

HACKMATAACK

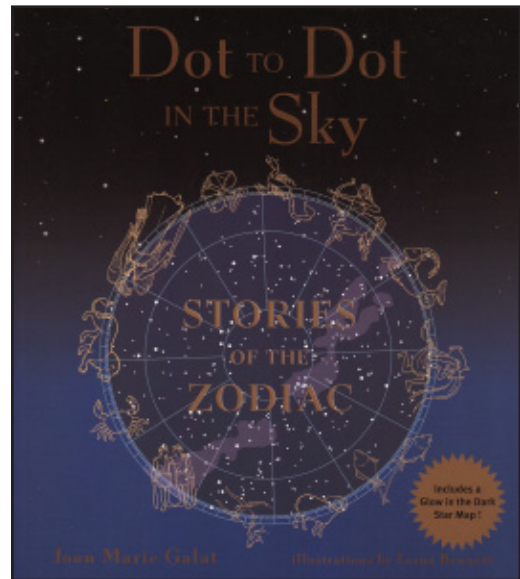
2010

Dot to Dot in the Sky: Stories of the Zodiac

by Joan Marie Galat

Did you know you have a constellation that matches your birthday? Find your own stars in the sky and discover the stories ancient cultures told about gods, animals, monsters, and heroes in the sky! Find out the difference between astronomy and astrology and how the zodiac has been used to create horoscopes to try to describe personalities and predict the future.

I wrote this book to share the awesome feeling of gazing into the night sky and knowing the stories ancient people imagined so long ago, when they looked up at the same stars we see today. It's cool to discover which zodiac stars have their own planets and fascinating to know about meteor showers, star clusters, comets, and other night sky wonders. This book contains a glow in the dark map and instructions on how to jump from one star group to another to find the zodiac stars. It includes constellations in both the northern and southern hemispheres.



Thematic links:

Mythology
Astronomy
Astrology
Greek and Roman history
Measuring distance
Optics, light spectrum, electromagnetic waves.

Activity Ideas:

- Host a star gazing party!
- Debate whether horoscopes are a logical way to classify personality types.
- Practice storytelling using the myth that matches your sign.
- Make dot-to-dot activity pages.
- Compare the ancient Greek gods to the Roman gods.
- Explore the impact of light pollution and how you can help preserve the dark night sky.
- Discuss how ancient people created myths to explain things they did not understand.
- Write a myth to explain something you find puzzling.
- Write a paragraph about an astronaut you find interesting

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Joan Marie Galat

**author of *Dot to Dot in the Sky:*
*Stories of the Zodiac***

Joan Marie Galat entered a kid's writing competition when she was 13. She didn't win the contest but achieved an honourable mention. As a result, she was invited to become a paid weekly newspaper columnist at the age of 13! Joan has written seven books, including the *Dot to Dot in the Sky* series. Some of her titles have been translated into Korean.

Joan works full-time as a writer and presenter. She has written an Internet cartoon, radio commercials and news, website content, museum text, and speeches for people in government. Joan learned to juggle from a book and finishes each school presentation juggling star-shaped beanbags—so students can see some falling stars!



Selected Awards

Dot to Dot in the Sky: Stories of the Zodiac:

Gold Moonbeam Award

Canadian Authors Association—Alberta Branch Exporting Alberta Award

Dot to Dot in the Sky: Stories of the Moon:

R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature

Dot to Dot in the Sky: Stories of the Planets:

shortlisted for Rocky Mountain Book Award

Calgary Public Library centennial list highlighting Great Alberta Books

Some Other Books by Joan Marie Galat

Dot to Dot in the Sky: Stories of the Zodiac, Whitecap Books, 2007

Dot to Dot in the Sky: Stories of the Moon, Whitecap Books, 2004

Dot to Dot in the Sky: Stories of the Planets, Whitecap Books, 2003

Dot to Dot in the Sky: Stories in the Stars, Whitecap Books, 2001

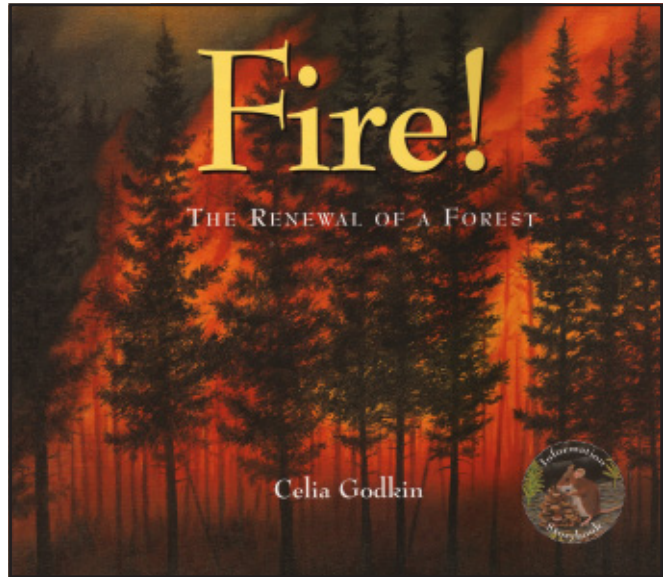
Dr. Bufflehead Explores Energy, Scholastic Canada, 2006

