic things. I like visiting those past worlds and investigating the motivations of my ambitious characters. My first book was a biography of *The Great Farini*, an amazing man who walked over Niagara Falls on a high wire and invented the human cannonball act in the circus. I also created The Dylan Maples Adventures (Penguin Books), a very Canadian series for kids, which began with *The Mystery of Ireland's Eye*. Those books have been nominated for seven national awards. After inventing a few plays and documentaries about some unusual folks, I started writing The Boy Sherlock Holmes novels (Tundra Books), also featuring a rather eccentric guy. That series began with *Eye of the Crow* and *Death in the Air*. It has been gaining award nominations in Canada and the U.S. and is being translated into several languages. My wife and I have three children, and I often tell them stories about (you guessed it) the strange characters who periodically pop into my head.

Selected Awards

Eye of the Crow, winner of the 2007 Arthur Ellis award, juvenile category
Canadian Library Association Children's Book of the Year (shortlist)
ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year (U.S. - shortlist)
Quill & Quire Book of the Year (shortlist)
Ontario Library Association Top Ten
Booklist magazine Top Ten Youth Mystery (U.S.)
Junior Library Guild of America Premier Selection (U.S.)

Some Other Books by Shane Peacock

Death in the Air, Tundra, 2008
Monster in the Mountains, Penguin, 2003
Unusual Heroes, Penguin, 2002
Bone Beds of the Badlands, Penguin, 2001
The Secret of the Silver Mines, Penguin, 2000
The Mystery of Ireland's Eye, Penguin, 1999
The Great Farini: The High-Wire Life of William Hunt, Penguin, 1995

Falling Star

by Robert Rayner

Edison Flood is a young soccer player who discovers his extraordinary talent can be as much burden as opportunity, and that friends, even new ones who might seem threatened by his talent, can help him cope with the downside of being gifted. The story came about through the conjunction of two ideas, those of coping with being highly talented, and the impact of an ‘outsider’ – in this case, Edison – on an established group.

Thematic Links:

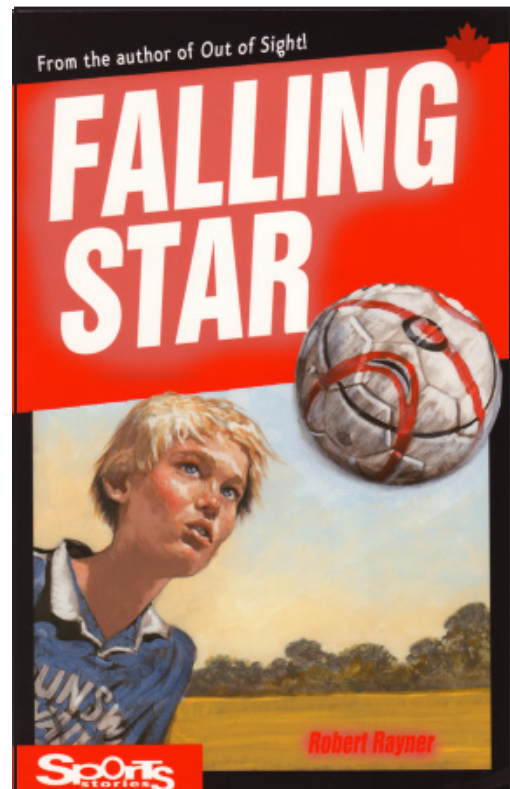
The difficulties, as well as the rewards, of giftedness.
Coping with being an ‘outsider’, or a newcomer, in an established group.

Coping with being a member of an established group and feeling threatened by a newcomer.

The importance of maintaining ‘nerve’ in performance (sports, music, public speaking, etc.).

Dealing with pressure, including well-meant pressure, from coaches, parents, peers.

Dealing with feelings of jealousy.



Activity Ideas:

- Tell about a time when you felt awkward joining a group of people already a team, or friends, like Edison encounters when he arrives at Brunswick Valley School.
- As a member of such a group, what could you do to make a newcomer feel welcome?
- Steve tells Edison he’s “lost his nerve”. What does he mean? How did Edison regain his nerve? Who helped him – and how?
- Tell about a time you lost your nerve, like Edison. (Remember you don’t lose your nerve just playing sports.) How did you regain it? How did others help you?
- Pretend you’re the coach of a team on which one of the players has lost her or his nerve. Make a few suggestions to help your player regain it.
- When Mr. Field asks Toby to introduce Edison to the team, Toby just says, “Edison.” How would you introduce Edison to a new team?

