

Reading Suggestions From Wapiti Regional Library

30 Canadian Books Your Family Can Read Together

Title: The Legend of Ninja Cowboy Bear

Author: Bruins, David

Description: The ninja, the cowboy and the bear do everything together --- they paint pictures, compare cloud shapes in the sky, fly kites and much more. Though each friend is very different from one another, they enjoy each other's company. Until one day when they begin quarreling and compete to see which one is the best. When each contest leads to more resentment, it seems the friends will never stop disagreeing. Only when they learn to be considerate of their differences do they finally realize how much they appreciate each other.

Title: Mama's Going to Buy You a Mockingbird

Author: Little, Jean

Description: Jeremy is not having a good summer. His best friends have moved away, and he has to stay at the cottage with only his little sister and Aunt Margery. His parents have remained in the city so his father can have an operation. When Jeremy finally sees him again, he finds out that his father has cancer and isn't going to get better. Suddenly, everything is different. Then Jeremy finds an unlikely friend in Tess, who knows what it's like to lose someone. As his friendship with her grows, through good times and bad, Jeremy discovers that his father has left him something that will live forever...

Title: Grumpy Bird

Author: Tankard, Jerry

Description: Feeling too grumpy to fly, Bird begins to walk and finds that his mood changes as other animals join him.

Title: Hana's Suitcase: a true story

Author: Levine, Karen

Description: In March 2000, a suitcase arrived at a children's Holocaust education center in Tokyo, Japan. On the outside, in white paint, were the words Hana Brady, May 16, 1931 and Waisenkind, the German word for orphan.

Title: The Brixen Witch

Author: DeKeyser, Stacy; Nickle, John (Illustrator)

Description: Twelve-year-old Rudi stumbles upon a witch's lair while out hunting, takes a gold coin he finds there but loses it again, then must deal with the witch's servant who promises to end the town's rat infestation only if he receives that gold coin, in a story reminiscent of The Pied Piper of Hamelin.

Title: Mortimer

Author: Munsch, Robert N.

Description: The story of a little boy who won't go to sleep at night and who drives his family crazy with his rowdiness.

Title: Small Saul

Author: Spires, Ashley

Description: When Small Saul joins the crew of The Rusty Squid, it doesn't take long for the other pirates to notice something is very different about this tiny fellow. He was born to sing sea shanties, bake pineapple upside down cakes and redecorate, not to hold a sword and plunder. Being rough and tough just isn't in his nature.

Title: Hana Hashimoto, Sixth violin

Author: Uegaki, Chieri

Description: Hana Hashimoto has signed up to play her violin at her school's talent show. The trouble is, she's only a beginner, and she's had only three lessons. Her brothers insist she isn't good enough. "It's a talent show, Hana," they tell her. "You'll be a disaster!" Hana remembers how wonderfully her talented grandfather, Ojiichan, played his violin when she was visiting him in Japan. So, just like Ojiichan, Hana practices every day. She is determined to play her best. When Hana's confidence wavers on the night of the show, however, she begins to wonder if her brothers were right. But then Hana surprises everyone once it's her turn to perform -- even herself!

Title: The Subway Mouse

Author: Reid, Barbara

Description: A mouse who lives in a subway station decides to find Tunnel's End, a place he's heard about in stories.

Title: Alligator Pie

Author: Lee, Dennis

Description: "You can almost hear the skipping rope slapping the sidewalk," wrote Margaret Laurence of Dennis Lee's timeless poetry collection *Alligator Pie*. One of the first illustrated books published about Canadian children and featuring Canadian place names, *Alligator Pie* established Dennis Lee's reputation as "Canada's Father Goose" and has sold more than half a million copies since its publication in 1974.

Title: Naomi's Tree

Author: Kogawa, Joy

Description: A young couple leaves Japan for the coast of Canada, bringing a cherry seed to plant in their new garden. The little cherry tree watches over the family as the couple have children, and then grandchildren. Young Naomi makes the cherry tree her special friend, and the tree's branches shelter her as she plays. But when war breaks out between the two countries, and the family is sent to an internment camp. Though Naomi often dreams of going home, the dream fades as the years go by. The little tree is left behind to mourn its loss. For many years the cherry tree sends out a song of love and peace that reaches Naomi only in her dreams. But the insects and small animals hear the song, and on the wind they send back their own messages to the tree, assuring it that Naomi is safe and that one day she will return. And when she does, the tree will be waiting for her.