Dr. Bufflehead Explores Dirt, Scholastic Canada, 2006

Day Trips From Edmonton, Whitecap Books, 2009

Fire!: The Renewal of a Forest

by **Celia Godkin**



It hasn't rained in the forest for many weeks. And in the sunny clearing, everything is dry and scorched. Then, late one afternoon, a hot wind begins to blow and storm clouds gather. But instead of rain, lightning fills the sky and strikes a tall tree beside the clearing. The lightning strike shoots down the tree and ignites the dry vegetation below. In no time, the forest is engulfed in flame. Soon there is nothing left but the charred ruins of the forest, devoid of life.

But the story is not over. Slowly and gradually, life returns to the forest - from the seeds that blow in on the wind and germinate, to the small creatures that have survived in their burrows below the ground. It will take many years; but eventually the forest will return, filled with life once more.

Thematic links:

Life cycles of plants and animals
Environmental awareness
Conservation
Fire safety
Habitats
Weather

Activity Ideas:

- Write a short story about the fire from the perspective of a forest creature who survives it.
- Arrange for a tree-planting field trip.
- Create a window box garden using seeds from forest plants. Have students record their progress.
- Using poster paper, outline the stages of forest destruction and renewal using charts or diagrams.
- Create a poster about fire safety in the forest.
- Research the number of forest fires per year in Canada. How many are caused by nature? How many are caused by humans?

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Celia Godkin

**author of *Fire!: The
Renewal of a Forest***

Celia spent her childhood in Brazil, her adolescence in England and her adult life in Canada. Trained as a biologist, she worked variously as a school aide, fisheries biologist and herpetologist before embarking on a career as a scientific illustrator.

An illustration job preparing signs for the Winnipeg zoo led to collaboration with zoo director, Clive Roots, on *Endangered Species: Canada's Disappearing Wildlife*. Encouraged by this success, Celia illustrated an ecology story she had written many years earlier, *Wolf Island*, and showed it to her publisher. The resulting book led to a succession of information story books.

In addition to her publications in children's literature, Celia has illustrated many textbooks and scientific papers and has written a number of technical works. She taught scientific illustration, painting and drawing at the University of Toronto for many years, but now lives and works in an old farmhouse in Eastern Ontario.



Selected Awards

Fire!: Renewal of a Forest was nominated for the OLA Silver Birch Express Award, 2008

Fire!: Renewal of a Forest was a Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children's Non-Fiction Honour Book, 2007

Fire!: Renewal of a Forest was a CCBC Our Choice Finalist, 2007

Fire!: Renewal of a Forest was nominated for the Canadian Science Writers' Association's Science in Society Journalism Award, Youth Book Category, 2007

Kit, the Adventures of a Raccoon was a Red Cedar nominee, a Silver Birch nominee and an Ann Connor Brimer Award nominee.

Some Other Books by Celia Godkin

Flying Lessons, Markham, Fitzhenry & Whiteside (1999)

Black Nell: The Adventures of a Coyote, by Shirley Woods, illustrated by Celia Godkin; Toronto, Greenwood Books (1998)

Sea Otter Inlet, Markham, Fitzhenry & Whiteside (1997)

Ladybug Garden, Markham, Fitzhenry & Whiteside (1995)

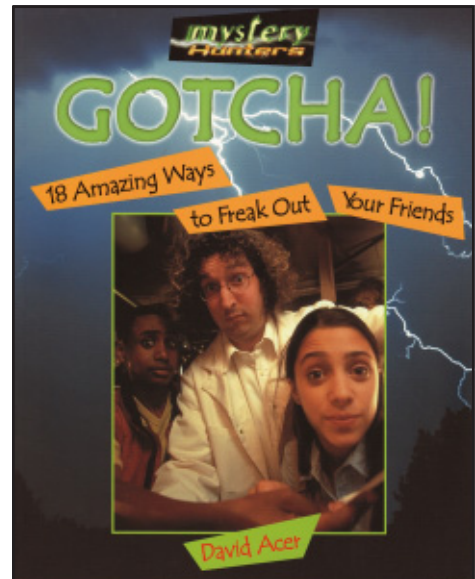
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Gotcha!: 18 Amazing Ways to freak Out Your Friends

by David Acer

Does Bigfoot exist? Are crop circles made by aliens? Can dead bodies climb out of their graves and show up at your birthday party? Join Doubting Dave and the Mystery Hunters as they investigate some of the world's oldest and coolest mysteries, THEN learn how to recreate those mysteries YOURSELF to fool your friends!