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2009

Robert Rayner

author of *Falling Star*

I grew up on the Cambridgeshire/Essex border in England, and didn't really know what I wanted to do when I left school. After two or three desultory jobs I became a journalist, writing news and feature articles, and when disillusionment with journalism set in, I decided to be a teacher.

I taught in Colchester, Essex, and Glovertown, Newfoundland, before moving to New Brunswick, where first I was music, fine arts and language arts consultant in School District 10 (Charlotte County), and then principal of St. George Elementary School.

I gave up teaching not because I wanted to forsake the world of school, but because I wanted a change, which took the form of concentrating on writing, and teaching music privately.

I live on the Magaguadavic River in St. George, where, in addition to the above pursuits, I like to play and listen to music, photograph, feed and watch the birds, walk, ski, and visit schools to read and talk about writing.



Selected Awards

Walker's Runners – shortlisted Ann Connor Brimer Children's Literature Prize 2003, shortlisted Margaret and John Savage First Book Award 2003, Canadian Children's Book Centre 'Our Choice' Selection 2003

Miss Little's Losers – CCBC 'Our Choice' Selection 2004

Just for Kicks – shortlisted Hackmataack Children's Choice Award 2005/6, CCBC 'Our Choice' Selection 2005

Suspended – CCBC 'Our Choice' Selection 2005

Out of Sight – shortlisted Hackmataack Children's Choice Award 2007/8

Some Other Books by Robert Rayner

Just for Kicks, James Lorimer and Company Ltd., 2004

Suspended, James Lorimer and Company Ltd., 2004

Out of Sight, James Lorimer and Company, 2006

Defiant Island, DreamCatcher Publishing Inc., 2008

Footsteps, Breakwater Press, 2008

Jakeman

by Deborah Ellis

Jakeman is about a group of foster kids from New York City on a long bus trip across the state to visit their mothers in prison. I got the idea for writing it when I was in Bolivia, doing research for *I Am A Taxi*. I was able to spend time in the prisons there, meeting with whole families living together in tiny cells, still trying to have a normal family life. I wondered which system made more sense - the way they do it in Bolivia, where parents who go to prison have the option of moving their kids in with them, so they can be cared for and the family connection will remain strong, or to do it the way we do in North America - the parents get sent away, the kids live in a nicer place than prison, but they rarely get to see their parents and the family connection is damaged. In *Jakeman*, I tried to explore what it is like for children who have parents locked away in prison, while they are left to struggle with the world outside.



Thematic links:

Prejudice
Other people's expectations
Criminal justice system
Social justice
Road stories

Activity Ideas:

- Research the history of prisons in Canada, and the history of prisons and punishment around the world.

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2009

Deborah Ellis

**author of
*Jakeman***

I was born in 1960 in northern Ontario and grew up in Paris, Ontario, in the southern part of the province. I always loved reading and exploring, and wanted to become a writer. It took me many years of writing and getting work rejected before I finally started to get published. Now I get to travel around the world, meeting with amazing people who stay strong in the middle of war and other calamities, and I get to share their stories with others.



Selected Awards

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Red Maple
Silver Birch
Red Cedar
White Pine
Vicky Metcalfe
Ruth Schwartz
Governor-General's Award

