

# Hackmatack 2012

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## *A Message From the Award Organizers*

This is the thirteenth year of the Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award, a reading program designed for children in Atlantic Canada. Each year, the project attracts approximately 350 reading groups from communities in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. An estimated 7,500 children participate, and hundreds host author readings and attend the Hackmatack Award ceremony in April/May.

We are happy to present you with our new nominations for the 2012 Hackmatack Award. The books introduced to you in this project kit represent fine Canadian literature for children published over the last two years. The books are carefully chosen to spark the imagination and resonate with young readers in Atlantic Canada. There is something to interest everyone.

"A book can't be a book unless it's read", wrote Sheree Fitch in her introduction to our first year's award. The involvement and enthusiasm of Hackmatack readers is what makes this program thrive.

***Thank you for taking part in the 2012 Hackmatack Awards. We hope that you will enjoy this literary journey!***

## *Hackmatack Supporting Organizations*

The development and delivery of the program would not be possible without the support of the **Nova Scotia Department of Education**, the **New Brunswick Public Library Service**, **The Canada Council for the Arts** and the contributions from many businesses, arts and educational organizations, publishing companies, booksellers, corporations and Hackmatack volunteers. The Hackmatack Award would like to thank the following organizations for their generous contributions to the program:



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts  
du Canada



New Brunswick  
Public Library  
Service

Service des  
bibliothèques publiques  
du Nouveau-Brunswick

Nova Scotia  
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

W | F | N | S



newfoundland and labrador  
library association



nova scotia  
library association



Association des bibliothécaires professionnel(le)s du Nouveau-Brunswick  
Association of Professional Librarians of New Brunswick

Newfoundland & Labrador Regional Libraries  
Prince Edward Island Regional Libraries

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## ***About the Hackmatack Award***

### ***So...what is a 'Hackmatack'?***

Hackmatack is a native name for tamarack, a tree commonly found in Atlantic Canada. Other provinces have chosen names of well-known trees in their regions for similar programs, such as the Silver Birch in Ontario or Red Cedar in British Columbia.

The Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award is a reading award program designed for children in grades four to six (ages 9 to 12). Each year, the Hackmatack Selection Committees carefully review over 200 new children's books written and published in Canada and narrow the selection to 40 titles: ten English fiction, ten English non-fiction, ten French fiction and ten French non-fiction titles for the upcoming year of the award. Children in registered groups read these books and vote for the winners of the award in the spring of each year.

### ***Who Can Participate***

- a grade 4, 5, or 6 class in a school
- a group formed by staff in a public or school library
- a group formed by a parent or community organization
- not part of a group? Ask at your public library for how to participate on your own.

Organizers may add children who are either older or younger if they feel they would benefit from the program. Groups are either a single class or an independently organized group of up to 30 children. Reading groups can be bigger or smaller in size depending on the organization and specific needs of participants.

### ***The Voting Process and Rules***

- Groups buy books at bookstores or borrow from public libraries
- Children must read, or have read aloud to them, at least five of the official selections from either the English fiction, English non-fiction, French fiction or French non-fiction list. Five or more books read from any of the categories qualifies a child to give one vote to their favourite book in that category.
- If a child has completed five books in more than one category, they are eligible to vote accordingly.
- Your organization will determine the date for the Hackmatack 'elections'. Sample voting ballots and official tally sheets are included in this kit.
- After your election, group coordinators are requested to enter the results on the voting tally sheet and submit this sheet by fax or mail to the Hackmatack office. Please do not submit results by phone.

**Organizers should encourage children to read as many books as they can to make informed decisions. However, organizers may be flexible and exercise their discretion to encourage all readers' participation.**

#### **• Note: Voting Deadline, April 1, 2012**

- The results in all categories will be announced at the **Award ceremony** held on **April 27** in **Moncton, NB**. All participating groups will be notified about the 2012 award winners in May.

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## ***Hackmatack Timeline 2010/2011***

- February 2011 Nominated book selections
- September 2011 Registration brochure and poster mailouts
- September 2011 Kits on website
- Deadline for registrations December 31, 2011
- September 2011 to March 2012 Reading
- February 2012 Voting reminder, bookings to host author readings and attend award ceremony
- April 1, 2012 Deadline for voting
- April 23 to 26, 2012 Nominated author reading tours in Atlantic region
- April 27, 2012 Award Ceremony, Moncton, NB  
10:00am - 12:00pm
- April 30, 2012 Press release out re 11/12 award winners

**For more information about the award, please contact our office at:**

Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award  
PO Box 34055  
Scotia Square RPO  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 3S1

Tel.: (902) 424-3774  
Fax: (902) 424-0613 attn. Hackmatack Co-ordinator  
Email: [hackmatack@hackmatack.ca](mailto:hackmatack@hackmatack.ca)

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## ***Where to Obtain Hackmatack-Nominated Books***

Hackmatack titles nominated for the 2011/2012 award can be purchased in the following bookstores:

### **NEW BRUNSWICK**

#### **Benjamin's Books**

1 Gondola Point Rd., Ste. 1  
Rothesay, NB E2E 5J6  
tel: (506) 848-1234  
fax: (506) 847-3971  
(French and English titles)

