

HACKMATAACK 2015

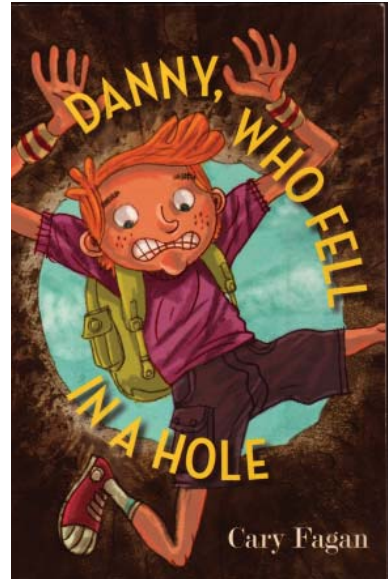
Danny, Who Fell in a Hole

by Cary Fagan

Danny's parents have always been a bit flaky, but this time they have gone too far. Now his mother wants to bake cheesecakes in the mountains, and his father wants to be an opera singer. Worst of all, in preparation for the big move, his parents have given away the family dog, Thwack.

Furious with his family, Danny runs out of the house and keeps running — straight onto a construction site, where he ends up at the bottom of a very, very large hole. Drawing on his ingenuity, he provides himself with shelter (garbage bag and paper clips), cereal (coffee creamer, rainwater, granola bars and a few rogue raisins found at the bottom of his backpack) and a washroom (a hole in a hole). He even does his homework!

The only thing missing is a Man Friday. Who turns out to have a long, earth-covered snout, a taste for beetles, and no eyes to speak of. Oh, and he also talks. His name is Mole, and he is excellent company — until a snake appears, and Danny must be not only ingenious, but also brave, if he is going to save his new friend.



Thematic Links:

Moving

Emergency Preparation

Poetry

Activity Ideas:

Write a short story or draw a comic strip based on one of the following ideas:

- What would happen if you met an animal who could talk (and quote poetry)?
- What would you do if your parents announced that your family was moving to another country?
- What would you do if you were left alone (accidentally) for a whole weekend?
- What lengths would you go to in order to get a pet or keep an existing pet?

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Cary Fagan

author of *Danny, Who Fell in a Hole*

Cary Fagan is an award-winning author of books for children and adults. He has twice been a Toronto Book Award finalist, and he has won the Jewish Book Award and the World Storytelling Award. He has been a finalist for the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award, the Mr. Christie's Book Award, the Norma Fleck Award, the Rocky Mountain Book Award, the Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award, the Blue Spruce Award and the Silver Birch Express Award. Cary lives with his family in Toronto.



Selected Awards

Resource Links' Year's Best, 2010, Commended, *The Big Swim*.
CCBC Best Books for Kids & Teens, Starred Selection, 2011, Commended, *The Big Swim*.
OLA Silver Birch Express Award, 2014, Short-listed, *Danny, Who Fell in a Hole*.
Hackmataack Children's Choice book Award, 2013, Short-listed, *Banjo of Destiny*

Some Other Books by Cary Fagan

I Wish I Could Draw, illustrated by Gary Clement (Groundwood Books, 2014)
Oy, Feh, So? (Groundwood Books, 2013)
Banjo of Destiny (Groundwood Books, 2011)
Book of Big Brothers, illustrated by Luc Melanson (Groundwood Books, 2010)
The Big Swim (Groundwood Books, 2010)
Mr. Karp's Last Glass (Groundwood Books, 2008)
The Boy in the Box (Puffin Canada, 2012)
Mr. Zinger's Hat, illustrated by Dusan Petricic (Tundra, 2012)
Ella May and the Wishing Stone, illustrated by Genevieve Cote (Tundra, 2011)
Jacob Two-Two on the High Seas (Tundra, 2009)
Thing-Thing, illustrated by Nicolas Debon (Tundra, 2008)
Ten Lessons for Kaspar Snit (Tundra, 2008)
My New Shirt, illustrated by Dusan Petricic (Tundra, 2007)
Directed by Kaspar Snit (Tundra, 2007)
Ten Old Men and a Mouse, illustrated by Gary Clement (Tundra, 2007)
The Fortress of Kaspar Snit (Tundra, 2004)

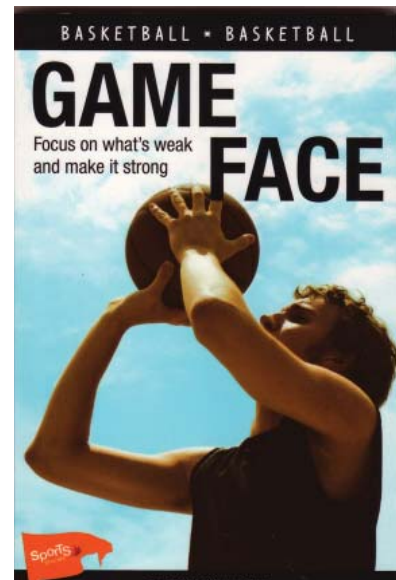
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Game Face by Sylvia Gunnery

Game Face is the third in the series of “Jay’s basketball books.” In this novel, Jay is back in Rockets territory after playing for their rivals last year, and not everyone on the basketball team is welcoming him home. When Jay beats out his former best friend for team captain, the tension threatens to rip the team apart.