Some Other Books by Deborah Ellis

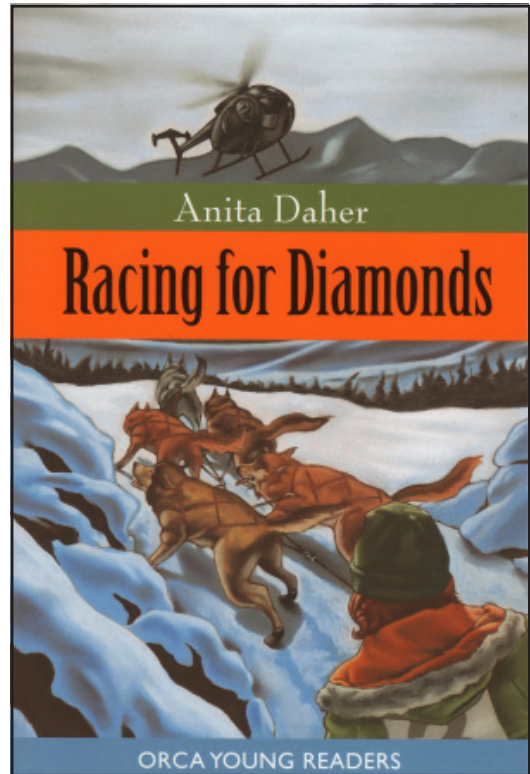
Mud City, Greenwood Books, 2003
Three Wishes, Greenwood Books, 2004
Our Stories, Our Songs, Fitzhenry Whiteside, 2005
I Am A Taxi, Greenwood Books, 2006
Bifocal, Fitzhenry Whiteside, 2007
Sacred Leaf, Greenwood Books, 2007

Racing for Diamonds

by Anita Daher

What Jaz thinks of as an adventure, her mom and dad call trouble, but Jaz just can't seem to help herself. When she joins the Junior Canadian Rangers and is teamed up with an annoying partner, she has no idea that all her new-found skills will soon be put to a life and death test.

While writing an earlier book, *Flight from Bear Canyon*, I came to adore my main character's new friend, Jaz. I loved her boldness, and curiosity, and decided she should have an adventure of her own. In *Racing for Diamonds* I was able to bring in elements of Canadian diamonds, and a most amazing and mostly little known part of our country, the Canol Trail. I hope readers are as enamored by this part of the country, and its history, as I am.



Thematic Links:

Northern studies
Canadian diamonds
World War II
Ecology
Youth organizations: Junior Canadian Rangers

Activity Ideas:

- Make bannock!
- Find the Canol Trail on Google Earth. Find Dodo Canyon.
- Other: A free teacher's guide is available from Orcabook.com

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2009

Anita Daher

author of *Racing for Diamonds*



Anita Daher draws writing inspiration from the many places she's been fortunate to spend time in, which include Summerside, PEI, Yellowknife, NT, Churchill, MB, Baker Lake, NU, and Sault Ste. Marie, ON. Previous occupations include flight service specialist, radio broadcaster, lunch truck driver, and grave plot salesperson. She likes writing best, as she never has to take off her slippers, can wear a funny hat, and can hold conversations with the statues and stuffies that keep her company. When she's not writing, she likes to spend time baking, playing her guitar (badly), and turning her backyard garden into a haven for neighbourhood bunnies. Anita currently resides in Winnipeg, MB with her husband, two daughters, an always hungry basset hound, and two saucy young horses.

Selected Awards

Racing for Diamonds and *Spider's Song* were both finalists for the 2008 Arthur Ellis award, best crime novel, juvenile category

Recipient of the John Hirsch Award for Most Promising Manitoba Author.

Flight from Bear Canyon was selected for inclusion in the Canadian Children's Book Center "Our Choice 2005"

Flight from Big Tangle was named finalist for the 2004 Diamond Willow Award.

Some Other Books by Anita Daher

Flight from Big Tangle, Orca, 2002

Flight from Bear Canyon, Orca, 2004

Two Foot Punch, Orca, 2007

Spider's Song, Penguin/Puffin, 2007

Poachers in the Pingos, Orca, 2008

On the Trail of the Bushman, Orca, 2009

TJ and the Quiz Kids

by Hazel Hutchins

TJ doesn't feel nearly smart enough to be on a Quiz Team. It's only weird information that he and his friend Seymour really know about — the word for being afraid of peanut butter sticking to the top of your mouth, for example, or what jelly fish and cat pee have in common. The principal has decided, however, that one of them will be chosen.

Will their friendship survive the competition? Will their ego's survive being around the brainiest kids in school? And will knowing the captain of the opposing Fairview team and her goofy dog "Frooie" make things better or worse?