Title: Eye of the Crow

Author: Peacock, Shane

Description: Sherlock Holmes, just thirteen, is a misfit and bullied by everyone. Despite this, he focuses his attention on a murder and the boy authorities accused of committing the murder.

Title: Earth Magic

Author: Brand, Dionne

Description: A collection of poems about Trinidad.

Title: Run

Author: Walters, Eric

Description: Winston MacDonald is in trouble. He's been suspended from school and he's run away from home. After the police pick him up, he is sent to spend time with his father—a newspaper columnist who hasn't been around much since the family split up a year ago. Travelling to Nova Scotia with his father, who is covering what he thinks is just a human interest story about a young man trying to run across Canada, Winston spends some time with Terry Fox and Terry's best friend, Doug. Their

determination to achieve what seems like an impossible goal makes a big impression on Winston and he takes courage and inspiration from Terry's run. He is overjoyed when his father's article about the Marathon of Hope ignites public interest across the country.

Title: Elijah of Buxton

Author: Curtis, Christopher Paul

Description: In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, a haven for slaves fleeing the American south, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

Title: The Dream Carvers

Author: Clark, Joan

Description: It is the 11th century, a time of struggle and hardship in what will become the province of Newfoundland. Thrand, a Viking boy from Greenland, is proud to have been chosen to go on a voyage to Leifsbudir in Northern Newfoundland. But events take a disastrous turn when Thrand is captured by the Beothuks, the "red ochre people." On which side of the cultural divide will he ultimately stand: with his heritage, or with his new people?

Title: Plain Kate

Author: Bow, Erin

Description: Plain Kate's odd appearance and expertise as a woodcarver cause some to think her a witch, but friendship with a talking cat and, later, with humans help her to survive and even thrive in a world of magic, charms, and fear.

Title: Underground to Canada

Author: Smucker, Barbara

Description: There's a place the slaves been whisperin' around called Canada. The law don't allow no slavery there. They say you follow the North Star, and when you step onto this land you are free... Taken away from her mother by a ruthless slave trader, all Julilly has left is the dream of freedom. Every day that she spends huddled in the slaver trader's wagon travelling south or working on the brutal new plantation, she thinks about the land where it is possible to be free, a land she and her friend Liza may reach someday. So when workers from the Underground Railroad offer to help the two girls escape, they are ready. But the slave catchers and their dogs will soon be after them...

Title: The Man With the Violin

Author: Stinson, Kathy

Description: Dylan is someone who notices things. His mom is someone who doesn't. So try as he might, Dylan can't get his mom to listen to the man playing the violin in the subway station. But Dylan is swept away by the soaring and swooping notes that fill the air as crowds of oblivious people rush by. This video is based on the true story of Joshua Bell, the renowned American violinist who famously took his instrument down into the Washington, D.C. subway for a free concert.

Title: Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang

Author: Richler, Mordecai,

Description: Unjustly imprisoned by the Hooded Fang and other big people, Jacob Two-Two awaits the aid of the members of Child Power to free him and two hundred other children.

Title: The Hunchback Assignments

Author: Slade, Arthur

Description: In Victorian London, fourteen-year-old Modo, a shape-changing hunchback, becomes a

secret agent for the Permanent Association, which strives to protect the world from the evil machinations of the Clockwork Guild.

Title: This Can't Be Happening at MacDonald Hall!

Author: Korman, Gordon

Description: As they seem to be at the bottom of every prank at Macdonald Hall, the headmaster decides to separate roommates Bruno and Boots, but to little avail.

Title: Scaredy Squirrel

Author: Watt, Melanie

Description: Scaredy Squirrel never leaves his nut tree. It's way too dangerous out there. He could encounter tarantulas, green Martians or killer bees. But in his tree, every day is the same and if danger comes along, he's well-prepared. Scaredy Squirrel's emergency kit includes antibacterial soap, Band-Aids and a parachute. Day after day he watches and waits, and waits and watches, until one day ... his worst nightmare comes true! Scaredy suddenly finds himself out of his tree, where germs, poison ivy and sharks lurk. But as Scaredy Squirrel leaps into the unknown, he discovers something really uplifting ...

