

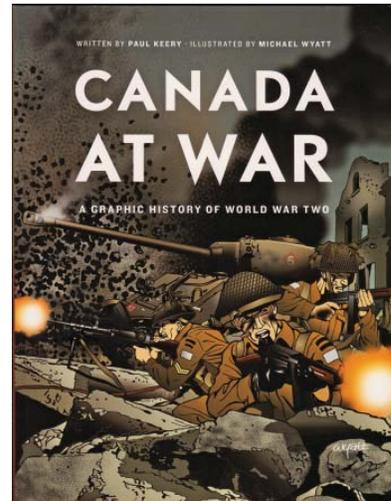
HACKMATAACK 2014

Canada at War: A Graphic History of World War Two

by Paul Keery and Michael Wyatt

Canada At War describes the achievements of the Canadian forces in the Second World War. The book tells the story of how Canadians found themselves at war again, twenty years after the First World War's horrors, and how these reluctant warriors freed western Europe from the forces of Nazi tyranny.

The book begins with Canada's two gravest defeats – Hong Kong and Dieppe – and explains why, despite our courage and fighting spirit, those battles were lost. We follow Canadians as they learned once more to fight in the air, at sea, and on the ground, often in the midst of deadly battle.



In the Battle of the Atlantic, Canadian sailors ensured that Great Britain would have the food and arms its people needed to survive, despite the dangers of being sunk by Nazi U-boats.

In the skies above Europe, Canadian pilots protected Britain from Nazi bombers and then carried the war to Nazi Germany itself.

Finally, Canadian soldiers led the fight to liberate France and Holland from Nazi oppression, and to defeat the Nazis. The costs of victory were high – but the price of defeat would have been the end of the values and dreams Canadians held dear.

Thematic Links:

World War 2

Royal Canadian Navy [RCN]

Royal Canadian Air Force [RCAF]

Canadian Forces [Army]

Activity Ideas:

- Visit a nearby military museum or Canadian Forces base to learn more about the people and machines that were used in conflicts around the world.
- Interview a grandparent or other family member about life in World War 2.

HACKMATAACK 2014

Paul Keery

author of *Canada at War: A Graphic History of World War Two*

I've been in school a lot; you could say that I've spent my life there. After leaving high school, I went to university and earned degrees in history, law, library and information science, and education. After a brief time in the business world, I decided to become a teacher, and have taught history, law and computer technology for nearly 25 years. In 2007, Apple Computers chose me to become an Apple Distinguished Educator to recognize my work in combing computer technology with classroom teaching.



I have always loved history, and have always wanted to be an author. History is fun and fascinating, and is anything but dull – though it often comes across that way. So, I set out to write fun and fascinating history for young people [and any other readers who might be interested!]. I have also written articles for a number of newspapers and professional journals.

I also enjoy reading and watching science fiction [you might be surprised, but some of the best science fiction writers also love history], travelling, and building models [real ones, not CGI models]. I'd love to build a time machine and go travelling in time.

Selected Awards

Apple Distinguished Educator [2007]

Some Other Books by Paul Keery

Maple Leaf Forever: the story of Canada's Confederation (JackFruit Press, 2008)

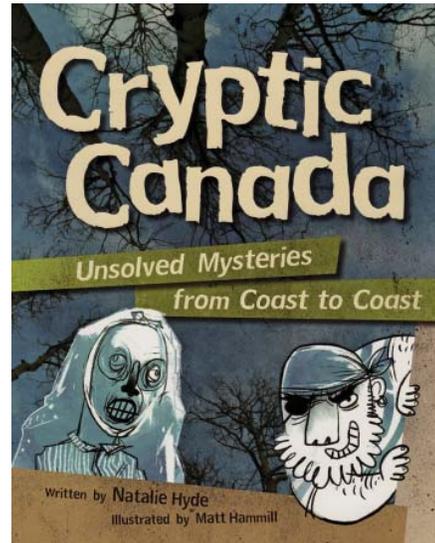
HACKMATAACK 2014

Cryptic Canada: Unsolved Mysteries from Coast to Coast

by Natalie Hyde

People marvel at the mummies and pyramids of ancient Egypt, the fascinating stone structure at England's Stonehenge and the unexplained disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle. You might think you have to travel the world to explore strange and mysterious sites.