This book was written because TJ and Seymour walked into the first book of the series and decided they were here to stay. They soon had me writing about all kinds of things — inventions, ghosts, rockets, sports. Every time I did more research I came up with more unusual facts, which is when they spoke up yet again: "Look at all this great information just hanging around in your notebooks! It needs to be used. Put us on a Quiz Team!"

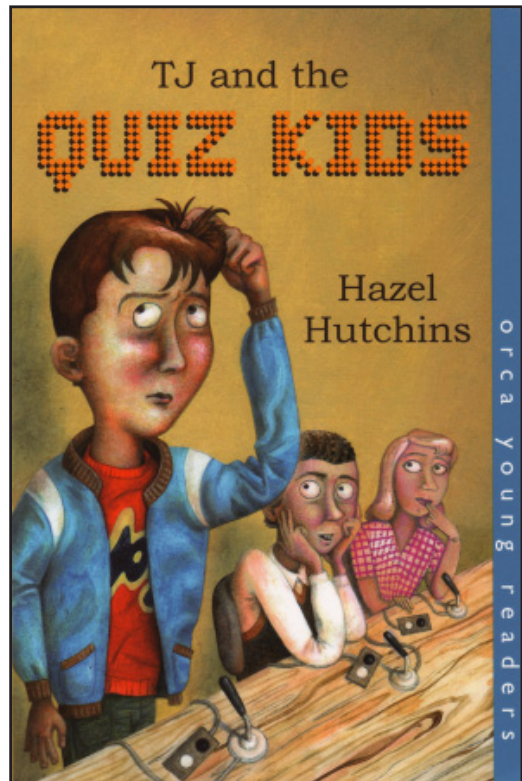
I had to give in. My only duty is to serve.

Thematic links:

Teamwork
Friendship and Family
Competition
Memory
Personal Abilities
Amazing Facts

Activity Ideas:

- Make up original anagrams to help remember the continents or the planets in order of size.
- Make an illustrated poster of your own favourite "amazing facts."
- For more activities click on "Orca Young Readers" at www.orcabook.com/client/client_pages/teachers/guides.html



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2009

Hazel Hutchins

author of *TJ and the Quiz Kids*

Hazel lives in the Rocky Mountain town of Canmore, Alberta where she has written over forty novels and picture books. She is always on the look-out for a good story idea and keeps a notebook close at hand whether walking the trails at home or traveling to schools and libraries across Canada. Although all her books grow from a seed of personal experience, she also does extensive research by reading widely — from amazing animal facts to theories of the universe, from pioneer history to the psychology of criminal behaviour. Over and over she finds that research helps all of her stories, including her fantasy stories, grow stronger.



Hazel has three wonderful children, all adults who are headed off in directions of their own. Happily, they still show up in the family home (and in her stories!) from time to time.

Selected Awards

R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature
Shining Willow Saskatchewan Young Reader's Choice Award
Mr. Christie's Silver Book Award
Norma Fleck Honour Award
Story Telling World Honour Award
Silver Birch Honour Award

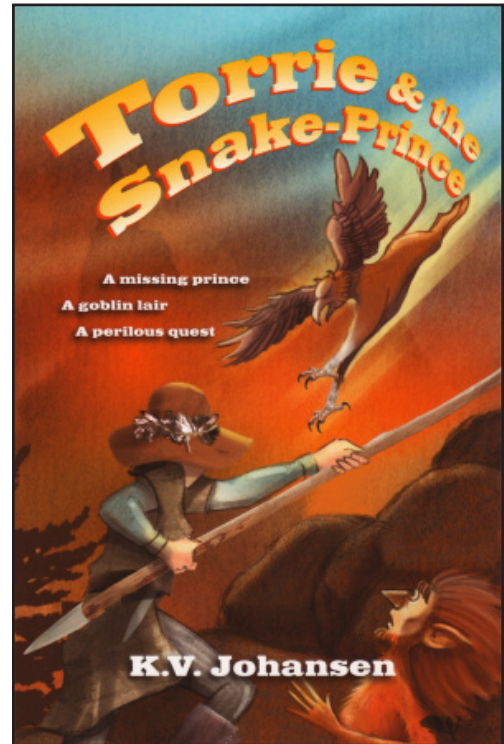
Some Other Books by Hazel Hutchins

TJ and the Cats, Orca, 2002
TJ and the Haunted House, Orca, 2003
TJ and the Rockets, Orca, 2004
Sarah and the Magic Science Project, Annick, 2005
TJ and the Sports Fanatic, Orca, 2006

