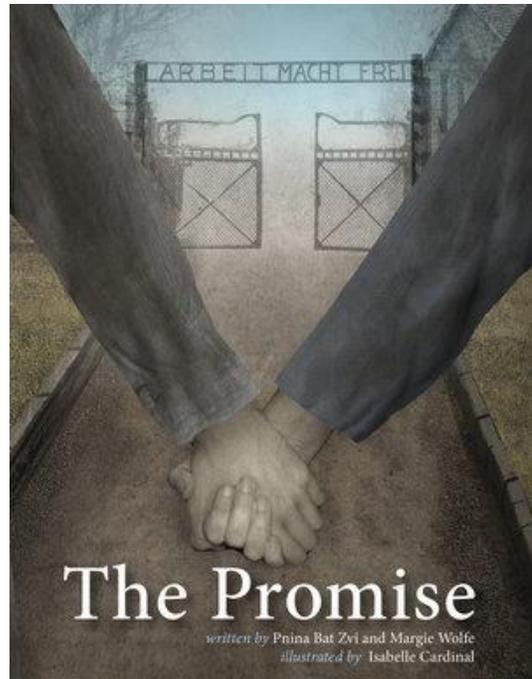


The Promise

by Pnina Bat Zvi
& Margie Wolfe

The night that Rachel and Toby's parents are taken away by the Nazis, they give their young daughters three gold coins with the instructions to "use these wisely to help save your lives." They also ask the girls to promise that they will always stay together. This compelling true story follows the sisters as they confront the daily horrors of Auschwitz, protecting one another, sharing memories, fears, and even laughter—always together. But when Rachel becomes ill and is taken away by Nazi guards, likely forever, Toby risks her own life and uses the well-hidden gold coins to rescue her little sister.



Rachel and Toby are the mothers of the authors Pnina Bat Zvi and Margie Wolfe. The authors decided that their mothers' story about their survival of Auschwitz was an important story for children today to know, and remember, so that we can ensure that it never happens again.

Thematic Links:

Reflecting Diversity

Prejudice & Tolerance

WWII & The Holocaust

Cultural & Ethnic

Family & Friendship

Diversity Character Education

History & Social Studies

Activity Ideas:

Brainstorm ideas about how students can be upstanders instead of bystanders

Introduction to the Holocaust – teacher lecture, fill in the blank activity

Learn more about the different groups of people that were persecuted in the Holocaust

Pnina Bat Zvi is a host of a morning radio program and a journalist in Tel Aviv.

Pnina was also a documentarian for radio and television and has written one previous adult book. A mother of twin sons herself, she is the daughter of Rachel.



Margie Wolfe is the publisher and co-founder of Second Story Press in Toronto.

Books from Second Story's Holocaust Remembrance Series for Young Readers have been translated into more than forty languages world-wide.

Margie has been recognized for her work by a number of organizations. She was born in a displaced person's camp in Germany. Toby is her mother.



Selected Awards:

Canadian Children's Book Centre Best Books of 2018, 2018, Canada–Commended

Hubots: Real World Robots Inspired by Humans by Helaine Becker

Using increasingly sophisticated levels of artificial intelligence (AI) and embodied intelligence (EI), a new generation of robots is being designed to look, act and even think like humans. Hubots, or human-inspired robots, are expanding the boundaries of what robots can do.

In *Hubots*, illustrator Alex Ries and I present ten different real-life hubots, highlighting each one's appearance, unique skills and purpose—from fighting fires on the high seas, to acting as setup crew for space colonies, to providing companionship for the elderly.

The book also includes an illustrated graph of the uncanny valley, which reveals what distinguishes a friendly robot from a creepy one, and back matter that provides a closer examination of some of the robots' physical components. A follow up to *Zoobots*, which explored robots inspired by animals, I wrote this book to turn kids on to the amazing - and kinda spooky—present and future of these fascinating machines.