But wait! Fascinating wonders like these are much closer than you think. From buried treasure to ice mummies to bootleggers to shipwrecks, curious readers need look no farther than our own backyard to discover seven of the Canada's more intriguing unsolved mysteries. So leave your passport in the drawer and come discover Cryptic Canada.



Thematic Links:

Canadian History

The Franklin Expedition

Vikings and the Discovery of North America

Prohibition

Freemasons

The Great Lakes

Activity Ideas:

- Write a diary of your trip from Greenland to L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland as a member of Leif Ericsson's crew.
- You want to hide your own valuable treasure on an island. Where would you hide it: above or below ground? How would you stop thieves from stealing it? Design your hiding place and any devices used to protect it.
- Your ship is trapped in ice like the ships, Erebus and Terror, from Franklin's Expedition and you are going to trek south to find help. What items would you take with you off the ship and why? How would you carry them?

HACKMATAACK 2014

Natalie Hyde

author of *Cryptic Canada: Unsolved Mysteries from Coast to Coast*

I have always been interested in things strange and mysterious. When I was younger, I even thought I was a genie for a while! So it was natural that when I started writing non-fiction that I would be drawn to unusual topics.

I began writing *Cryptic Canada* after a trip to Newfoundland with my family. While there, we drove to L'Anse aux Meadows and toured the remains of a Viking settlement. I was astounded to learn that the Vikings had discovered North America before Christopher Columbus. How did I not know this? I wondered what other interesting stories lay hidden in our Canadian past. Turns out, there were many! Seven different Canadian mysteries are profiled in this book, but I am still discovering new cryptic sites and stories in our very cool and mysterious country.



Selected Awards

2011 and 2012 Silver Birch Express Award
2013 Red Cedar Award
2013 Rocky Mountain Book Award
2013 Great Stone Face Book Award (New Hampshire)
2014 Nutmeg Book Award (Connecticut)

Some Other Books by Natalie Hyde

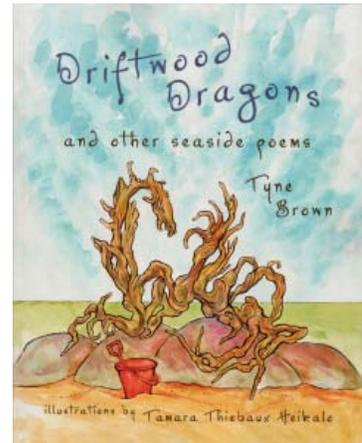
Hockey Girl (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2012)
I Owe You One (Orca, 2011)
Saving Armpit (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2011)

HACKMATAACK 2014

Driftwood Dragons and Other Seaside Poems

by Tyne Brown

Who doesn't like a day at the beach? First, there's the ocean with its tides and waves and water teeming with schools of fish, shy crabs and drifting jellyfish. Then there's sand - lots of it. What fun to walk barefoot, leaving your footprints for the wind or water to erase, or to build a sandcastle with moats and flags made from beach wood and seaweed. The seaside is never boring! Treasures abound for beachcombers, not to mention the delight in hunting for perfect pebbles or shells. Listen to seagulls, feel slippery seaweed, explore tidal pools teeming with life, feel bumpy barnacles on rocks, or maybe even spot seals bobbing in the ocean. If you're really lucky you might even see a whale spout! No matter where you are in the Maritimes, the ocean and its effects are always nearby. How lucky to live by the sea!



As a child I lived in different places, each one distinct. I quickly learned to appreciate and love nature's diversity. The spirit of Driftwood Dragons and other seaside poems was inspired by the beauty and uniqueness of the ever changing sea and shore.

Thematic Links:

Earth Science: Coastal Environments, Processes, Meteorology

Physics: Sound, Light, Waves

Life Science: Habitats, Populations, Communities, Vertebrates, Invertebrates

Language/Arts: Stories, Drama, Dance, Crafts, Music

Activity Ideas:

- Take a class trip to the beach at low tide. Find one or more tide pools. Record different plants and animals. Turn over a rock or seaweed. List the animals you see. What animals or animal tracks do you see on the sand.
- With bird identification documents, sit on the sand and record the kinds and numbers of birds you see. Note their similarities and differences.
- Close your eyes and listen to the sounds around you. Record what you hear. Find spiral shells and put them to your ear. What do you hear? Visit the Museum of Natural History and view shore birds and listen to their calls. Are any the same as you saw or heard? Visit the whale gallery. Measure the length of a whale in the gallery with string. Ask if you can hear a recording of whales communicating.