Jay’s fictional town of Richmond, Nova Scotia, is based on the actual town of Bridgewater, about 30 km from where I live at Crescent Beach. It’s fun to write scenes where I put Jay in places I know so well: on the basketball court at a school where I taught, or in a car on highways that cut through dense forests, or down on the wharf where fishermen are preparing for lobster season.

Two basketball team captains I met at school visits--one in Mahone Bay and one in Montreal--had a big influence on Game Face. The first captain told me I had to write another book about Jay when, actually, I wasn’t really planning to. The second captain helped me through writer’s block when he suggested that Jay should decide to quit being captain of his basketball team. Thanks again for the boost when I needed it, guys!



Thematic Links:

Sportsmanship

Immigration

Responsibilities of team captains

South Korea

Family and friends

Lobster fishery in Nova Scotia

Activity Ideas:

- Find 20 (or more) facts about the origin of the game of basketball. Create a crossword puzzle using key words from the information you find.
- Meet with a person in your school or in your neighbourhood who has immigrated to Canada. Before you get together, prepare five questions you want to ask and invite him/her to do the same. As you share experiences and ideas, think about what is the same and different in your lives
- Interview the captain of a team at your school to learn about the pluses and minuses of that job. Publish the interview, including photos.

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Sylvia Gunnery author of *Game Face*

Though I've been writing stories ever since I could hold a pencil, I never did think of myself as a writer until I was 29 and took a summer writing workshop in Banff, Alberta. Now I'm working on my 18th book. Does writing get easier with experience? Yes and no. Yes, because now I know the process really well--how much time it takes, how to create authentic characters, how to develop a strong storyline, and more. No, because with each new novel there are new challenges that make me feel as if I'm learning how to write all over again.



When the Lorimer editor asked if I'd write a novel for their sports series, I knew exactly which sport I'd write about--basketball. I played for teams in junior high, high school, and university, so I had the experience to create authentic stories. I wasn't a star player, for sure. At my very first basketball practice ever, I made a smooth shot from inside the key...and into my opponent's basket. But once I got the rules of the game under control, I was hooked on basketball. I've really enjoyed writing all of "Jay's basketball books"-- being there as he faced each problem I gave him to deal with, both on and off the court. I admire Jay. He's the kind of basketball player I'd want on my team. The kind of friend I'd want on my side.

Selected Awards

Out of Bounds nominated for the Hackmataack Children's Choice Award 2005
Out of Bounds selected as a Canadian Children's Book Centre Best Book 2005
Menace and Mischief awarded the Lilla Stirling Award (Canadian Authors Association, Nova Scotia Branch) 2000

Some Other Books by Sylvia Gunnery

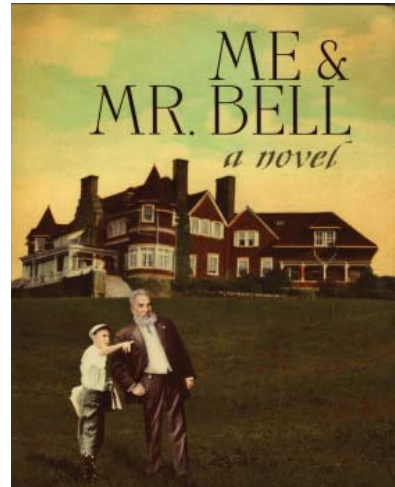
Emily For Real (Pajama Press, 2012)
Personal Best (Lorimer, 2005 and 2011)
Out of Bounds (Lorimer, 2004 and 2011)

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Me & Mr. Bell

by Philip Roy

Alexander Graham Bell, Baddeck's most illustrious resident, and one of the world's greatest inventors, is also famous for the greatness of his compassion. It's 1908, and ten-year-old Eddie MacDonald shares the friendly inventor's passion for solving problems and for taking long walks in the fields above Bras d'Or Lake. But whereas Bell is renowned by many for being the smartest man in the world, Eddie is just a local farm boy who struggles to learn to read and write. After a few chance encounters, the elderly Bell befriends the young boy, and takes an interest in his struggle – encouraging Eddie to celebrate his successes and never give up. When Bell's long ambition for manned flight culminates in the Silver Dart soaring over Bras d'Or Lake, Eddie is inspired to find solutions to his own challenges.