Thematic links:

Technology, robotics, biology, social studies, critical thinking/creativity/innovation

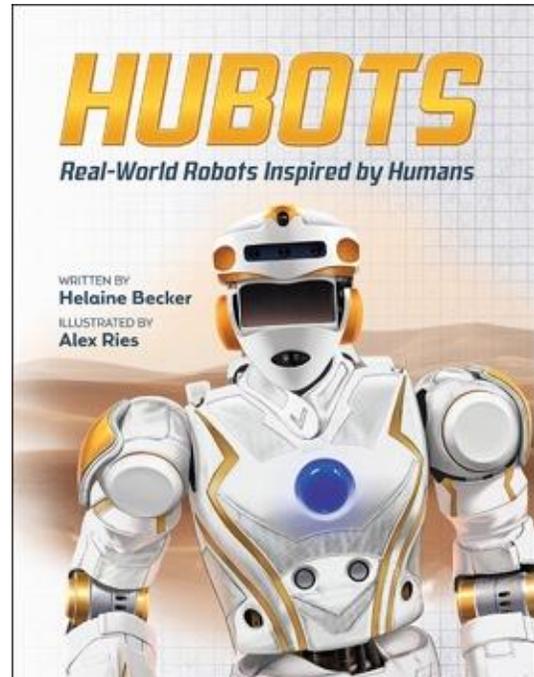
Activity Ideas:

What kind of robot would you build if you could design a humanoid robot? Describe its purpose and how it would work. Draw a picture of your design too!

Using found materials and programmable computer components (like Strawberry Pi or Arduino, create a simple robot.

Imagine a world where robots live and work beside you. Write a short story about it.

Robotics engineers start out as curious kids. Find out what you'd have to do (schooling, special skills, etc.) in order to become a real life robotics engineer yourself!



Helaine Becker is the bestselling author of more than 80 books for children and young adults, including the #1 Canadian national bestseller and “enduring Canadian Christmas classic” *A Porcupine in a Pine Tree* (Scholastic Canada) and the international bestseller *Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13* (Henry Holt).



She has also written an international bestselling series of books helping kids deal with stress, the most recent being *You Got This!* (Scholastic Canada, 2019); *Zoobots* (the companion book to *Hubots*; Kids Can Press, 2018) and *The Canadian Kids' Guide to Outdoor Fun* (Scholastic Canada). Her books have been translated into 10 languages and are sold in dozens of countries around the world.

Helaine adores travelling far and wide. She loves super-bright colours, flowers and coffee. She is also a certified pyrotechnician, so —KABOOM!—expect fireworks at any time.

Selected Awards:

Hackmataack Children’s Choice Book Award
Silver Birch Award
Lane Anderson Award for Science Writing
Bank Street Cook Prize for Best Nonfiction
Picture Book of the Year Award

Other Books by Helaine Becker:

Megabugs: And Other Prehistoric Critters That Roamed the Planet (Kids Can Press, 2019)
The Canadian Kids' Guide to Outdoor Fun (Scholastic Canada, 2019)
Sloth at the Zoom (Owlkids, 2019)
Worms for Breakfast: How to Feed a Zoo (Owlkids, 2018).
Stress Less! (Scholastic Canada, 2018)

My River

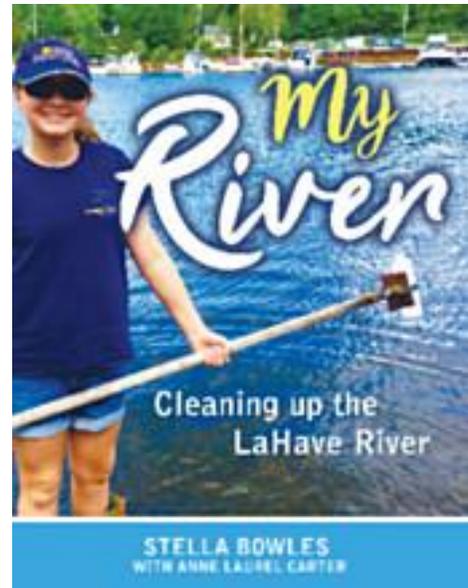
by Anne Laurel Carter

My River is the story of Stella Bowles's successful environmental activism. Stella and I both live beside the LaHave River.

As a neighbour the results of her grade 6 and 7 science fair projects about our polluted river horrified me.

Stella's work helped launch a \$15.7 million cleanup program. Her success inspired me to write her story.

I hope her story inspires you to activism.



Thematic Links:

Environment, government, law, science fairs, activism, pollution

Activity Ideas:

What's the #1 problem you'd like to change in your world? What's stopping you?

What were Stella's key strategies?

What does your protest sign look like—make one!

Anne Laurel Carter has written 19 books for young readers. She's now a climate activist because it's her #1 issue where she wants to see change.