Torrie & the Snake-Prince

by K.V. Johansen

When Wren, a lame pedlar, meets Torrie, oldest of the Old Things of the Wild Forest, adventure follows. The mysterious minstrel Rookfeather is looking for a hero to rescue Prince Liasis, who vanished from his bedroom one night. Wren thinks she's just a pedlar, no hero, but Torrie knows better. Together they track a goblin band into the Wild Forest, to the lair of a sorcerer. Prince Liasis has been having his own difficulties, and not just a steady diet of earthworms. One of his goblin-guards decides he's her new best friend and of course a best friend can't refuse to help her steal back a treasure from the goblin lord. The prince's escape runs smack into Wren's and Torrie's rescue. Goblin hordes are one thing; an angry sorcerer — and his big sister — are entirely another. And what's a snake-prince supposed to do with twenty-seven knights who've been turned into toads? I'd written books about Torrie's travels in other parts of his world, but I wrote *Torrie and the Snake-Prince* because I wanted to explore more of the Wild Forest. Wren was a character I'd had in my head ever since I wrote the first Torrie book.



Thematic links:

Exploration & Adventure
Overcoming challenges
Magic, Fairy-tales & Fantasy
Heroes

Activity Ideas:

- Draw a map of Wren's travels or of the goblin island in the Great Musquash.
- Based on descriptions in the story, draw portraits of some of the main characters.
- Research more about garter snakes, toads, and rooks.
- Research medieval knights in our world (which is a bit different from Torrie's world).
- Look up unfamiliar words in a dictionary (griffin, aerie, mail, pedlar, minstrel, sultan, geis, etc.) Explain what they mean in your own words.
- Write a paragraph telling part of the story from someone else's point of view. Queen Demansia, Rookfeather, Sir Eglantine, Sir Rufous, Ash, Bobbin, or Lord Abastor might be fun.

HACKMATAACK

2009

K.V. Johansen

author of *Torrie and the Snake-Prince*



K.V. Johansen studied medieval history and literature at university. She has written 15 books, so far. Most are fantasy or science fiction; two are books for adults about children's fantasy literature. She also wrote the "Pippin and Mabel" picture books. She reads a lot, especially fantasy, science fiction, history, archaeology, and manga. Her favourite authors include

Tolkien, Cherryh, Bujold, Pratchett, Garth Nix, Diana Wynne Jones, Rosemary Sutcliff, Arthur Ransome, Donald Jack, Paul Marlowe, and Hiromu Arakawa. She watches too much anime. You can watch a video interview with her, or watch video readings, at her website: www.pippin.ca

Selected Awards

Nominated title for the 2008 Silver Birch Award,

Honourable Mention, 2007 OLA "Best Bets" list for children

VOYA's Year's Best Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror List 2007

2007 OLA "Best Bets" Top Ten Books for Children list

Nominated title for the 2008 Saskatchewan Children's Choice Snow Willow Award

Shortlisted for the Canadian Association of Children's Librarians 2007 Book of the Year for Children Award

Canadian Authors' Association 2006 Lilla Stirling Award

Lieutenant-Governor's Early Childhood Literacy Award for 2000

Some Other Books by K.V. Johansen

Warden of Greyrock: The Warlocks of Talverdin Book Three (Orca 2009)

Treason in Eswy: The Warlocks of Talverdin Book Two (Orca 2008)

Beyond Window-Dressing: Canadian Children's Fantasy at the Millennium. (Sybertooth 2007)

The Drone War (Sybertooth 2007)

Torrie and the Snake-Prince (Annick 2007)

Nightwalker: The Warlocks of Talverdin Book One (Orca 2007)

Torrie and the Firebird (Annick 2006)

The Cassandra Virus (Orca 2006)

Torrie and the Pirate-Queen (Annick 2005)

Quests and Kingdoms: A Grown-Up's Guide to Children's Fantasy Literature (Sybertooth 2005)

Torrie and the Dragon (Roussan 1997)

When the Bough Breaks

by Irene N. Watts

It is the summer of 1935 in a small town in Canada and a family is changed forever. A baby is born--a brother for nine-year-old Hamish and twelve-year-old Millie. Three days later their mother, Lillie, dies.