HACKMATAACK 2014

Tyne Brown

author of *Driftwood Dragons and Other Seaside Poems*

After living beside the ocean for many years, it has become a part of me. One of my favourite activities is to walk the beach, bundled up in winter and bare feet splashing in summer. During my walks I encounter many magical moments and these often find their way into my poems and stories. I love to write for children and I'm happy to say that *Driftwood Dragons and other seaside poems* is my first published book. I have also contributed many poems to magazines such as *Babybug*, *Ladybug*, *Turtle*, *Pockets*, *Wee Ones* and *Fandangle*.

Selected Awards

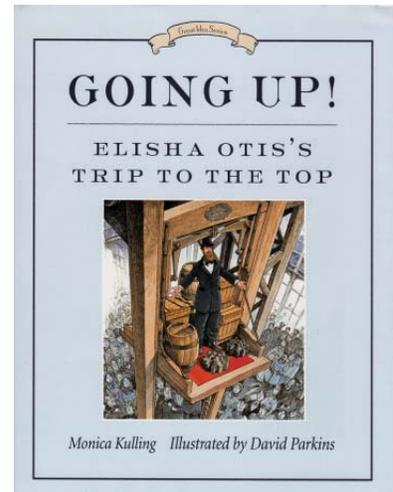
2005 Writers' Union of Canada, Finalist
2003 Maritime Writing Competition, First Place
2000 Nova Scotia Talent Trust Award
1998 WFNS Atlantic Writing Competition, First Place
1998 Writers' Union of Canada, Finalist
1996 Writers' Journal Writing Competition, First Place



HACKMATAACK 2014

Going Up!: Elisha Otis's Trip to the Top by Monica Kulling

This is the story of Elisha Otis, the man who invented a safety brake for elevators. Otis's invention made it possible for builders to make skyscrapers. Before Elisha Otis, no one built higher than six stories because no one wanted to walk up all those stairs! Next time you're in an elevator, check for the name "Otis." You will find it on a small plaque, and underneath it might say, "maximum capacity 12 persons." I became curious about that name and decided to investigate further. Elisha Otis turned out to be an interesting person for me, because he really only invented one thing — the elevator safety brake — but it had a huge impact on the development and growth of cities.



I write about inventors because I want young readers to know that they can become whatever they set their hearts on. All you need is a passionate interest and the desire to give it your all. I am fascinated by the late 1800s and early 1900s. It's fun to see how people lived before there were such things as computers, televisions, and refrigerators. Those times were quite different from ours, but the people living then were not so different from us.

Thematic Links:

Inventors

Social History (life in the 1800s)

Inventions

History of skyscrapers

Activity Ideas:

- What three inventions do you think have made the biggest difference in the way we live?
- Pretend you are a journalist. What questions would you want to ask Elisha Otis?
- Which invention do you wish you could invent? What would it do?
- What do you think inventors and artists have in common?

HACKMATAACK 2014

Monica Kulling

author of *Going Up!: Elisha Otis's Trip to the Top*

I never wrote or read much as a kid except for comics. I loved reading comics. I grew up in Chilliwack, British Columbia in the Fraser Valley. Here, according to stats Canada, it rains approximately 200 days a year, but actually feels more like 300! Someday I may write about the inventor of the umbrella. I feel I know rain quite well.

In my teens, I started writing poetry and later studied creative writing at the University of Victoria on Vancouver Island. I published my first book in 1992. It was the story of a marmalade cat and a boy who didn't like cats, especially older bossy ones. I have always loved cats and have four beautiful ones roaming the house.



These days I live in Toronto. You can visit me at www.monickulling.com

Selected Awards

Amelia Bloomer Project Top Ten List 2013
Simon Wiesenthal Honor Book for 2012
Governor General's Award finalist
Canadian Toy Testing Council 2012 Great Books Award
CLA Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Award, finalist
Red Cedar, finalist
Silver Birch Express, finalist
Shining Willow, finalist