Selected Awards:

Two-time winner of the CLA Book of the Year Award

Jane Addam's Honor Award for peace

Other Books by Anne Laurel Carter:

Rocky Waters (Groundwood Books, 2019)

The Shepherd's Granddaughter (Groundwood Books, 2008)

Last Chance Bay (Penguin, 2004)

Elizabeth: Bless This House (Penguin, 2002)

My Home Bay (Red Deer Press, 2002)



Rewilding: Giving Nature a Second Chance

by Ann Love and Jane Drake

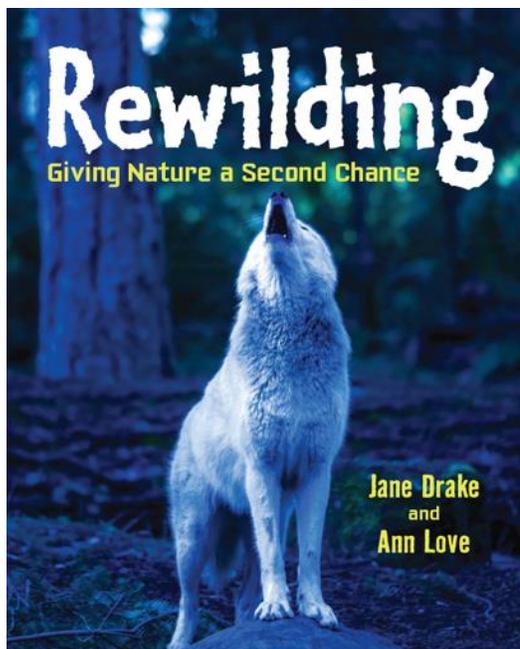
We still have time! The natural world can be healed, if we get our act together.

Jane and Ann care deeply about what happens to the rich diversity of our environment. Plants and animals are disappearing at an alarming rate. This book explores rewilding, a new and exciting strategy to turn this trend around.

Rewilding is a worldwide movement bent on returning habitats to their wild state. By restoring large core habitats, connecting the cores with safe corridors and reintroducing key species, including top predators, scientists have been able to save animals and plants from the brink of extinction.

From eels in the North Atlantic to jaguars in Central America, wolves in Yellowstone Park, reptiles in Australia, elephants in Namibia and leopards in India, this book explores many different successes and lessons learned from rewilding efforts.

Jane and Ann also explore rewilding experiments that push the limits of what is right or wrong—such as de-extincting the woolly mammoth and setting it loose in the Arctic tundra. The authors hope their readers will get fired up with the possibilities of rewilding and advocate for species at risk in their communities.



Thematic Links:

Wildlife reintroduction
Keystone species
Anthropocene

Environmentalism
Invasive species
Biodiversity

Climate change
Extinction

Activity Ideas:

Find out if there any wildlife restoration projects locally and see if they include elements of rewilding.

Plant a butterfly garden in the school grounds or at home, without introducing non-native plants.

Contact your local town parks department and see what they are doing to rewild parks. What are provincial and federal parks doing to rewild in the Maritimes? See what you can do to help?

The great auk, Eskimo curlew and Labrador duck are all extinct. Research the de-extinction and rewilding dreams of local scientists. Would your neighbourhood welcome the return of the Eastern Cougar?

Ann Love and Jane Drake are sisters who have shared a lifelong interest in the natural world. They were raised by parents who turned off the TV and kicked them outside where they played, explored, and learned to love and care for Nature.

Together, they have written over thirty non-fiction books for kids mostly with an environmental focus. In their thirty-one years as a writing team, the health of the natural world has become more urgent. Their books will give kids ideas on how they can help too.



Selected Awards:

Rewilding: Giving Nature a Second Chance earned an honorable mention for the Green Book Festival Award (2018), and won the Green Prize for Sustainable Literature (2018), the EUREKA! Nonfiction Children's Book Awards Honoree, California Reading Association (2018), the Skipping Stones Honor Award (2018), and silver for the Nautilus Award (2018).

Pandemic Survival: It's Why You're Alive was nominated for the Hackmataack Children's Non-Fiction Award (2015). *Talking Tails: The Incredible Connection Between People and Their Pets* was shortlisted for the Silver Birch Award (2011)

Alien Invaders: Species That Threaten Our World was shortlisted for the Red Cedar Award (2011), Rocky Mountain Book Award (2010), and the Silver Birch Award (2010)

Sweet! The Delicious Story of Candy won the Hackmataack Children's Choice Book Award (2009) and the Red Cedar Information Book Award (2010)

Other Books by Ann Love and Jane Drake:

Rewilding: Giving Nature a Second Chance. (Annick Press, 2017)

Pandemic Survival: It's Why You're Alive. (Tundra Books, 2013)

Keeping Up With Jax and Rupert: Thinking About Bear. (Digital Book with Apple for iPad, 2012)