- Make fake Bigfoot prints in your own backyard!
- Take phony UFO photos in your car!
- Use an amazing illusion to turn yourself into a headless zombie!
- Show your friends a crazy card trick that will convince them you can travel through time!
- Pull a “King Midas” and turn a pencil into gold!
- Freeze your BFF in his tracks with a trick that looks like hypnosis!

PLUS you'll learn how to test your ESP, snap a fake ghost photo, bend a spoon with your brain and 9 other cool feats. AND teenage Mystery Hunters Araya and Christina answer all your questions about ghosts, aliens, psychics, hypnotists, sea monsters, Bigfoot and more! Find out the truth while you freak out your friends, then you can say GOTCHA!

Thematic Links:

Investigating and thinking critically about claims of the paranormal

Recognizing hoaxes

Duplicating psychic mysteries to fool family and friends

The science of E.S.P., ghosts, U.F.O.s, hypnosis, teleportation, lake monsters, crop circles, time travel, mind reading, alchemy, telepathy, zombies, psychokinesis, psychic healing and self-levitation. i.e., Is any of this really possible?

Activity Ideas:

Use the tricks, experiments and hoaxes described in this book to try to convince your family and friends that there are ghosts in your house, or aliens in your neighborhood, or that you have strange (super?) powers. Then investigate other, similar mysteries and see if what you learned might explain them too!

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David Acer

author of *Gotcha!: 18 Amazing Ways to Freak Out Your Friends*

David Acer is a Gemini-award-nominated writer, comedian and magician who has done crazy things on dozens of television shows around the world, but younger viewers (and insomniacs) are more likely to recognize him as Doubting Dave, the skeptical scientist on Discovery Kids' hit series "Mystery Hunters." David actually has a few things in common with Doubting Dave, including an aptitude for sleight-of-hand (he's even invented tricks that many well-known magicians use in their acts) and a keen interest in science (he loves reading magazines like *Discover* and *Astronomy*). And, like Doubting Dave, he has been fascinated by the paranormal ever since he was a kid, when his grandfather told him that all the socks people lose in their driers are found in caves in the Himalayas. *GOTCHA!* is David's fifth book, but the first one that might be haunted.



Selected Awards

- 2007 Gemini Award Nomination (the Canadian equivalent of the Emmys) for Best Writing in a Children's Non-Fiction Series (*Mystery Hunters*)
- 2005 Gemini Award Nomination for Best Writing in a Children's Non-Fiction Series (*Mystery Hunters*)

Some Other Books by David Acer

Random Acts of Magic, Camirand Academy of Magic, 2004
DeSouza's Deceptions, Camirand Academy of Magic, 2001
Natural Selections, Vol. II, Camirand Academy of Magic, 1999
Natural Selections, Camirand Academy of Magic, 1996

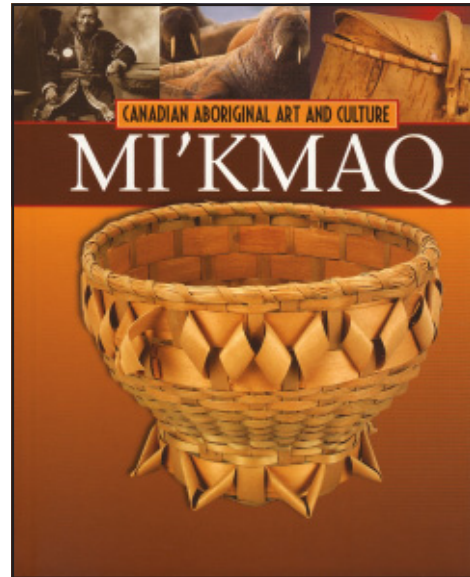
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Mi'kmaq

by Christine Webster

How can learning about the very first people in Atlantic Canada not be interesting? Their world was so unlike ours yet they survived so well. Imagine not having computers, houses, or even a fork to eat with? The Mi'kmaq is a group of First Nations people that live throughout eastern Canada. They have been there way longer than any of us. The Mi'kmaq didn't have modern conveniences. Every single thing they needed was made from the land around them. That means if they wanted to wear clothing, they had to make it from animal skins. If they wanted to make clothing from animal skins, then they had to hunt down the animal first! Even their hunting tools had to be made by their own hands and skills. Yet with so much work to be done, they still were able to run their own peaceful society. They had family values, a roof over their heads and they even took time to sing, dance, and tell stories and worship. Many were amazing artisans. Today there are more than 20,000 Mi'kmaq still living in Canada.



Thematic Links:

Canada's First Nations peoples

Atlantic Canada's history and geography

The affect of Europeans on First Nations people

Petroglyphs found in the eastern provinces and what they mean

The use of natural resources

Activity Ideas:

- Think of a simple item in your house. Now imagine you are a Mi'kmaq. How would you make that particular item and what resources of the land could you use to do it? Find out if you thought like a real Mi'kmaq!
- Print out a picture of a petroglyph. Try to decide what story the Mi'kmaq was trying to tell with it. Then try to draw your own petroglyph and see if a classmate can guess what you are trying to explain.
- The Mi'kmaq used dancing to tell a story. Make up a dance that tells a story. Show it to the class without using words and only movements. See if they can relay the story back to you.