A few weeks earlier, a homeless woman passing through town asking for water had been given food and drink. In return she read the tea leaves. She predicted a healthy child, but warned Lillie she would not return from a long journey.

Millie tries hard to take care of her father and brothers, but the woman returns asking Hamish questions, sneaking into the garden demanding to hold the child, wanting to be his mother. When Millie orders her to leave them alone she says she'll not leave town until she gets what she wants.

One quiet Sunday afternoon baby Eddie disappears. How will Hamish and Millie find the kidnapper, and get back their brother? Read *When the Bough Breaks* to find out.

Thematic Links:

Home Children

Sibling rivalry

The Great Depression

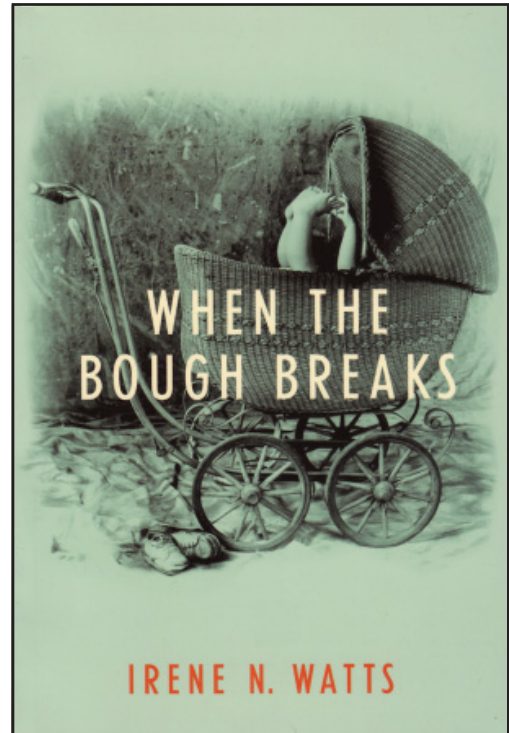
Dust storms, droughts in the thirties

Homeless and Hobos

Child Labor in Canada in the thirties and now

Activity Ideas:

- Compare the amount of leisure time that students have now, to that experienced by Millie and Hamish. What activities do you have in common?
- In pairs or in small groups select one of the dramatic scenes in the novel to dramatize, and present to the class.
- There is sibling rivalry between Hamish and Millie. Discuss the reasons for this.



HACKMATAACK

2009

Irene N. Watts

author of *When the Bough Breaks*

I was born in Berlin, Germany, into a Jewish family shortly before Hitler and his Nazi party came to power. Our lives changed and three weeks after the Night of the Broken Glass, at the age of seven, I climbed aboard a train bound for England and safety. The rescue trains-*Kindertransports* saved ten thousand children in the months before World War 2.

I wore three pairs of underwear and carried a small suitcase in which I had packed a favorite book and a new blue party dress (in case I met the little princesses) which I never got the chance to wear.

Much was left behind, but my head carried stories that no one could take away: Everything I had heard, or overheard, seen, remembered, or imagined. Those memories and new ones I made in England and Wales, inspired my three novels about the children of the *Kindertransport* : *Good-bye Marianne*, *Remember Me* and *Finding Sophie*.

I've been a Canadian now for over half my life and have worked in many Provinces as teacher and Playwright/Director for Theatre for Young Audiences.

I make my home in Vancouver B.C. I am a mother and grandmother of a large and diverse family.