Philip Roy wrote *Me & Mr. Bell* out of a desire to celebrate the wonderful humanity and genius of the great inventor, Alexander Graham Bell, and to bring special focus to Bell's compassion towards others, particularly those with unique challenges. Having grown up in close proximity to Baddeck, Cape Breton, it was inevitable that Philip would turn his pen to a story featuring Alexander Graham Bell. The novel was also written out of the wish to share an historical era in Canadian history with young readers

Thematic Links:

Special Needs

Turn-of-the-Century Canadian History

Overcoming Challenges

Literacy

Activity Ideas:

- Make homemade pulleys and see how they increase your lifting power.
- Handwrite a letter to somebody that you admire, and send the letter to them via Canada Post.
- Make a list of words that rhyme, (such as ball and wall), or are homonyms, but are spelled differently, such as bow and bough, ate and eight, pair and pear, and also make a list of words with silent letters in them, like why, night and sight. These are words that expose the difficulties and inconsistencies of the English language.

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Philip Roy author of *Me & Mr. Bell*

Philip Roy writes children's books and young adult novels of adventure and historical fiction that invite young and older readers alike to consider the variety, vastness, and fascination of the world around us. Born by the sea in Nova Scotia, Philip travels extensively for research for the Submarine Outlaw series. He has also written 27 books (and counting) in the Happy the Pocket Mouse picture book series, (illustrated by Andrea Torrey Balsara), and the first book in the series, *Mouse Tales*, will be followed with *Jellybean Mouse* in the fall of 2014. When at home, he divides his time between Antigonish, Nova Scotia, and St. Marys, Ontario, where he writes novels and composes music.



Selected Awards

Canadian Library Association 2014 Book of the Year
for Children Award Nominee
Red Maple Nominee in the Forest of Reading Program
Selected for the Canadian Children's Book Centre's Best Books for Kids and Teens
First Prize: Atlantic Writing Competition
Resource Links: "The Year's Best 2013."
Silver Medal: ForeWord's Best Book of the Year Award 2009
Langley Book of the Year Award Nominee
Long-listed: First Nation Communities Read 2013-2014
Short-listed: Hackmataack Children's Choice Award, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014-2015
Short-listed: Ann Connor Brimer Award
Short-listed: Diamond Willow Award
Short-listed: Rocky Mountain Book Award
Runner-Up: New England Book Festival 2012
Runner-Up: Green Book Festival (San Francisco) 2012

Some Other Books by Philip Roy

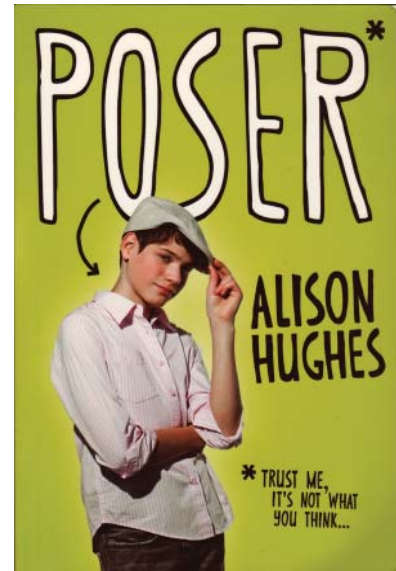
Jellybean Mouse. (Ronsdale Press, due fall 2014.)
Mouse Tales. (Ronsdale Press, 2014.)
Eco Warrior. (Ronsdale Press, due fall 2014.)
Seas of South Africa. (Ronsdale Press, 2013.)
Outlaw in India. (Ronsdale Press, 2012.)

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Poser

by Alison Hughes

Have you ever wondered how those kids in the back-to-school flyers feel about modeling clothes that no kid would want to wear back to school or ever? I have. In one flyer, I saw a boy model wearing a particularly hideous outfit, clearly unhappy but doing his best to smile for the camera. That picture gave me the idea for *Poser*, the story of twelve-year-old Luke “Spin” Spinelli who has been modeling since he was a baby (in fact, he was the face of Dribbleez Diapers), but is now desperate to lead a normal life, involving hockey, hanging with friends, and lots of pizza. He’s sick of fake-running, fake-laughing and fake-pointing for the cameras, and he’s increasingly terrified that the class bully will discover his secret life as a model. Spin’s aunt Macy, his very pushy agent, complicates matters by her determination to take Spin’s career to the next level of commercials and movies. In desperation, Spin thinks up a Monster Lie, which spins out of control, and then things get really ugly (and funny).