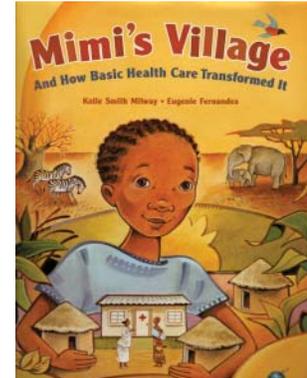
Some Other Books by Monica Kulling

The Tweedles Go Electric (Groundwood Books, 2014)
Making Contact! Marconi Goes Wireless (Tundra Books, 2013)
Mister Dash and the Cupcake Calamity (Tundra Books, 2013)
Lumpito and the Painter from Spain (Pajama Press, 2012)
Going Up! Elisha Otis's Trip To the Top (Tundra Books, 2012)
In the Bag! Margaret Knight Wraps It Up (Tundra Books, 2011)
Merci Mister Dash! (Tundra Books, 2011)
All Aboard! Elijah McCoy's Steam Engine (Tundra Books, 2010)
It's a Snap! George Eastman's First Photograph (Tundra Books, 2009)

HACKMATAACK 2014

Mimi's Village: And How Basic Health Care Transformed it by Katie Smith Milway

Can you imagine if your health were a mystery? Unfortunately that is the case for more than half the world's families who live in villages in parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America and don't have a doctor in walking distance. That was the case for Mimi, in my book *Mimi's Village*. She lives in Western Kenya with her mother, father, older brother and little sister. It's an area where people grow maize for their main food and collect water in cans from streams and ponds for their daily needs. When children fall ill or worse, often families don't know the cause, or what to do.



Fortunately, when Mimi's little sister falls ill after drinking some dirty water, her parents get help. They walk through the night to a health clinic in another village. A nurse there shows them simple cures and habits for staying healthy, but most of all she gives Mimi a desire to make her own village a healthier place. Mimi just needs to convince her parents and neighbors to join her in making the dream come true. Many hands join in—even from overseas—and we all see how people working together can make important changes and improve their situation.

Mimi's Village gives young readers tools to help them to improve lives in villages half a world away and reminds all children of the power of healthy habits. I based the book on true stories of families I worked with or met in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Zambia, many of them training as community health volunteers and distributing vitamins, water purification tablets, oral rehydration salts or bed-nets (to prevent malaria) donated through the efforts of children in other countries.

Thematic Links:

Basic Health Care

Malaria

Maternal/Child Health

Helping Others

Family Relations

Nutrition

Activity Ideas:

- Have a basketball shoot-a-thon, bake sale or do chores to raise money for bed-nets, oral rehydration salts or even to build a well. You can purchase these items via gift catalogues of World Vision or Save-the-Children.

HACKMATAACK 2014

Katie Smith Milway

author of *Mimi's Village:*

And How Basic Health Care Transformed It

I started grade school in Toronto and finished in Vancouver, where my father ran a forest products company. With my brother and two sisters we would climb piles of logs and jump in the sawdust. We spent our summers on Bowen Island, B.C. playing flashlight tag, wiggles wanted and trying to catch crab, fish and other watery creatures.

I always loved and studied languages—starting with French then adding a few more— and I began travelling to other continents and exploring other cultures in university and graduate school – first Europe, then Africa, Latin America and Asia. I was so impressed by the smart things people with few resources were doing – from recycling everything to setting goals as a community and chipping in to afford a well, or grain mill or even a health clinic. After university I was a journalist, then an international aid worker, then a global consultant, and along the way I started writing books for adults on sustainable development based on people I'd met and their stories. After I had my own children, I started writing stories that could introduce kids to world issues and ways they can help, because kids can make a huge difference, and hold the key to how the next generation takes care of our planet.



Selected Awards

2011 Best Children's Book of the Year, Bank Street Children's Book Committee
2010 Golden Oak Award, Ontario Library Association winner
2009 Massachusetts Best Book for Children, winner
2009 Children's Africana Book Award, winner
2009 International Reading Association, Children's Choices, winner
2009 Outstanding International Book, USBBY, winner
2009 Silver Birch Award, Ontario Library Association, finalist

Some Other Books by Katie Smith Milway

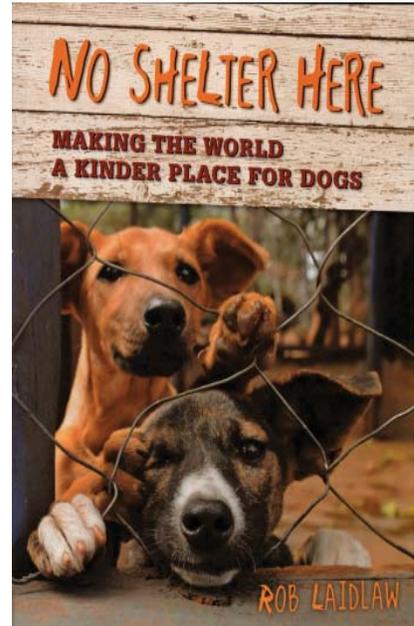
The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough, (KCP, 2010)
One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference (KCP, 2008)
Cappuccina Goes to Town (KCP, 2002)