Yes You Can! Your Guide to Becoming An Activist. (Tundra Books, 2010)

Talking Tails: The Incredible Connection Between People And Their Pets. (Tundra Books, 2010)

Alien Invaders: Species that Threaten Our World. (Tundra Books, 2008)

Sweet! The Delicious Story of Candy. (Tundra Books, 2007)

Trash Action: A Fresh Look at Garbage. (Tundra Books, 2006)

Snow Amazing: Cool Facts and Warm Tales. (Tundra Books, 2004)

There be Pirates! Swashbucklers & Rogues of the Atlantic by Joann Hamilton-Barry

While doing the research for my book about Oak Island, I found some amazing facts about pirates. A lot of what I learned was very different from the fictional pirates in movies, TV shows and adventure stories. Pirates weren't lovable, like Jack Sparrow or bumbling, like Captain Hook. Pirates were thieves and criminals.

Today we might call them terrorists. Some of the pirates who sailed in the waters off the Atlantic provinces were really bad guys. Edward Low was known as the cruelest pirate because he enjoyed torturing his victims. The most successful thief was Bartholomew Roberts. He captured and plundered more ships than any other pirate, but died in a bloody battle. The life of a pirate was tough and you could get very rich. However, most pirates spent all of their loot as soon as they got to shore. Or, they died in a fight, or from infection, before they could spend a single doubloon.

There is a lot of surprising information about pirates; like the pirates who only stole hats, pirates who liked to read, or the fate of the youngest pirate. Read *There Be Pirates!* to learn the facts about swashbucklers and rogues of the Atlantic.

Thematic Links:

Pirates, history, Atlantic Canada

Activity Ideas:

There Be Pirates! contains directions for several projects:

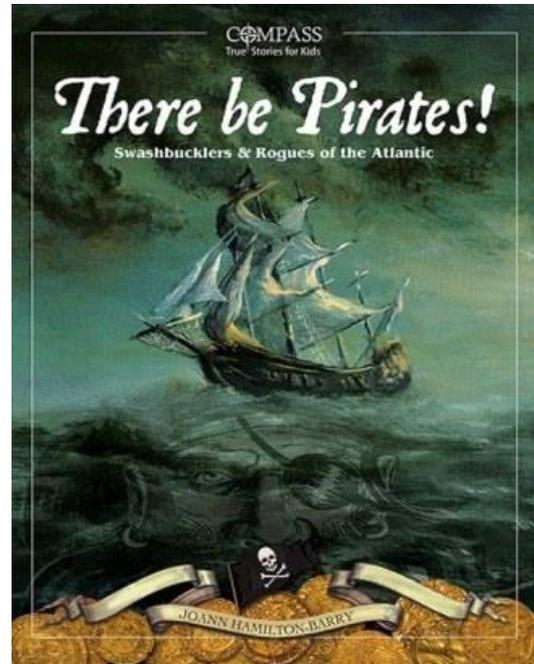
Write like a pirate – make a quill (page 52)

Dress like a pirate – make an eyepatch (page 73)

Eat like a pirate – make hardtack (page 31)

Spend like a pirate – make coins (page 65)

Carry your booty like a pirate – make a pouch (page 41)



Joann Hamilton-Barry: I love books and wanted to have a job where I could get paid to read. I started out as a grade one teacher, but that wasn't for me.

I went back to university to become a children's librarian and got to spend my days planning fun programs for kids. I love working in a library because I am surrounded by books, but I never have time to read for fun at work.

I wrote my first book when my children were young. For the next 10+ years, I was busy working, and helping my husband look after our children, our dog and our house.

I started my second book the day after our youngest child finished high school. In my spare time I like to take my dog to the beach where my husband Nick helps me to look for treasure.



Selected Nominations and Awards:

Oak Island and the Search for Buried Treasure - Hackmataack nominee, 2017

Boldly Canadian: the story of the RCMP was an Our Choice selection by the Canadian Children's Book Centre in 1999-2000 and was included in *The Great Canadian Book of Lists* by Mark Kearney and Randy Ray (Dundurn Press, 1999) as one of "Six Great Canadian Non-Fiction Books for Young Canadians"

Other Books by Joann Hamilton-Barry:

The North Atlantic Right Whale: Past, Present, and Future (Nimbus, 2019)

Oak Island and the Search for Buried Treasure (Nimbus, 2015)

Boldly Canadian: the Story of the RCMP (Kids Can, 1999)

Too Young to Escape

by Van Ho &
Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch

During the aftermath of the Vietnam War, Van wakes up one morning to find that her mother, sister, Loan, and brother, Tuan, are gone. They have escaped the new communist regime that has taken over Ho Chi Minh City for freedom in the West. Four-year-old Van is too young—and her grandmother is too old—for such a dangerous journey by boat, so the two have been left behind.