Thematic Links:

Standing up to bullies

Taking control of your life

Media/advertising

Lying and honesty

Humour

Friendship and family

Activity Ideas:

- **Strike a Pose:** Who likes having their picture taken? Who doesn't? Why or why not? Some people are more outgoing or more private than others. Figure out who are behind-the-camera people and who are the models and have a photo shoot! A discussion might follow about the power and permanence of photographs, and safe ways and places for sharing images.
- **For Sale:** Brainstorm the ways advertising surrounds us and bombards us (on the Internet, television, flyers, billboards, buses, etc.) What are ads trying to do or sell? How do they do this? How do they make us feel? Discuss topics such as appearance, body image and self-esteem, and how advertising tries to convince us we need things or we have to look a certain way.
- **Get to Work:** Spin in *Poser* works a lot, and he's only twelve. Aren't there laws about that? Research how old children have to be to get a job in different parts of Canada. Do other countries have different attitudes and laws about children and work?

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Alison Hughes author of *Poser*

While I've always loved books, I took many twists and turns on the road to writing them. I studied English literature in Alberta, then moved to Montreal to study law, then to England to study some more. My husband and I worked in Ottawa and then in Australia where we enjoyed the beaches and really did see kangaroos hopping around lawns like rabbits. We moved back to Canada and when my children were little we would stagger home from the library with bags of books. I especially liked books that made us all laugh, and maybe that's why humour tends to be a common thread in the books I write for children. I also write stories for adults.

We have a busy home in Edmonton with our three children, dogs and cats, all of whom have given me great story ideas. I love spending time with my family, travelling, riding my bike and rambling in the river valley, but I can often be found happily typing at my computer with a cup of mint tea, some chocolate and three loudly-snoring dogs.



Selected Awards

2009 The Writers' Union of Canada Writing for Children Award
2009 Nominated for a Dog Writers' Association of America Award (Humour)
2010 Short listed for the Writers' Union of Canada Short Prose Competition
2011 Long listed for the CBC Literary Awards - Short Fiction

Some Other Books by Alison Hughes

On a Scale from Idiot to Complete Jerk (Orca Book Publishers, 2014)
Spare Dog Parts (Orca Book Publishers, 2015)
Lost in the Backyard (Orca Book Publishers, 2015)
Beatrice More Moves In (Orca Book Publishers, 2015)
Gerbil, Uncurled (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2015)

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Scare Scape by Sam Fisher

Morton Clay loves creepy comics, toy monsters and pretty much anything that would make normal kids skin crawl with fear. But when he moves into the house of recently deceased horror comic author, John King, a series of strange events change his attitude towards horror pretty quickly. Monster toys from Morton's comic book start coming to life, his sister's closet becomes an unfathomably large portal of fabulous fashion and his older brother finds himself undergoing an unsettling transformation into something entirely not human.

Morton and his siblings soon realize that they have become entangled in the macabre fate of John King who seems intent on turning their world into a distorted mirror of the comic itself. Why and how a dead horror comic writer is haunting them from beyond the grave is the mystery Morton and his siblings must solve before the magical curse spreads to the whole town and consumes them forever.

I started writing this book when my two boys were about seven years old and I wanted them to start reading chapter books. They loved anything to do with monsters and slime and totally gross things, so I thought that they'd enjoy a book about kids that liked what they liked. Morton and his brother James are a lot like my boys were at that age, and the book is full of the kind of stuff they used to love.

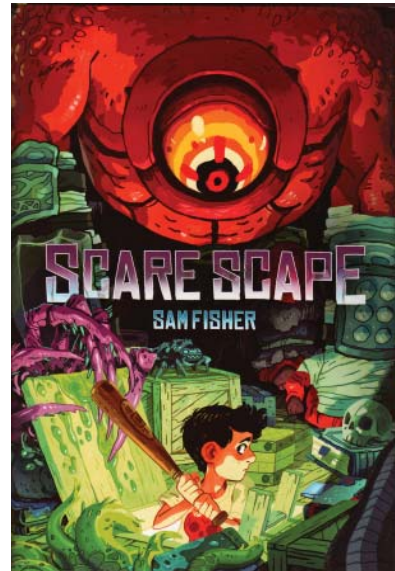
Thematic Links:

Sibling rivalry
Graphic Novels

Monsters
Evolution

Activity Ideas:

- There are 21 monsters in this book, and Morton knows each one intimately. But he also knows a lot about real creatures, which can be every bit as strange. In fact, all of these monsters are based on real creatures. Why not invent your own monster and then try to find out about a real creature that is even weirder than the one you made up.
- Write a brief autobiography. What would you like readers to know about you?



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Sam Fisher author of *Scare Scape*

I was born in England and moved to Canada when I was in my 20s. I have three kids and I teach writing at NSCAD university. When I'm not writing or teaching I'm either windsurfing or renovating our big old creepy house which seems to always have a leaky roof. Pretty much anyone will tell you I'm not a good cook.