HACKMATAACK 2014

No Shelter Here: Making the World a Kinder Place for Dogs

by Rob Laidlaw

Dogs have been with humans for almost 40,000 years. We've cherished them as companions, groomed them as show dogs and depended on them as working partners. Today, almost everyone loves dogs, but most people don't know a lot about the lives of the 500 million dogs around the world. They don't know that 75% of dogs are not human companions or the fact that they face many challenges as they try to survive. In *No Shelter Here*, Rob Laidlaw explores the canine world of companion dogs and homeless, free ranging dogs. He provides amazing dog facts and explains what dogs are, how they are mistreated and exploited, and how they live. But more importantly, he focuses on the "Dog Champions"—those individuals, small groups and professional organizations around the world who dedicate their lives to helping dogs. *No Shelter Here* should galvanize readers, both young and old, to become Dog Champions to their own dogs and to the other dogs in their communities.



Thematic Links:

Animal welfare & animal rights
Pets and pet care

Making a difference in the world
Social justice

Activity Ideas:

- Think of a dog story you could tell to inspire change. Consider brainstorming ideas with others if you don't have a story about a dog you know.
- Draw a detailed description of your dog, including their favorite toy, favorite food, and favorite game, and what they do each day. If you do not have a dog, describe a dog you'd like to have. Then figure out what you could do to make your dog's life even better.
- Find all the different locations mentioned in *No Shelter Here* and chart them on a map. Try to figure out where the most free ranging dogs are.

See more classroom activities in the *No Shelter Here* teaching guide available for free download at http://www.pajamapress.ca/NoShelterHere_DiscussionGuide_Web.pdf

HACKMATAACK 2014

Rob Laidlaw

author of *No Shelter Here: Making the World a Kinder Place for Dogs*

It doesn't matter if it's an ant or an elephant - I've never met an animal I didn't like. Ever since I was a little kid, I've been super interested in animals and nature. It's that interest that led me to a career working to protect both domesticated animals (like dogs and cats) and wild animals. Since 1984, I've run a wildlife protection group called Zoocheck and I've worked across Canada and around the world. I've been lucky enough to travel to some remarkable places - from Canada's north to tropical Asia – and I've met many amazing people, and some amazing animals too. Even though protecting animals is an incredibly difficult and often frustrating job I still think I'm really lucky to be able to do it. Where else could I help relocate bears and other animals, run programs to help dogs, work to stop circus animal abuse, campaign to change laws and teach people in other parts of the world how to be more effective in helping animals. It's a privilege to do this work and I hope that some of my efforts and, of course, my books too, inspire both kids and adults to get active helping animals as well.



Selected Awards

Silver Birch Non-Fiction Award nominee (2013)
Skipping Stones Honor Award (2011)
Silver Birch Non-Fiction Award nominee (2009)

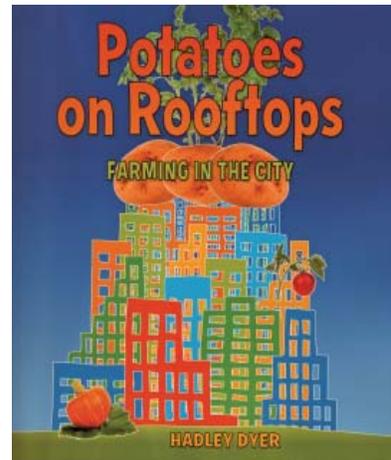
Some Other Books by Rob Laidlaw

Saving Lives and Changing Hearts, Animal Sanctuaries and Rescue Centers
(Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2013)
On Parade, The Hidden World of Animals in Entertainment (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2010)
Wild Animals in Captivity (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2008)

HACKMATAACK 2014

Potatoes on Rooftops: Farming in the City by Hadley Dyer

While I was writing a book about public spaces I became very interested in the places we grow food. Human populations are exploding while the spaces we have to farm are shrinking. Once we've cut down all the forests and exhausted the soil, how will we feed ourselves? And is there not a better way to get fresh food onto our plates than transporting it from farms that are often thousands of miles away? The good people at Annick Press had the same questions on their minds, and asked if I could write a book about growing food in cities, something people are already doing around the globe.