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Christine Webster

author of *Mi'kmaq*

There are three things I really love in life: kids, writing and dancing. I have a gazillion kids so thankfully I like them. Okay, I only have four but it feels like a gazillion! Every time I research a book, I feel like I understand the world a little better. It's true that we never stop learning. If I find something really interesting, I tell my kids all about it. Some days they even take their fingers out of their ears and listen to me. In return, I listen to their questions and try to break down what they want to know. It helps me become a better writer with each book.

I sold my first book when I was seven years old. Sounds very impressive but wait...I have to admit it was sold to my Nana. She paid me two dollars for it—the paper kind (yes, a toonie was once made out of paper in the olden days). Because my nana thought it was worth reading, I knew then I wanted to be a writer. I love seeing words bound into a book. There's so much waiting to be discovered from it. So long story short, as I grew up, I kept writing and sending my work out to be published. Like most writers, it was a long time coming. When I was just about ready to offer an editor my work for a piece of chicken, I was contracted. Thankfully I didn't have to bribe him with food.

In the meantime, I grew up and also squeezed in some dance lessons. If I don't get enough of my own children, I get to see other people's children during the week. I run a dance school which is a lot of fun. I even convinced a local hockey team of boys to join. Now these boys actually compete at dance competitions (how cool is that?). The parents of my dancers often laugh at my very long written newsletters! But they know I'm a writer and some days just need to write. I am pretty lucky to have the three things I love in my life. And I am beyond thrilled to even be among the other writers in this list.



Some other books by Christine Webster

The Jonas Brothers, Weigl, 2009.

Emerald, Scobre Press, 2008.

Otter Everywhere, Candlewick Press, 2007.

Journey of a Water Drop, Scholastic Library, 2007.

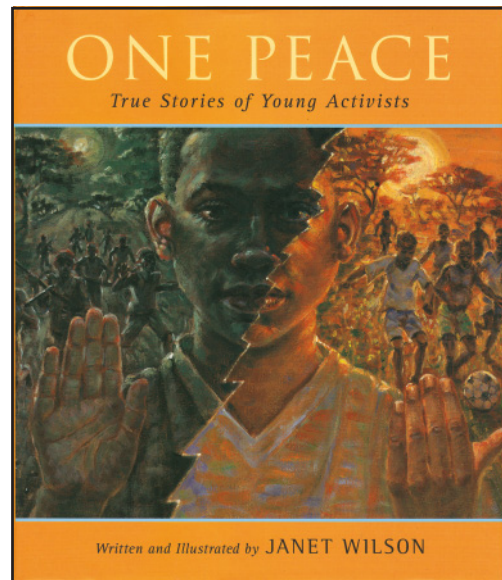
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One Peace

by Janet Wilson

One Peace: True Stories of Young Activists celebrates the **power of one**—what one young person can do to make a difference, in the heart, in the home, in the community and in the world. The accomplishments of children from around the globe who have worked to promote peace are told through stories, art, poetry, quotations, and photographs, mostly by young people for young people. *One Peace* addresses difficult subjects and world issues, from bullying to



child soldiers, to help readers connect these issues with their own lives. The moving testaments to the hope, courage and initiative of youth will inspire readers young and old to “be the change.” Gandhi also said, “To reach peace we must begin with the children.” *One Peace* confirms the phenomenal resource we have in our youth.

Because I’ve illustrated books with war themes, I was once asked why we teach about wars but not about peace. The idea was born! I’ve always loved real life stories and painting portraits so it was natural for me to include both. When I began my research, I realized that peace activism was being instigated and practised by youth. Who better to teach peace than young peace activists?

Thematic links

Refugees

Stand Up Against Bullies

Craig Kielburger: Free the Children

Child slavery

Child Soldiers

Activity Ideas:

- Peace craft activities: paper cranes, peace poles, peace doves.
- Volunteering & fundraising: Celebrate for Change campaign
- Peace art and poetry
- Peace, Environment & Human Rights Activism

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Janet Wilson author of *One Peace*

I have finally figured out what I want to be when I grow up twenty years after illustrating my first picture book, *Daniel's Dog*. I want to tell the world how amazing and powerful kids are! I hope young people who read *One Peace: True Stories of Young Activists* will be encouraged to appreciate their blessings and extend a helping hand to children in the developing world. I can say from experience that it is easy and it feels very good.