Selected Awards

Junior Library Guild Selection
Nominated for Manitoba Young Reader's Choice Award.



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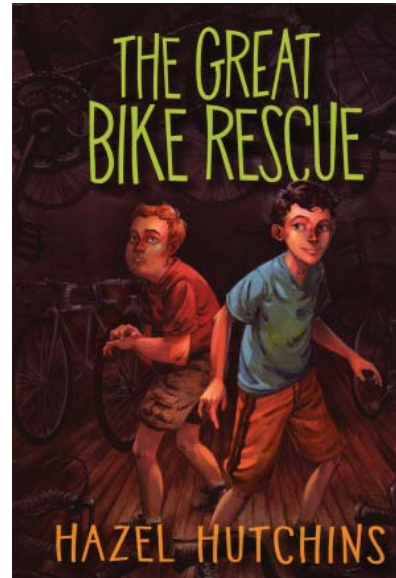
The Great Bike Rescue

by Hazel Hutchins

Levi's bike has been stolen and he wants it back! But Levi and his friend, Riley, quickly learn that there's more than one theft taking place and a lot of tricky ways a bike can disappear. Faced by suspicious store-clerks, bike locks that mysteriously lock and unlock and the interference of the way-too-annoying Emily Grimshaw, the two friends use decoys, traps and undercover sleuthing to try and find the missing bikes. Only gradually does an uneasy thought occur to Levi. Can there ever be a "good" reason for someone to steal a bike?

My youngest son was eleven when his bike was stolen. I was surprised by the unexpected adventures, emotions and reactions that swirled around the incident on many levels. After that, I began to pay more attention to thefts of all kinds and how they affect young people. Additional research helped me learn more about bicycle thieves and

I spent time learning how to open the simplest kind of bike lock, myself, so that I could use it the way the story required. The complexities of right and wrong in every day life are issues that continue to interest me.



Thematic Links:

Friendship
Moral Choices

Family
Animal Welfare

Activity Ideas:

- Research bike thefts in your area. Ask friends and family. Search on-line (key words "bike, theft, stolen" and town/city). Check local police web-sites for information on reporting lost/stolen goods, theft statistics and prevention tips. Record a short "news special" or write it as a newspaper article.
- All thefts in the story are revealed from Levi's point of view, usually after they have happened. Choose one theft and write about it from the point of view of the person stealing the bike.
- Riley named his little bike The Flame because of its appearance. Design a bike with a great paint job and a name to match. Put your creation on a "Lost and Found" poster.
- Have you ever had something stolen from you? Write about the circumstances and your feelings around it. Did it change the way you see the world?

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Hazel Hutchins

author of *The Great Bike Rescue*

Raised on a farm in Alberta, I grew up riding horses not bikes. When I got my first bike at age sixteen it had super skinny tires. I fell off so many times that my knees and elbows were scraped raw and the frame of the bike needed to be straightened. But I didn't give up. I mastered that wonderful bike and, while living with my husband in the mountain towns of Banff and Canmore, spent many happy hours on the road.

Learning to ride that bike was similar to the way I write stories. I find a good idea, jump into the story and peddle...er...I mean write!...as fast as I can. If one idea crashes I scrape off the gravel, think my way through some adjustments and zoom off in another direction. Story writing is never easy but I love the adventure every time. I also read widely across a broad variety of subjects, work hard to learn new things first hand and am every-watchful for the next good story idea to appear.



All three of my children are now adults but they still show up in the family home – and in my stories – from time to time.

Selected Awards

Marilyn Baillie Award (2009)

Writers Guild of Alberta Children's Literature Award (2009, 1998, 1992)

Norma Fleck Honour Award (2005)

Saskatchewan Young Readers Choice Award (2003)

Ontario Forest of Reading nominations (numerous titles 2002 - 2010)

Mr. Christie Silver Award (1996, 2001)

Governor General's Short List (1995)

Canadian Children's Book Centre "Our Choice" (numerous titles, 2002-2013)

Some Other Books by Hazel Hutchins

TJ and the Quiz Kids (Orca, 2007)

TJ and the Sports Fanatic (Orca, 2006)

Sarah and the Magic Science Project (Annick, 2005)