Once settled in North America, her parents will eventually be able to sponsor them, and Van and her grandmother will fly away to safety.

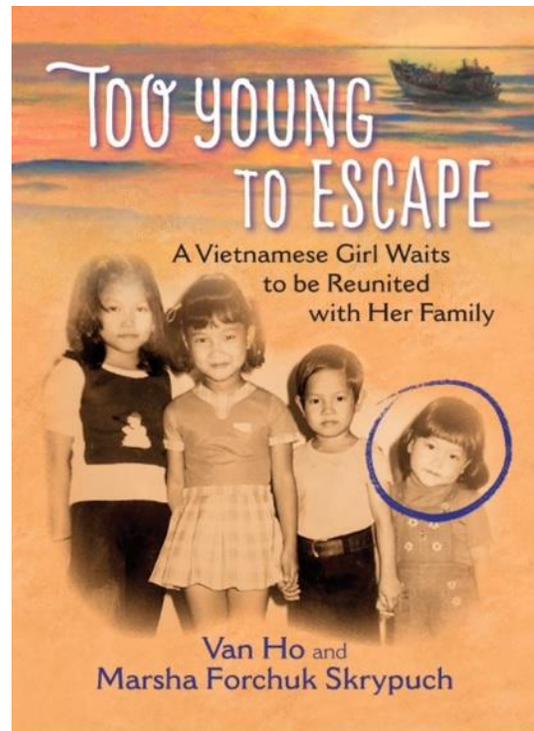
But in the meantime, Van is forced to work hard to satisfy her aunt and uncle, who treat her like an unwelcome servant. And at school she must learn that calling attention to herself is a mistake, especially when the bully who has been tormenting her turns out to be the son of a military policeman.

Thematic Links:

Refugees, war, displacement, bullying, Vietnam War, separation from family

Activity Ideas:

Create a timeline of the chores Van is required to do before school every morning and compare that with a timeline of your morning routine.



Van Ho Today Van (Vanessa Gatensby) is happily married to her husband Andrew, and they have two children, Noah and Emma. She has a successful career working for one of the largest medical device companies in the world.

Van thinks back to the days when she was forced to get up at 5:00 a.m. to work on the spindle, and she is grateful that she's never had to make the tough decisions her mom and dad were confronted with.

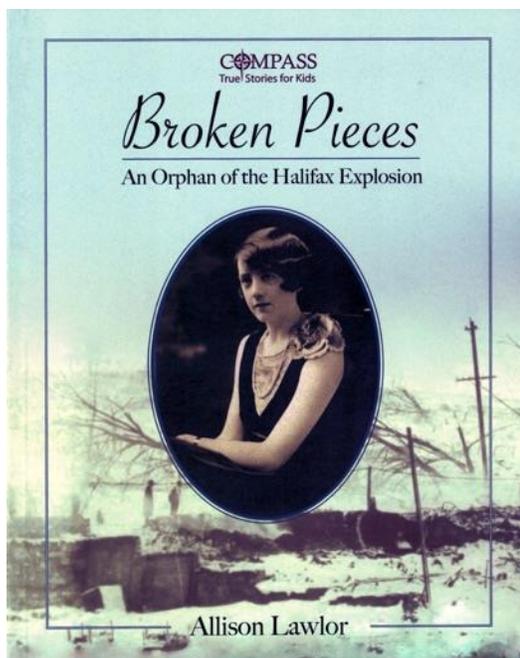
Van and her family live in Brampton, Ontario.



Broken Pieces: An Orphan of the Halifax Explosion

by Allison Lawlor

More than one hundred years ago, on December 6, 1917, the French munitions ship *Mont Blanc* collided with the Belgian relief vessel *Imo* in the Halifax Harbour. At first a small fire broke out aboard the *Mont Blanc*, which grew bigger as crowds of people and emergency responders lined the shores of Halifax and Dartmouth to get a better look. Suddenly, the *Mont Blanc's* explosive cargo blew up, flattening homes and businesses, and triggering a tsunami.



Amid the confusion and devastation that followed the blast was fourteen-year old Barbara Orr. Readers of *Broken Pieces* follow Barbara as she navigates post-explosion Halifax, learn about rescue efforts, the kindness of strangers and the bravery of heroes like Vincent Coleman.