Selected Awards

National Association for Humane & Environmental Education (KIND) for Best Children's picture book & Henry Bergh Best Illustrated Book (ASPCA) & Mr. Christie's Book Award (Silver) for: *JASPER'S DAY*

Winner First Nation Reading Week Award, 2004, *SOLOMON'S TREE*

The Red Cedar Award for Non-fiction Book Illustration & Toronto Municipal Chapter I.O.D.E. Award for Children's Books & The Children's Roundtable Information Book Award: *IN FLANDERS FIELDS: THE STORY OF THE POEM BY JOHN MCCRAE*

Elizabeth Mrazik-Cleaver Canadian Picture Book Award for best illustration: *SELINA AND THE BEAR PAW QUILT*

Best Book Award Oppenheim Toy Portfolio, 2004 for *LIGHTHOUSE: A STORY OF REMEMBRANCE*

Outstanding category, Parents Choice, CCBC: *AT GRANDPA'S SUGAR BUSH*

The Canadian Library Association Best Book List: *SARAH MAY AND THE NEW RED DRESS*

The Canadian Library Association Best Book List: *ME AND MR. MAH*

Parents Choice Award, Canadian Children's Book Centre: *DANIEL'S DOG*

American Library Guild Award: *HOW TO BE COOL IN THE THIRD GRADE*



photo credit: John Reeves

Some Other Books by Janet Wilson

Imagine That! (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2000)

In Flanders Fields, the Story of the Poem by John McCrae (Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 1995 & 2005)

Out of Slavery: The Journey to Amazing Grace (Tundra, 2009)

So That's What God is Like, (Kregel, 2004)

Lighthouse: A Story of Remembrance (Scholastic, 2003)

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Polar Worlds

by Robert Bateman

“Polar Worlds captures the landscape and the wildlife of the North and South Poles . . . with tales of personal encounters with the creatures who roam these chilly regions.”

Thematic links:

The Arctic, the Antarctic as regions

Mammals: polar bear, grizzly bear, arctic wolf, fox & hare, caribou, walruses, seals, whales

Birds: puffins, swans, cranes, penguins

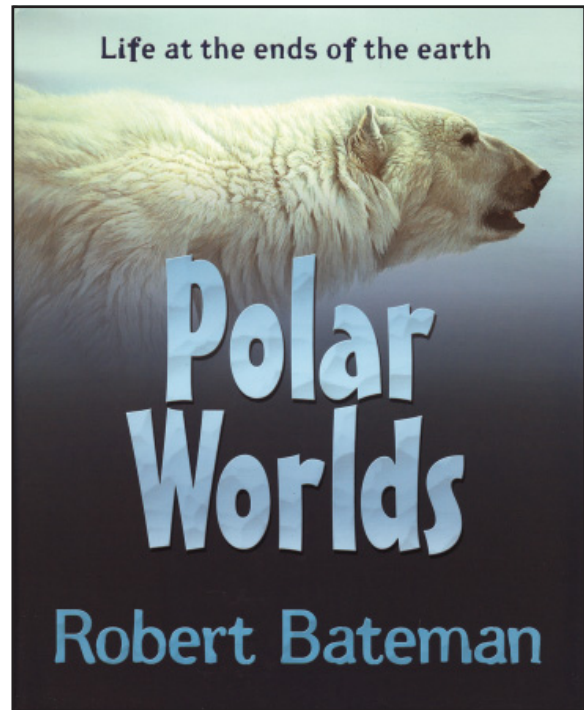
Migration

Global warming

Endangered species

Activity Ideas:

Too many to list



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Robert Bateman

author of *Polar Worlds*

"I can't conceive of anything being more varied, rich and handsome than planet Earth; its crowning beauty is the natural world. I want to soak it up, to understand it ... then I'd like to put it together and express it in my painting. This is the way I want to dedicate my life."



Robert Bateman's realistic painting style, featuring wildlife in its habitat, encourages the viewer to examine the natural world. His art reflects his commitment to ecology. Besides being one of Canada's best know artists, he is a spokesman for many environmental and preservation issues, using his art to raise millions of dollars for these causes. He has been the subject of numerous books and films; his honours and awards are numerous including 11 honorary doctorates, three schools named after him and Officer of the Order of Canada.

Selected Awards

Queen's Jubilee Medal, 2002

Order of British Columbia, 2001

US National Audubon Society, one of 20th century's 100 Champions of Conservation, 1998

Some Other Books by Robert Bateman

Safari by Robert Bateman & Rick Archbald (Penguin Studio/Madison Press, 1998)

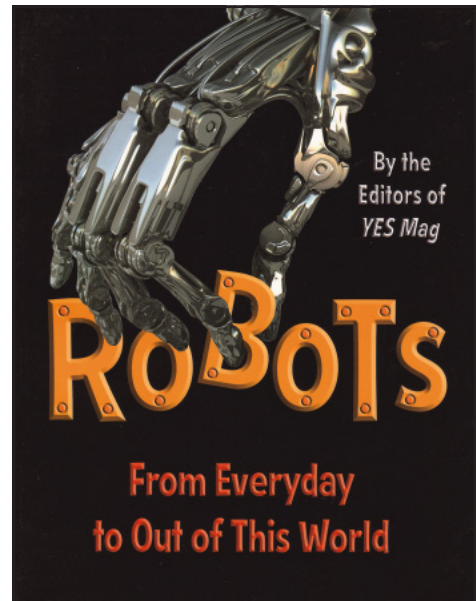
Backyard Birds by Robert Bateman with Ian Coutts (Scholastic/Madison Press, 2005)