Further titles at www.hazelhutchins.net

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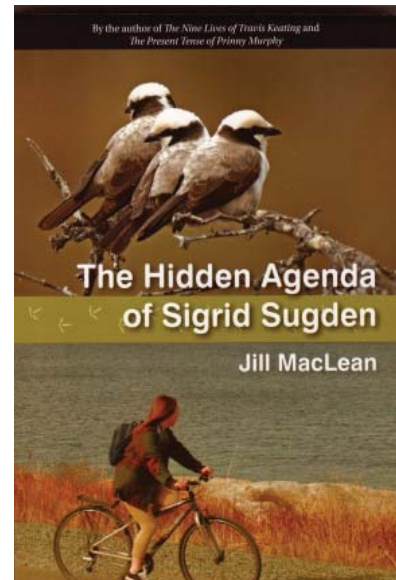
The Hidden Agenda of Sigrid Sugden

by Jill MacLean

Twelve-year-old Sigrid Sugden, along with her buddies Tate and Mel, are known as the Shrikes. They're the toughest girls in school, who specialize in cyberbullying and blackmail. If you've read *The Present Tense of Prinny Murphy*, you'll remember how Tate and Mel terrorized Prinny on the wharf, forcing Sigrid to save Prinny from drowning in the cove – and keep her action a secret.

I always wondered what would happen to Sigrid if the other two Shrikes found out what she'd done. I also wanted to know more about Hud, the other bully in Sigrid's school. We get a few hints about his family life, but they're only hints. Why was he so mean?

Gradually, *The Hidden Agenda of Sigrid Sugden* came to life. Tate and Mel do find out about the rescue, and bully Sigrid unmercifully. She struggles to reform, to forge a friendship with Hud, and to tame one of the feral cats that Travis rescued. But all her efforts backfire. Abandoned by her family, shunned by her classmates, Sigrid discovers how difficult it is to win back trust and to be given a second chance.



Thematic Links:

Bullying

Friendship

Feral Cats

Family Dynamics

Activity Ideas:

- Research the barrens of northern Newfoundland, the plants and animals. Why are they called “the barrens”?
- Plan a road trip from the ferry at Port aux Basques to St Anthony through Gros Morne Park (which you could climb on the way!). Time it so you'll see icebergs and whales.
- Find out about the decline and closure of the cod fishery in Newfoundland.
- You witness someone being bullied. Write the scene from the point of view of: 1) the bully 2) the victim 3) the bystander 4) the one who intervenes

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Jill MacLean

author of *The Hidden Agenda of Sigrid Sugden*

My son, his wife, and my two grandchildren lived in Newfoundland for seventeen years. I've hiked the barrens, canoed, kayaked, and snowmobiled there. I've stayed in remote outposts, roamed deserted graveyards, attended kitchen parties. It was a love affair from the beginning! So ten years ago, when my grandson asked me to write him a book, it seemed very natural to set it in Newfoundland.

Travis Keating's adventures (and misadventures) led me to find out more about his friend Prinny Murphy. Next I was driven to write a book from the point of view of a bully: fourteen-year-old Brick MacAvoy, from Nova Scotia's Eastern Shore, tells his story in *Home Truths*. My second YA novel, *Nix Minus One*, is also set in Newfoundland, and is written in free verse; it's the most personal of my books, and was the most challenging to write.



I always knew I wasn't finished with the characters I introduced in *The Nine Lives of Travis Keating*. Sigrid Sugden, in her own determined but often wildly off-course way, brings the trilogy to a close. I enjoyed every minute I spent with Travis, Prinny, Sigrid, and all their friends. I'll miss them.

Selected Awards

International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) Honour List 2012
Winner of Ann Connor Brimer Award 2009, 2010
Shortlisted for Ann Connor Brimer Award 2014
Shortlisted for many national awards.

Some Other Books by Jill MacLean

The Nine Lives of Travis Keating (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2008)
The Present Tense of Prinny Murphy (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2009)
Home Truths (Dancing Cat/Cormorant, 2010)
Nix Minus One (Pajama Press, 2013)

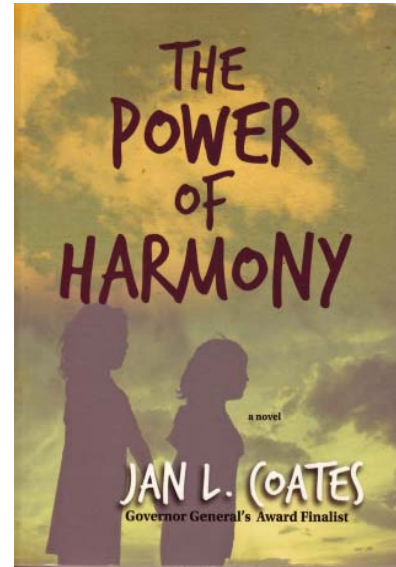
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The Power of Harmony

by Jan L. Coates

Jennifer's dream is to become a famous singer - except she's terrified of singing in public. Since her best friend moved away, Jenn has become a target for the bullies. When a Native girl, Melody, arrives, the mean kids have a new victim. As Jenn gets to know Melody, she discovers that both of them love books and music. Their growing friendship allows them to eventually discover the power of harmony as they work together to cope with racism, bullying and family problems.