I discovered urban farms in the most unlikely places, such as a Tokyo bank vault that was converted into an underground greenhouse and the organic garden in Nairobi that young farmers created in one of the world's largest slums. I also found amazing modern inventions such as futuristic pod greenhouses, food-producing wall panels, and industrial-sized composters.

Inspired, I now tend my own little city garden. It's not big, it's not fancy, but those ripe tomatoes taste like home to this former Valley girl.

Thematic Links:

Urban farming
Ecology
Sustainability

Environment
Food

Activity Ideas:

- Use "The Teaching Garden" section as a starting point for planning a school garden. It could be as simple as pots on a sunny stoop or as ambitious as a dug bed in a previously underused spot.
- Design a greenhouse for growing food in cities. How large will it be and what shape? How will the sunlight reach the plants and how they be watered?

HACKMATAACK 2014

Hadley Dyer

author of *Potatoes on Rooftops: Farming in the City*

In addition to writing books for young readers, Hadley Dyer edits books for children and young adults at HarperCollins Canada, working with authors such as Kit Pearson, Kenneth Oppel, Eric Walters, and Vicki Grant. Born in Halifax and raised in the Annapolis Valley, she now lives and gardens in Toronto.



Selected Awards

For *Potatoes on Rooftops*:

Green Book Festival Award, Honourable Mention

Next Generation Indie Book Award Finalist

Science Books & Film Book Award Finalist

Ontario Library Association Best Bets selection

Skipping Stones Honor Award

Canadian Children's Book Centre's Best Books for Kids & Teens selection

Some Other Books by Hadley Dyer

Watch This Space: Designing, Defending and Sharing Public Spaces, (Kids Can Press, 2010)

Johnny Kellock Died Today, (HarperCollins Canada, 2006)

Crabtree Series, (Crabtree Publishing, 2005-2007):

The Life Cycle of an Earthworm

The Life Cycle of a Mosquito

The Life Cycle of an Ant

Field Sports in Action

Fishing in Action

Endangered Chimpanzees

Endangered Leopards

Wonderful Whales

Endangered Manatees

Savanna Food Chains

Outback Food Chains

Batter Up Baseball

HACKMATAACK 2014

Rescuing the Children: The Story of the Kindertransport

by Deborah Hodge

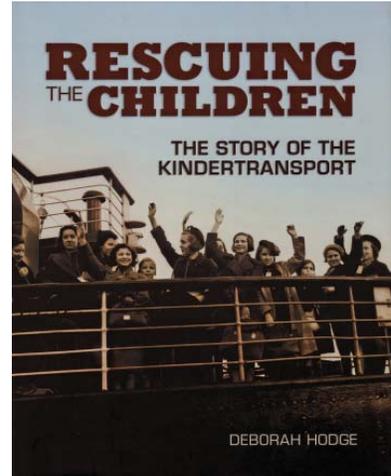
This book tells the story of ten thousand Jewish children who were rescued out of Nazi Europe just before World War 2. They were saved by the Kindertransport — a rescue mission that sent the children, called “Kinder,” to safety in Britain.

The children were from 3 months to sixteen years of age. They said goodbye to their parents in Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia and travelled on trains and ships to England, where they were cared for by foster families. Although they didn't know it at the time, many of the children would not see their parents again.

I wrote this book because my friend was one of the rescued children. When I heard her story, I knew I wanted to learn more about the Kindertransport. Writing the book helped me do that.

I also interviewed other Kinder who shared their experiences, photographs and art with me. Getting to know them was a very moving experience.

Even though the Kindertransport took place 75 years ago, the story still has meaning today. It shows us the power of compassion and how great things can be accomplished when brave people take action to help others who are in trouble.



Thematic Links:

Discrimination and Anti-Semitism
Immigration
Diversity and Multiculturalism

Social Responsibility
Human Rights
World War 2

Activity Ideas:

- As a class, brainstorm ways that people can stand up for others who are being discriminated against. Write an anti-bullying code of conduct for your school.
- Imagine you were one of the Kinder and could only take one small suitcase with you. Make a list of what you would pack.
- Write a journal entry or newspaper article that describes your trip.

HACKMATAACK 2014

Deborah Hodge

author of *Rescuing the Children: The Story of the Kindertransport*

When I was young, I never imagined I'd be an author, but I knew that reading was my favourite thing to do. Today, I know that kids who love to read often become writers.