Birds of Prey by Robert Bateman with Nancy Kovacs (Scholastic/Madison Press, 2007)

Robots: From Everyday to Out of This World

by the Editors of Yes Mag

As the editor of *KNOW* magazine I'm always reading up on the latest science news. And there is a LOT of news about robots. This grabbed my curiosity and I started to read more and more. Soon, I had a lot of questions, the main one being – When will robots be able to do my laundry? Seriously, robots are out in our world doing many things, all of which are much more interesting than sorting shirts and socks. I thought kids might be keen to know what robots are up to as well, so I wrote this book.



In *Robots*, you'll meet mechanical marvels that are defusing bombs, assembling cars, exploring Mars, roaming the oceans, assisting surgeons and guarding homes and businesses. The book also takes you back in time to the earliest robots and then peers into the future to see what robots might look like – and be up to – in the not-too-distant future.

Thematic Links:

Science and Technology
Inventions
Engineering
Computer technology
History (changes in communication technology)
Philosophy (Ethics)

Activity Ideas:

- Just understanding what robots can and cannot do is eye-opening for many young readers. Movies have led us to believe that robots are like mechanical people, but of course they are not. Robots are machines – “smart” machines – but still machines. Have students consider jobs that need to be done in our world. When might it be a good idea to use a robot? When is a person a better solution? (Most robots are doing jobs that are too dangerous or difficult for people.)
- Have a class discussion about computers and other technologies (cell phones, iPods, Blackberries, etc.). Twenty or thirty years ago few people could imagine that one day we could access information, talk to our friends, or watch a movie on something the size of a playing card at the push of a button. (Students could talk to their parents and grandparents to learn about communication in the “old days.”) These scenarios were from the world of science fiction, but now they are science fact. If we've come this far with computers so quickly, where might we be in 30 years with robots?

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Adrienne Mason

author of *Robots: From Everyday to Out of This World*



My “day job” is as the editor of *KNOW* magazine. *KNOW* magazine is the “younger sibling” of *YES Mag*, which started at Canada’s science magazine for kids over a decade ago. *KNOW* and *YES Mag* provide fun, informative, and engaging writing about science for thousands of children in Canada, the United States, and elsewhere in the world.

I’m also a freelance writer and I write for both children and adults. My magazine writing has appeared in *National Geographic Kids*, *WILD*, and (no surprise!) *YES Mag* and *KNOW*. Recent book titles include *Skunks* (from the Kids Can Press Wildlife Series), the four-book Primary Science series from Kids Can Press, LU and Clancy’s *Lost and Found*. I also assisted Dr. David Suzuki with a revised edition of *The Sacred Balance*.

I am an “island girl” and have lived on Vancouver Island for most of my life. I currently live on the island’s west coast, with husband, a national park warden, and two daughters.

Selected Awards

Books by Adrienne Mason have been nominated for the Red Cedar award, the Silver Birch award, the BC Book Prize, the Science in Society book award, and are regularly honoured as OUR CHOICE selections by the Canadian Children’s Book Centre. For a full list of books and honours, go to www.adriennemason.com

Some Other Books by Adrienne Mason

Lost and Found, Toronto: Kids Can Press (2008)

Build It!: Structures, Systems and You, Toronto: Kids Can Press (2006)

Skunks; Toronto, Kids Can Press (2006)

The Unknown Soldier

by Linda Granfield

Following World War I, countries mourned their fallen sons, brothers, husbands and fathers. In 1920, both France and England erected memorials to their “unknown soldiers,” the soldiers who could not be identified or whose original graves had been destroyed. Other countries soon followed their example. Millions of people believed that maybe, just maybe, *their* soldier was the honoured “Unknown” selected for special burial.



This book explores the concept of the Unknown Soldier and looks at over a dozen memorials around the world, including Canada and Iraq. Over 100 photos illustrate how the world remembers those who have served, both known and unknown.

Thematic links:

Canada during World War I
Remembrance Day
Memorials around the world
International remembrance
Local/family history—veterans

Activity Ideas:

- Using the Internet, find and print a photograph of an unnamed soldier from the First World War (1914-1918). Study his face. Decide who he is—his name, where he was born, how and where he fought. Did he come home from war? If not, where is he buried? If he did, what was the rest of his life like?
- Plant a Remembrance Garden in your school yard. Tulip bulbs planted in the autumn when classes begin reading Hackmatack books will bloom in the Spring, right around the time the Award is given. A celebration of great books—and great men and women who served in Canada’s military during times of war and peace.