Jenn's story was inspired by three things that happened to me as a kid growing up in the 1960s, although it's definitely fiction. The three things were: a) my dad opened a music store in the basement of our house; b) the "germ" game kids played at my school in Truro, NS; and c) a personal tragedy in my family. It's a book about singing, the power of friendship, and discovering how to be brave and strong, even when you're terrified.



Thematic Links:

First Nations
1960s music

Bullying
Racism

Activity Ideas:

- Over a dozen songs from the 1960s (and earlier) are mentioned in the book - choose one of the songs (as listed on page 259), and find it on YouTube - write a short essay describing what the song is about, its role in Jenn's life, and your own opinion of the song.
- At first, Jenn is scared of Melody when she finds out she is Native and has come from the Residential School in Shubenacadie. Do some reading on the residential school system, then write either a diary entry or letter that might have been written by a student at one of those schools in the 1960s
- Design a poster that might have been used to advertise the annual Miners' Hall Concert in Springhill in 1968 (at the end of the book, Jenn and Melody perform a duet at that concert, held at the new prison.)

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Jan L. Coates

author of *The Power of Harmony*

I'm still 11 years old on the inside (although I look slightly older on the outside), and that's why I write books for young readers. Reading and writing were always my favorite parts of school, but I never dreamed I'd actually get to see my name on books as AUTHOR some day! Other than being nosy and reading and writing, I like to play badminton, shop at used clothing and junk stores, travel, be lazy at my cottage, go the gym and snuggle my Golden Irish, Charlie. I live in Wolfville, NS with my husband, Don; my two kids, Liam and Shannon, are (sadly) grownups now.



Selected Awards

A Hare in the Elephant's Trunk (Ann Connor Brimer nominee; 2011 Governor General's Literary Award Finalist; 2011 Snow Willow (SYRCA) nominee)

The Power of Harmony (Ontario Library Association (OLA) Best Bets 2014)

Other Books by Jan L. Coates

The Cheesy Man Giant; Mr. Beethoven and Me; If Dogs Could Talk; The Queen and Mr. Cunningham; Five Children and IT; Stop Complaining, Chicken Little! (Caramel Tree Readers, June - September, 2014. These are books written for Korean ESL students, but they will be available in Canada later this year.)

Rocket Man (Red Deer Press, April, 2014)

The Power of Harmony (Red Deer Press, 2013)

A Hare in the Elephant's Trunk (Red Deer Press, 2010)

Rainbows in the Dark (Second Story Press, 2005)

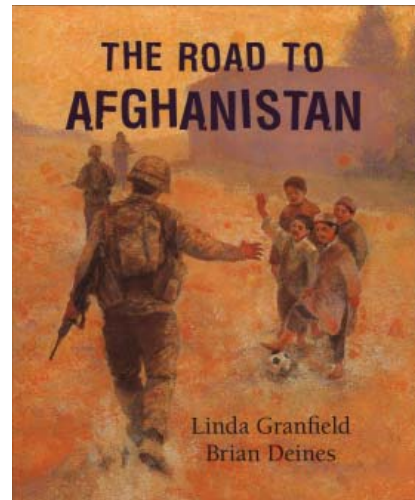
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The Road to Afghanistan

by Linda Granfield and Brian Deines

When I read about the Canadian soldiers serving in the War in Afghanistan I realized that the injuries they suffered were similar to those of soldiers returning from the First World War, nearly one hundred years before. I wondered how veterans cope with their changed lives when they come home from a war--and I began to think about how many generations of soldiers our families have. Some Canadian families have had soldiers in three different wars.

All the Canadian troops are now home from Afghanistan. They will be the veterans visiting our schools in the years to come. And the veterans won't be all men because women, for the first time, have served in combat. You may be surprised by the ending of my book, my first-ever picture book. I hope you will be!



Thematic Links:

Afghanistan

War and veterans

Military service in Canada

Remembrance

Activity Ideas:

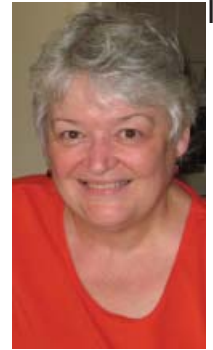
- Canadian soldiers have returned from the war in Afghanistan and we're glad about it. Write a poem or draw a picture to share with a veteran. (Maybe you can read your poem at a school assembly on April 9th, Vimy Ridge Day, in 2015. Or send your picture to a local newspaper to print.)
- Plant a Remembrance Garden in your school yard. Tulip bulbs planted in the autumn when classes begin reading Hackmataack books will bloom in the Spring, right around the time the Award is given.
- We usually think of Holland when we see tulips. Did you know that the tulip is a native flower of Afghanistan? Check the Internet for the meanings of the tulip colours--maybe your school garden will be 'saying something'!
- Share pictures and stories about veterans in your family.