I've been a writer for almost twenty years. I write about nature for young children and about the past for older students. Some of my books have won awards and been published in other countries. It's always fun to imagine kids in faraway places turning the pages of one of my books!

Before I became an author, I was a teacher. Although I'm not teaching any more, I still feel like I'm talking to my students whenever I write a book. I love the challenge of trying to create something that young readers will find interesting.

I live in Vancouver, BC, near the mountains and ocean, with my husband and family. I think I have the best job in the world!



Selected Awards

Information Book Award of Canada
National Jewish Book Award, Finalist
Green Prize for Sustainable Literature
Outstanding Book for Young People with Disabilities, IBBY
Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize, Finalist

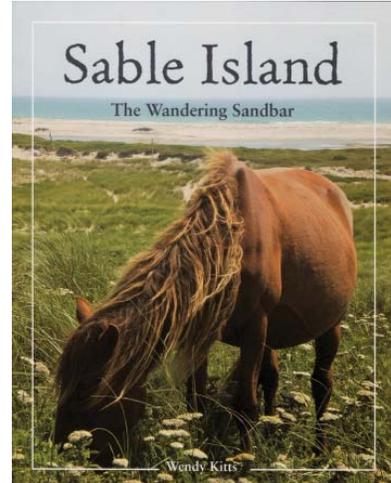
Some Other Books by Deborah Hodge

Watch Me Grow! A Down-to-Earth Look at Growing Food in the City (Kids Can Press, 2011)
Up We Grow! A Year in the Life of a Small, Local Farm (Kids Can Press, 2010)
Rainforest Animals and other titles in the Who Lives Here? series (Kids Can Press, 2008-2009)
The Kids Book of Canadian Immigration (Kids Can Press, 2006)
Lily and the Mixed-up Letters (Tundra Books, 2007)
Emma's Story (Tundra Books, 2003)
The Kids Book of Canada's Railway (Kids Can Press, 2000)
Bears, Whales, and other titles in the Kids Can Press Wildlife series (Kids Can Press, 1996-2002)

HACKMATAACK 2014

Sable Island: The Wandering Sandbar by Wendy Kitts

I dreamt of going to Sable Island my entire life. When I was six, I saw a news story on TV about this magical island. The wild horses that lived on Sable were starving, and the government was dropping hay to them by airplane. I remember seeing the horses running across the sand dunes; one stopped and looked up at the camera. That was the 1960s and because of restrictions preventing people from visiting Sable, it took me 45 years to make that dream come true and in 2009, I spent a week there.



I was fascinated by this tiny island with hundreds of wild horses, tens of thousands of seals, but only one tree. I was amazed by singing sand, quicksand, and enormous sand dunes that travel across the island with the wind, burying anything in their paths like houses, or ships. I learned about the history of the island — the shipwrecks, pirates and how ordinary schoolchildren forced the Canadian government to pass a law protecting the Sable horses forever. All this in our own backyard.

When I returned home, I knew I had to share this story — which fulfilled another dream of mine — to write a children’s book!

Thematic Links:

Child Activism

National Parks of Canada

Unique Ecosystems

Early forms of Communication

Activity Ideas:

- Before telephones and Internet, the people who lived on Sable Island used everything from carrier pigeons, to semaphore, to Morse code to contact the outside world. Have students create and “send” a message using the semaphore alphabet (p. 67).
- Marine pollution is a huge problem world-wide. Reports of vortexes of plastic in our oceans threaten wildlife on land, in skies and in our oceans. A 1980’s Fisheries and Oceans study shows 20,000 pieces of garbage wash up on Sable’s shores every month—18,000 of that is plastic, mostly busted balloons, ribbons and bottle caps, all deadly to wildlife (pp. 12-15). Have students brainstorm ways to reduce the use of plastic, learn how to dispose of it through recycling, or coordinate beach clean-ups.

HACKMATAACK 2014

Wendy Kitts

author of *Sable island: The Wandering Sandbar*

When I was young, I loved two things: books and drawing. I secretly wanted to go to art school but was too shy and too scared. I believed (because grown-ups told me) that I couldn't make a living as an artist; so I studied business instead.



When I was 42, I entered a writing contest. I won, even though I'd never written anything before. That was 12 years ago and today I support myself as a writer. I mostly write for magazines and newspapers, but also write picture books and novels. I even write movies.

Being a writer is the best job in the world because I can do it from anywhere—all I need is a laptop and an Internet connection. And because I love the ocean, in the summer I live in New Brunswick, near the Atlantic, and in the winter I live in California, near the Pacific.