Selected Awards

Nominated for BC's Red Cedar Award 2007/8 for *Flower*

UNESCO Playwriting Award 2006 for *Lillie*, Based on my novel *Flower*

A White Raven Bologna 2006 for *A TELLING TIME*, illustrated by Kathryn E. Shoemaker

The Yad Vashem Award for Holocaust Studies, 2004, for *Tapestry of Hope* compiled with Lillian Boraks Nemetz

The Chocolate Lily Award for *Remember Me* 2003

Some Other Books by Irene N. Watts

Flower (Tundra Books, 2005)

A Telling Time illustrated by Kathryn E. Shoemaker (Tradewind Books 2004)

Tapestry of Hope (Tundra Books 2003)

Finding Sophie (Tundra Books 2002)

One for Day/One for Night illustrated by Mark Lang (Tundra Books 2002)

Remember Me (Tundra Books 2000)

Good-bye Marianne (Tundra Books 1998)



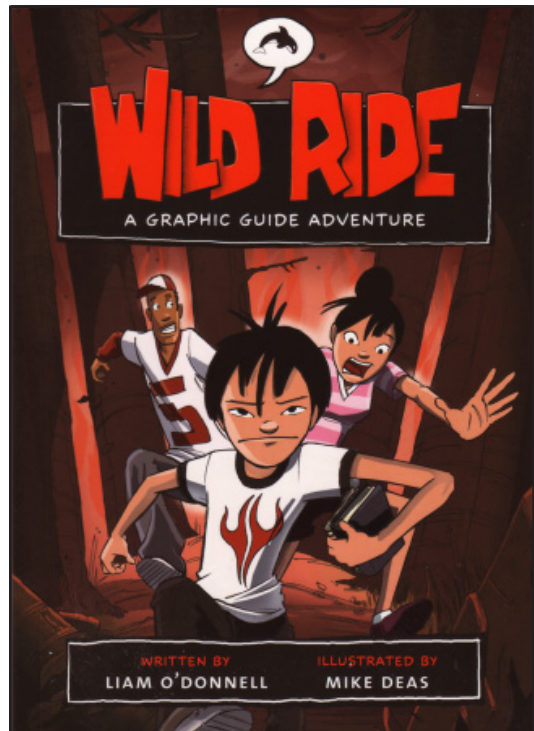
Photograph By: Jean-Michel Gariépy

Wild Ride

by Liam O'Donnell

Devin, Nadia and Marcus are on their way to visit their environmentalist parents who are working to stop a logging company from clear-cutting a remote valley. When their plane crashes and the pilot is killed, the kids are left to survive in the wild with Wiley, a government bureaucrat, who is the only other passenger on the plane. Learning to build a shelter and make a fire in the woods, they discover that Wiley has a secret and will do anything to stop it getting out. On the run and in mortal danger, the three must outrun Wiley, escape a raging forest fire and outwit a hungry grizzly bear to make it to safety.

When I was young, I enjoyed exploring the woods behind my house with my friends. We would pretend that we were cut off from civilization and had only our own survival skills to keep us alive. I've always loved the outdoors and wilderness survival stories, but I'm glad I've never had to face a real wilderness adventure like Devin, Nadia and Marcus!



Thematic links:

Environment
Government
Man vs nature
Technology
Urban vs rural
Power of positive thinking

Activity Ideas:

- Follow the instructions to create Hudson Bay packs from a blanket and string.
- Write a page in Devin's journal from his point of view. How does he feel to be stranded? What does he think of Wiley or Marcus
- Create news reports about the disappearance of Devin's plane. Alternatively, they can write an article or TV broadcast about the events after they return from the wild and Wiley is arrested.
- Nadia is shocked when she learns about the logging happening in the wilderness. Why do you think she was so surprised? What do you think about the logging that happens in Canada's wilderness? Research where the paper and wood products you use everyday come from.

HACKMATAACK

2009

Liam O'Donnell

author of *Wild Ride*



Liam was born in Northern Ireland and came to Canada when he was five years old. He studied media at Ryerson University and has worked on film sets in Canada, Ireland and the United Kingdom.

He left the movie industry in 1999 when his first book, *System Shock*, was published by A & C Black in London, UK and has been writing ever since.

He has also developed educational radio plays for the BBC, written articles for adults and children for numerous national magazines, adapted TV scripts for Kids Can Press, and created original comics for A&C Black Publishers, Owl Magazine, Scholastic Canada, Stone Arch Books and Capstone Press.