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Linda Granfield and Brian Deines author of *The Road to Afghanistan*

I think you can tell from the books I write that I love history. When I was growing up my family packed a picnic lunch on summer Sundays and we'd drive to a different historical spot each week, like an old village where we could watch a blacksmith make horseshoes. Bang! Clang! We jumped when his hammer hit the red-hot metal.

We heard family history, too. While we picked up shells on the beach my Nana would talk about when she lived in Ireland, how she ate seaweed for a treat (ick!), how she came to America. And, because my family has many war veterans, I learned about them, too. There are many stories in hiSTORY.



Brian Deines graduated from the Alberta College of Art. He is represented by the St.Laurent+HillGalerie (Ottawa). He lives in Toronto with his family, where he devotes his time to his fine art practice and to the illustration of children's picture books (oil on canvas). His picture books include *The Circle Game* by Joni Mitchell, the Songs of the North Wind Trilogy by Tomson Highway featuring "Caribou Song", "Dragonfly Kites" and "Fox on the Ice" and more recently *Road to Afghanistan* by Linda Granfield and "On A Snowy Night" by Jean Little. He is a recipient of The Chalmers Arts Fellowship among other awards and grants.



Selected Awards for Linda Granfield

I've won over 50 awards for my books, including the Vicky Metcalf Award for a Body of Work, and the Information Book Award (three times!) *The Road To Afghanistan* has been nominated for other "Tree Awards," as well as for other awards given by organizations.

Some Other Books by Linda Granfield

Remembering John McCrae: Soldier-Doctor-Poet (Scholastic, 2009)

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

Where Poppies Grow: A World War I Companion (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2001)

Pier 21: Gateway of Hope (Tundra, 2000)

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

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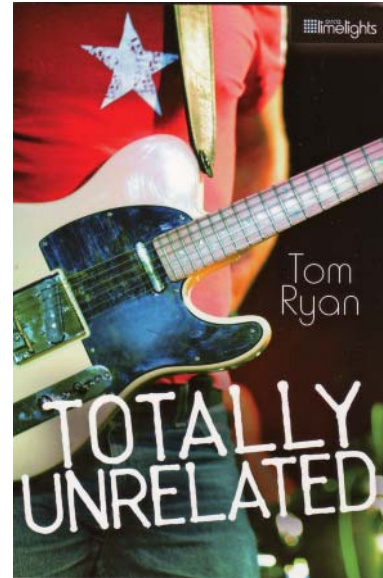
Totally Unrelated

by Tom Ryan

Neil plays guitar with his family's band, the Family McClintock, even though he can't stand the Celtic music they play, he doesn't dance, he hates the outfits, and every single performance reminds him that he isn't as talented as the rest of the family.

When his buddy Bert convinces him to form a rock band and enter a local talent show, Neil's playing improves and everyone notices, including a girl who shares his musical interests. He starts to think that all those years of practice might come in handy after all.

I wrote *Totally Unrelated* as an homage to the music, culture, and traditions of Cape Breton Island, where I grew up. Even today, many Cape Breton families play music together, both publicly and at traditional "kitchen parties" in their own homes. In this way, the musical heritage that originated in Scotland and crossed the Atlantic with the area's first settlers, manages to live on. In recent decades, many Cape Breton musicians have worked more contemporary musical styles, such as rock and country, into the mix, creating new and unique sounds.



Thematic Links:

Fiddle music
Step-dancing

Gaelic language
Roots of Celtic music

Activity Ideas:

- Learn about some famous musical families, including The Carter Family, The Family Von Trapp, and of course Cape Breton Island's own Rankin Family..
- Use YouTube and Wikipedia to learn about traditional Cape Breton musical styles and instruments.
- Learn how to pronounce "ceilidh." What language does it come from? What does it mean?

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Tom Ryan

author of *Totally Unrelated*

Tom Ryan was born and raised in Inverness, on Cape Breton Island. He spent his childhood reading, wandering the countryside, making up stories and bossing around his younger brothers. After high school, he studied English at Mount Allison University and then moved to Halifax, where he spent several years working in the film and television industry. He is the author of four novels for young readers, including *Way to Go* and *Big Time*. He lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and can be found hanging out on his website, www.tomwrotethat.com.



Selected Awards

Totally Unrelated and *Big Time* were both selected by the Junior Library Guild. *Way to Go* was nominated for the 2013 White Pine Award

Some Other Books by Tom ryan

Way to Go (Orca Book Publishers, 2012)

Tag Along (Orca Book Publishers, 2013)

Big Time (Orca Book Publishers, 2014)