Title: Skraelings

Author: Qitsualik-Tinsley, Rachel

Description: A young, wandering Inuit hunter named Kannujaq happens upon a camp in grave peril. The inhabitants of the camp are Tunit, a race of ancient Inuit ancestors known for their shyness and meekness. The tranquility of this Tunit camp has been shaken by a group of murderous, pale, bearded strangers who have arrived on a huge boat shaped like a loon. Unbeknownst to Kannujaq, he has stumbled upon a battle between the Tunit and a group of Viking warriors! As the camp prepares to defend itself against the approaching newcomers, Kannujaq and a Tunit shaman boy named Siku discover that the Vikings may have motivations other than murder and warfare at the heart of their quest.

Title: Shin'chi's Canoe

Author: Campbell, Nicola

Description: This moving sequel to the award-winning *Shi-shi-etko* tells the story of two children's experience at residential school. Shi-shi-etko is about to return for her second year, but this time her six-year-old brother, Shin-chi, is going, too. As they begin their journey in the back of a cattle truck, Shi-shi-etko tells her brother all the things he must remember: the trees, the mountains, the rivers and the salmon. Shin-chi knows he won't see his family again until the sockeye salmon return in the summertime. When they arrive at school, Shi-shi-etko gives him a tiny cedar canoe, a gift from their father. The children's time is filled with going to mass, school for half the day, and work the other half. Shin-chi is forever hungry and lonely, but, finally, the salmon swim up the river and the children return home for a joyful family reunion.

Title: Virginia Wolf

Author: Maclear, Kyo

Description: Vanessa's sister, Virginia, is in a "wolfish" mood -- growling, howling and acting very strange. Vanessa tries everything she can think of to cheer her up, but nothing seems to work. Loosely based on the relationship between author Virginia Woolf and her sister, painter Vanessa Bell.

Title: Airborn

Author: Oppel, Kenneth

Description: Enter a past in which airplanes have never been invented, giant airships rule the skies and the glittering skyscrapers of Lionsgate City, Canada's greatest metropolis, rise near the Pacificus Ocean. When Matt Cruse, cabin boy on the luxury airship Aurora, fearlessly performs a dramatic rescue to save

an old man from his damaged hot air balloon, he doesn't know what events he's setting in motion. Will he and the balloonist's fiery granddaughter, Kate de Vries, be able to solve the mystery of impossible flying creatures seen among the clouds? And will they figure it out before pirates and shipwreck end their voyage forever?

Title: Awake and Dreaming

Author: Pearson, Kit

Description: Theo and her young, irresponsible mother seem trapped forever in their miserable, poverty-stricken life ... but Theo can't stop dreaming of belonging to a "real" family. When she is mysteriously adopted by the large, warm Kaldor family, her dream seems to be coming true. But as time passes, the magic of Theo's new life begins to fade, and soon she finds herself back with her mother. Were the Kaldors real or just a dream? Who is the shadowy figure who haunts Theo's thoughts? And, most importantly, will Theo ever be able to find a real home with a family she can truly call her own?

Title: Anne of Green Gables

Author: Montgomery, L. M.

Description: When Marilla Cuthbert's brother, Matthew, returns home to Green Gables with a chatty redheaded orphan girl, Marilla exclaims, "But we asked for a boy. We have no use for a girl." It's not long, though, before the Cuthberts can't imagine how they could ever do without young Anne of Green Gables--but not for the original reasons they sought an orphan.

Title: Fox and Squirrel

Author: Ohi, Ruth

Description: When Fox and Squirrel get together, Squirrel can only see their differences. Squirrel is small and Fox is big; Squirrel lives in a nest and Fox in a burrow; Squirrel likes the day and Fox, the night. But as their friendship grows, Fox gently points out that their differences are good, and more than that, they have many things in common too. Even Squirrel begins to see that maybe they are not so different after all!

Title: You are Stardust

Author: Kelsey, Elin

Description: *You Are Stardust* begins by introducing the idea that every tiny atom in our bodies came from a star that exploded long before we were born. From its opening pages, the book suggests that we are intimately connected to the natural world; it compares the way we learn to speak to the way baby birds learn to sing, and the growth of human bodies to the growth of forests.