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Linda Granfield

author of *The Unknown Soldier*

I grew up near Boston, Massachusetts and immigrated to Canada thirty-five years ago to go to university. I've been involved in the Canadian children's book field ever since. I've reviewed books, interviewed authors and illustrators, and appeared as a speaker at conferences and on radio and television programs. I've spoken to audiences ranging from a few readers in a village to many at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.



I don't just *write* about history for young readers. I try to help people appreciate the history around them. In 2006, I successfully lobbied the provincial government to have the year officially named "The Year of the War Bride" in Ontario. War brides are the women who married Canada's Second World War veterans and helped build the nation's communities. And I'm working on a huge Remembrance project now. We'll see what happens!

I'm currently conducting research for an adult biography of the Reverend John Magee, a forgotten hero of Nanking, China in 1937. By the time you read this I hope I've made a trip to China to follow in Magee's footsteps there long ago. For more information visit www.lindagranfield.com

Selected Awards

I have won more than 40 awards for my books, including the Vicky Metalf Award for a Body of Work.

Some Other books by Linda Granfield

Forthcoming: *Remembering John McCrae*, Toronto, Scholastic Canada (2009)

I Remember Korea: Veterans Tell Their Stories of the Korean War (1950-53), Toronto, Fitzhenry & Whiteside (2003)

Pier 21: Gateway of Hope, Toronto, Tundra Books, (2000)

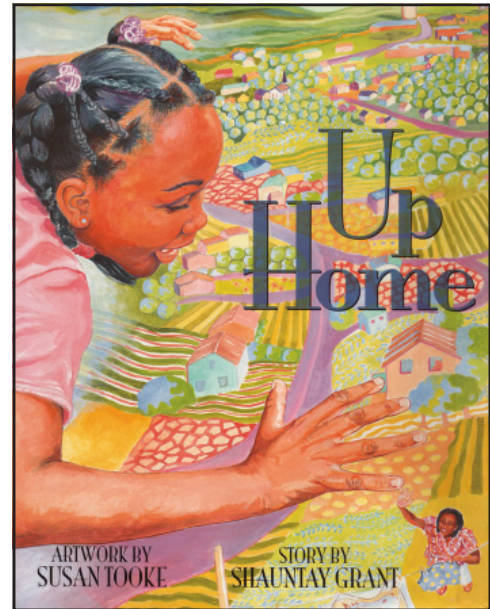
High Flight: A Story of World War II, Toronto, Tundra Books (1999)

In Flanders Fields: The Story of the Poem by John McCrae, Toronto, Fitzhenry & Whiteside (1995)

Up Home

by Shauntay Grant

My love of poetry stretches back to my storytelling roots in North Preston, Nova Scotia. From an early age, family and community gatherings of all sorts illustrated the power of storytelling traditions. Some of my fondest memories of growing up place me in the home of my great-aunt and great-uncle (known affectionately in the community as “Mamay” and “Daday”) with stories past and present whizzing around my head well into the night. Family members would be on their feet telling tales, each one vying for centre stage, engaging everyone with dynamic language and hand gestures. If your story wasn’t crisp, another family member would pipe up and claim the spotlight – a friendly competition of sorts that inspired me (a shy young writer with a cardboard box full of poems that nobody ever saw!) to get out there and speak!



I grew up in Halifax, but every Sunday my parents would pack my sister and me into the car and make the thirty-minute trek to North Preston for church; the rest of the day would be filled with food, family, songs, stories, laughter, and so much love. *Up Home* is a book full of my childhood memories, in honour of the places and people that made my childhood special.

Thematic Links:

Childhood

Memory

Poetry

Family and Friendship

African Nova Scotians (Black Refugees, Black Loyalists, Jamaican Maroons)

Activity Ideas:

- Share your own memories of growing up through poetry and pictures. You can use phrases like “I remember...” or “I am from...” to get started. You can even put your words and pictures together to create your own storybook.
- Research the history of the migration and settlement of Black Refugees, Black Loyalists, and Jamaican Maroons in Preston and throughout Nova Scotia and the Maritimes. Share your discoveries with your classmates through words, pictures, or your own special art project.

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Shauntay Grant

author of *Up Home*

Shauntay Grant is a Nova Scotian poet, playwright, performer, broadcast journalist and musician. She has shared her vibrant blend of poetry and music internationally at festivals and events. Shauntay regularly conducts arts workshops for youth and adults. Her original works have been broadcast nationally on CBC Radio, CBC Television and Vision Television. Her first children's book – a heartwarming portrayal of one of Nova Scotia's historic Black communities, dubbed *Up Home* – was released in June 2008 (Nimbus Publishing). *Up Home* received two Atlantic Book Awards for Best Atlantic Published Book and the Lillian Shepherd Memorial Award for Excellence in Illustration. Shauntay is the host of CBC Radio's All The Best and the annual CBC National Poetry Face-Off.