He is a proud member of CANSCAIP and The Writers Union of Canada and is represented by Marie Campbell of the Transatlantic Literary Agency.

In addition to writing for young readers, Liam has delivered hot food in restaurants, cold tea on movie sets, slimy fish in Dublin, bottled water in Vancouver, and bad jokes in theme parks as a professional juggler.

Liam lives in Toronto, but you can visit him online at: www.liamodonnell.com

Selected Awards

2007 Distinguished Achievement Award from the Association of Educational Publishers, USA

Some Other Books by Liam O'Donnell

Ramp Rats, Orca Book Publishers, Fall 2008

Wild Ride, Orca Book Publishers, Fall 2007

Max Finder Mystery Collected Casebook Vol. 3, Owlkids Books, Fall 2007

Max Finder Mystery Collected Casebook Vol. 2, Owlkids Books, Spring 2007

Blackbeard's Sword, Stone Arch Books, Spring 2007

Max Finder Mystery Collected Casebook Vol. 1, Owlkids Books, Fall 2006

Timeline: A United Force Celts & Romans, Scholastic Canada, Fall 2006

My Dad the Rock Star: Rebel Without a Nose Ring, Kids Can Press/Nelvana, 2002

Moville Mysteries: Raiders of the Lost Jockstrap, Kids Can Press/Nelvana, 2002

Winds of L'Acadie

by Lois Donovan

The sophisticated but insecure sixteen-year-old Sarah finds herself spending the summer in Wolfville, Nova Scotia with her grandparents. She gets off to a rough start when she meets neighbour Luke and just when she thinks the summer can't get any worse, she slips through time to 1755. Here she meets Anne and experiences the warmth of the family bond she has always wanted. But the peace-loving Acadians are about to be torn from their homes. Although she comes to terms with the fact that "you can't change history" she is willing to risk her life to do everything in her power to help her Acadian family, and finds a surprising ally in Luke. Will Luke and Sarah be able to help their new-found friends?



While attending Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, I fell in love with the beautiful Annapolis Valley where the tragic expulsion of the Acadians took place. I began to think about how I would feel if this were my home and I was forced to leave. When I decided to write stories about Canada's past for young adults, I knew I would start with the story of the Acadians.

Thematic Links:

Canadian History
Acadian daily life
Deportation of the Acadians
English/French power struggles
Time Travel
Family/friendship

Activity Ideas:

- Make a quill box using coloured toothpicks and poster paper. Use a pattern for making a cylinder, cutting it out of the heavy poster paper. Draw a simple geometric pattern on the top of the box and use a zigzag pattern for the sides. Glue the coloured toothpicks onto the designs and then assemble the cylinder.
- Create titles for the chapters. The chapters have numbers but not titles. Choose an appropriate title for each chapter and e-mail your suggestions to the author.
- Family Tree – How far back can you trace your family? What cultures make up your family history. Make a family tree tracing your history back as far as possible, showing countries of origin for each member.

HACKMATAACK

2009

Lois Donovan

author of *Winds of L'Acadie*

I am a writer, a teacher and mom to a very tall university graduate and a not-so-tall preschooler. When I am not writing, talking about writing to students, or teaching, I can sometimes be found playing Hungry Hungry Hippos with my husband and daughter (she's the preschooler) on our living room floor.

Although Calgary, Alberta is my home now, I grew up mostly in Riverview, New Brunswick where I have fond memories of playing in the forest, picking blueberries and skating on the pond behind my house. One of my favourite memories is when my father would read the Thornton Burgess animal stories to us. As a teen-

ager I was an avid journal writer and loved to read Nancy Drew mysteries. When the teacher read a mystery story I had written to the class I decided I would one day become a writer. After many years of teaching I decided to take a year off and finally get down to writing a book.

I have travelled extensively in Canada and have lived in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Alberta. When I decided to write a novel, I knew I wanted to tell stories from Canada's past. Writing historical fiction takes a lot of research because it is important that the historical part is accurate. The hardest part of writing *Winds of L'Acadie* was weaving the history into an exciting, fast-paced story. The best part of writing *Winds of L'Acadie* was seeing my book on the shelves of the bookstores and realizing that all the hard work paid off.