My advice to aspiring writers is to write, write, write, and to read, read, read. Think about it—if you wanted to build houses, you'd look at other houses, figure out how they were built, right? The same goes for writing. If you want to write, read to see how others do it. And most importantly, do what makes you happy. Don't let anyone tell you can't make a living being creative. Follow your dreams and the money will show up.

www.wendykitts.ca

Selected Awards

Voted #1 Silver Birch non-fiction book by the Near North District School Board, 2013

Silver Birch nominee, 2013

Golden Oak nominee, 2013

The Children's Literature Roundtables of Canada Information Book Award nominee, 2012

Some Other Books by Wendy Kitts

Breaking the Word Barrier: Stories of Adults Learning to Read (Goose Lane Editions, 2009)

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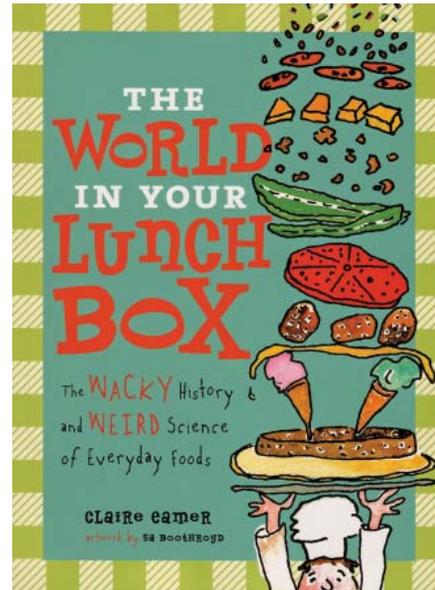
The World in Your Lunch Box: The Wacky and Weird Science of Everyday Food

by Claire Eamer

The World in Your Lunch Box is about the fascination of everyday things. What's more ordinary—and boring—than the lunch you haul to school in your lunch box or buy in the cafeteria? But if you look closely at the components of that lunch, you might be surprised.

Roman soldiers, patrolling the far reaches of an ancient empire, ate something very like your ham sandwich. Aztec kings were big fans of chocolate. Watermelon is nature's canteen, perfect for a desert journey. Bread is full of tiny holes made by the carbon dioxide burps of single-celled fungi.

And you don't want to know what's in your hot dog! Or maybe you do....



Both history and science can add spice to your boring lunch. And speaking of spice, wait until you find out how mustard works!

Thematic Links:

Development of research skills
Understanding of how social values
and behaviours change with time and
geography

Thoughtful eating
Application of scientific and historical
information to daily life

Activity Ideas:

- Choose a lunch menu not covered in the book, and research the history and science of the ingredients, just as the class in the book does.
- Make your own top-ten list of strange food facts, and find out the science and history behind them.
- Create food-fact posters: e.g., yeast-beasties in action; how a mustard hotness-bomb works; the travels of the tomato.

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Claire Eamer

author of *The World in Your Lunch Box: The Wacky History and Weird Science of Everyday Foods*

When she was five, Claire Eamer wanted peanut butter and honey sandwiches for lunch every day, and she hated potatoes. Now she'll eat almost anything, from Asparagus to Zucchini, although she's still not crazy about potatoes. And she doesn't like scrunchions at all.

Claire has written both non-fiction and fiction for middle grade and young adult readers. When she's not thinking about food (or eating it), she pays the grocery bills by writing and editing scientific reports for adults. She grew up in Saskatchewan (perogies and cabbage rolls), wrote *The World in Your Lunch Box* in the Yukon (moose stew and bannock), and is moving to Vancouver Island (oysterburgers and blackberries) with her husband, who is a very good cook.



Selected Awards

Science in Society Youth Book Award
Eureka! Silver Honor Book
Red Maple Non-fiction Award finalist
2013 Next Generation Indie Book Award

Some Other Books by Claire Eamer

Before the World Was Ready: Stories of Daring Genius in Science (Annick Press, 2013)
Lizards in the Sky: Animals Where You Least Expect Them (Annick Press, 2010)
Spiked Scorpions and Walking Whales: Modern Animals, Ancient Animals, and Water (Annick Press, 2009)
Traitors' Gate and Other Doorways to the Past (Annick Press, 2008)
Super Crocs and Monster Wings: Modern Animals' Ancient Past (Annick Press, 2008)