Selected Awards

Up Home, Best Atlantic Published Book Award (2009 Atlantic Book Awards)

Some Other Books by Shauntay Grant

To Find Us: Words And Images Of Halifax, Features two original works of poetry by Shauntay Grant: *Remember Preston* and *The City Speaks In Drums*, Halifax Regional Municipality, 2004

All Rights Reserved: A Literary Journal (Testify: Vol. 2) Features two original works of poetry by Shauntay Grant: *A Song For Cinque* and *The City Speaks In Drums* All Rights Reserved Literacy Journal Association, 2007

TOK, Book IV (anthology produced by Diaspora Dialogues) Features five original works of poetry by Shauntay Grant: *art gallery*, *jazz fest*, *musings*, *poetry café*, and *t(her)e* Zephyr Press, 2009

Who Discovered America?

by Valerie Wyatt

You never know when a book idea will leap out and grab you. The idea for *Who Discovered America?* came when I was on holiday in Europe. I was reading a newspaper that had an article about how the Chinese discovered America in 1421. That's 71 years before Columbus found his way here. *The Chinese discovered America*, I thought? *I never knew that!* When I got home, I decided to do a bit of digging.

I soon found myself deep in a mystery. It turned out there were many individuals and groups who either claimed to be the discoverers of the Americas or who could be considered the discoverers. In fact, Christopher Columbus was at the end of a long line that stretched back through history to the year 500 and even farther back to a time before there were written records. *Who Discovered America?* is my attempt to unravel the mystery of whodunit – who was here first.

So who *did* discover the Americas? You'll have to read *Who Discovered America?* and decide for yourself. Along the way you'll meet a black cowboy, a teenager collector of old spear heads, an Irish monk and, yes, even the Chinese. They're all part of the large and colourful cast of characters that are part of this history mystery.

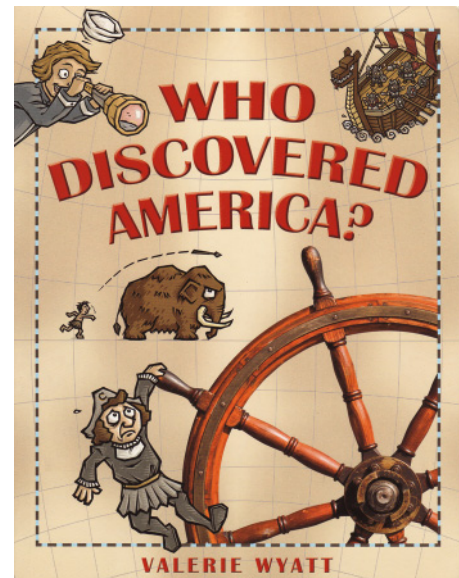
Thematic Links:

History
Social Studies
The explorers
Aboriginal history

Activity Ideas:

•For a full set of downloadable learning resources, go to: <http://www.kidscanpress.com/US/Who-Discovered-America-P3077.aspx>.

Click on "Learning Materials" under "Extras."



HACKMATAACK

2010

Valerie Wyatt

authors of *Who Discovered America?*

You could say I'm hooked on writing. To be honest, I'm addicted to print.

From an early age I would read anything and everything, from cereal boxes to encyclopedias and anything in between. The library was my idea of heaven. I was soon trying to sneak books out of the adult section and frequently got caught.



Loving the written word made choosing a career easy.

I decided to be an editor and soon found myself at *OWL* magazine, where I edited and wrote. One of my jobs was to answer readers' questions. Kids would write in and ask, "Do fish sleep?" or "Why can't you sneeze with your eyes open?" I would track down the answers, often by interviewing scientists. Writing articles soon led to books.

I have now written 15 books and edited more than a hundred children's books. I love writing and editing for children because there are both words *and* pictures. You have to think about the photographs and illustrations as well and make sure they fit together. It's like putting together a jigsaw puzzle.

I live in Victoria, B.C., with my husband, Larry, and dog, MacPherson MacDonald. When I'm not working, you'll find me out in the garden or down on the beach.

Selected Awards

Tom Fairley Award for Editorial Excellence, 2005

Science in Society Award for *FAQ Weather*

Hackmataack Children's Choice shortlist for *FAQ Weather*

BC Book prize nominee for *The Kids Book of Canadian Firsts*

Some Other Books written or illustrated by Valerie Wyatt

FAQ Inventions, Kids Can Press, 2003

FAQ Space, Kids Can Press 2002

The Kids Book of Canadian Firsts, Kids Can Press, 2001

FAQ Weather, Kids Can Press, 2000

The Math Book for Girls and Other Beings Who Count, Kids Can Press, 2000

Earthlings Inside and Out: A Space Alien Studies the Human Body, Kids Can Press, 1999

The Science Book for Girls and Other Intelligent Beings, Kids Can Press, 1993