#### **Books Inn Inc.**

144 Newcastle Boulevard  
Miramichi, NB E1V 2L7  
tel: (506) 622-1185  
fax: (506) 622-1205  
(English titles only)

#### **Librairie acadienne**

Édifice Taillon  
Université de Moncton  
Moncton, NB E1A 3E9  
tel: (506) 858-4140  
fax: (506) 858-4752  
(French titles only)

#### **Librairie Pélagie**

231A Boul. J.D. Gauthier  
Shippagan, NB E8S 1N2  
tel: 1-888-735-2443  
fax: (506) 336-9778  
(French titles only)

#### **Librairie Pélagie**

171 Boul. St-Pierre O.  
Caraquet, NB  
E1W 1B7  
tel: (506) 726-9777  
(French titles only)

#### **Tidewater Books**

4 Bridge St.  
Sackville, NB E4L 3N5  
tel: (506) 536-0404  
fax: (506) 536-0881  
(English titles only)

#### **Westminster Books**

445 King Street  
Fredericton, NB E3B 1E5  
tel: (506) 454-1442  
fax: (506) 452-9330  
(French and English titles)

### **NEWFOUNDLAND**

#### **The Bookery on Signal Hill**

Sweet Relic  
42 Powers Court  
St. John's, NL A1A 1B6  
tel: (709) 739-4223  
fax: (709) 739-3367

### **NOVA SCOTIA**

#### **The Inside Story**

1910 Greenwood Mall  
Greenwood, NS B0P 1N0  
tel: (902) 765-6116  
fax: (902) 765-6484  
(English titles only)

#### **Magasin Campus**

Université Sainte-Anne  
Church Point, NS B0W 1M0  
tel: (902) 769-3562  
fax: (902) 769-3167  
(French titles only)

#### **R&C Sagors Bookstore**

686 King St.  
Bridgewater, NS B4V 1B4  
tel: (902) 543-4204  
(English titles only)

#### **Tattletales Books**

Penhorn Mall  
535 Portland Street  
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 5B1  
tel: (902) 463-5551  
fax: (902) 463-5552  
(French and English titles)

#### **Woozles Bookstore**

1533 Birmingham Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 2J6  
tel: (902) 423-7626  
fax: (902) 420-0418  
(French and English titles)

### **PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

#### **Bookmark**

Confederation Court Mall  
172 Queen Street  
Charlottetown, PEI C1A 4B5  
tel: (902) 566-4888  
fax: (902) 368-3651  
(English titles only)

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### ***Running a Successful Program***

#### ***Getting Started:***

- Buy a number of copies of the nominated books to make them more available for eager readers.
- Keep the Hackmatack books in a special display area along with copies of the Hackmatack poster, flyers, photocopies of author biographies and booklists.
- Discuss the Hackmatack program at Staff and Parent-Teacher meetings. This is a great way to share the excitement and encourage greater participation by readers and volunteers.
- Highlight the Hackmatack program in your newsletter or local newspaper.

#### ***Getting Young Readers Involved:***

- Invite Hackmatack readers to create art displays based on the books they have read. They might enjoy making giant versions of book covers, or tying in more specifically with the subjects of the books they are reading.
- Hold brief book talks on the nominated titles in classrooms or libraries. What experiences do your readers share with the heroes and heroines of these books?
- Many books on the Hackmatack list are based on real historic events, existing cultures, or lives of famous personalities. Encourage children to find out more about these facts by conducting research or finding web sites on related topics.
- Prominently display the Progress Charts included in the kits, so readers can keep track of what they have read and discuss their progress with somebody else who has already logged on.
- Make the reading experience more personal by telling young readers about the authors of the books (see writers' bios in the kit).

*Hackmatack Award will forward letters from readers to nominated authors. Remember to clearly indicate the name of the author on your letter. Please send mail to:*

***Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award, PO Box 34055, Scotia Square RPO, Halifax, NS B3J 3S1, Fax: (902) 424-0613/att. Hackmatack***

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## ***Getting Parents Involved:***

- Inform parents of students about Hackmatack and your school or library's involvement in the program.
- Invite parent participation. Some parents might want to get involved and organize or supervise activities for your group.

## ***More Activity Suggestions:***

- Create a file folder that will hold information on books and authors. Encourage children to write their own book reviews and include them in the folder. Encourage them to share their opinions in 'book talks' or on-line Hackmatack chat groups.
- Children can draw pictures based on themes from the books. A brief essay on why they chose a particular character or scene can accompany pictures. Create a Hackmatack display of the pictures and essays, including the books and poster.
- Study the geographical area and time period of a particular book. Compare the lives, values and concerns of the characters from the books with those of your young readers.
- Write a play based on a book or a scene from a book. Involve the children in the production and presentation of the play.
- Invite local celebrities, such as politicians, artists, athletes or writers to read from nominated books.
- Encourage the children to start their own reading journals to record their progress, ideas, opinions and questions regarding the books they have read.
- Create a replica of a hackmatack tree. Children can add paper cones with their names for each title read.
- Have a book club meal with food from the nominated books.
- Have a pizza party with a visiting author. Encourage each child to invite a special guest.
- Use the internet. Research about the author. Find other books about the same subject.

***For more ideas, see the activities sections for each nominated book in this kit and on the website [www.hackmatack.ca](http://www.hackmatack.ca).***