I wrote *Broken Pieces* because it was the 100th anniversary of the explosion and I knew my youngest daughter would be learning about it in school. I thought it would be really cool if I could write a book that would help her to learn more. It did!.

Thematic Links:

The First World War and Nova Scotia
 Heroism and bravery
 Rescue efforts in times of disaster
 Kindness of strangers

The history of Halifax
 Resilience
 Restoring and re-building a city

Activity Ideas:

Visit the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax. The museum has a permanent exhibit dedicated to the explosion. Another option is to go on a Halifax Explosion tour of sites.

<https://maritimemuseum.novascotia.ca/what-see-do/halifax-explosion>

<http://education.historicacanada.ca/en/tools/74>

http://www.canadiangeographic.com/educational_products/activities/first_world_war/FWWLessonPlans-EN-04.pdf

Allison Lawlor has written six non-fiction books. *Broken Pieces* is her first book for elementary school children. Her books focus on interesting events that happened a long time ago in Nova Scotia. When she's not researching and writing books, she writes for newspapers. Her favourite part of her job is interviewing people and telling their stories.

Since 2003, she has worked from her home in Prospect, a small, former fishing village. She lives with her husband, their two daughters, two cats, a black Labrador dog, and a small flock of chickens, who give her eggs every morning.

When she's not writing she loves to run and hike outdoors and help refugees come to Canada to start new lives that are safe and filled with hope.



Selected Nominations and Awards:

Broken Pieces was nominated for a 2019 Silver Birch Award by the Ontario Library Association.

Other Books by Allison Lawlor:

250 Years of Progress: Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency (Nimbus Publishing, 2005)

Rum-Running (Nimbus Publishing, 2009)

The Roar of the Sea (Boulder Publications, 2015)

"The Saddest Ship Afloat"- The Tragedy of the MS St. Louis (Nimbus Publishing, 2016)

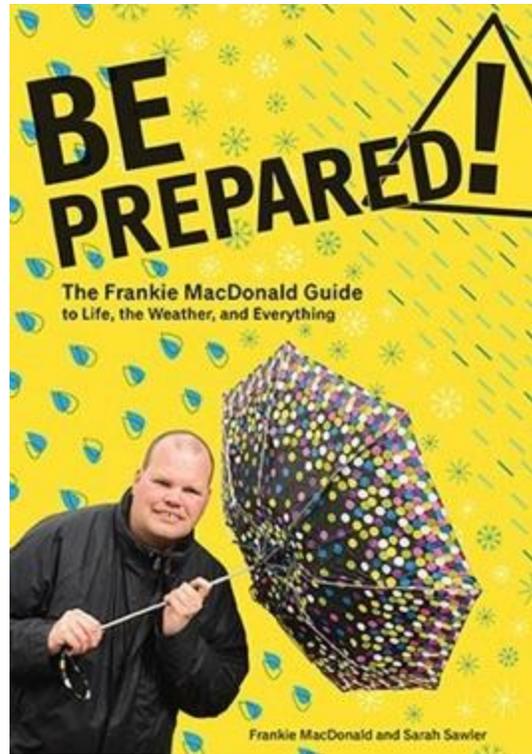
A Royal Couple in Canada (Boulder Publications, 2017)

Broken Pieces (Nimbus Publishing, 2017)

Be Prepared: The Frankie MacDonald Guide to Life, the Weather, and Everything by Frankie MacDonald and Sarah Sawler

Ever wonder where clouds come from? Or how meteorologists predict the weather? *Be Prepared: The Frankie MacDonald Guide to Life, the Weather, and Everything* answers these questions and more, with plenty of fun weather-related trivia and explanations.

But *Be Prepared* isn't just about meteorology. It's also the biography of Frankie MacDonald, Atlantic Canada's favourite weather-person.



You'll learn about Frankie's monster-hunting adventures, and his early love of maps. You'll find out how he inspired people all over the world to create a defense league to protect him from online bullies. And you'll read about Frankie's lifelong interest in meteorology and his early experiences with autism.

I wrote this book with Frankie because I wanted to share his story. Almost 200 thousand people subscribe to Frankie's YouTube channel, *dogsandwolves*, but most people don't know much about who he really is—and I wanted to change that, because Frankie is a truly remarkable person. He never gives up when he wants to learn about a new subject, even when it's hard. He doesn't let other people get him down. And he always, *always* stays true to himself. I hope his story inspires other people to do the same.

Thematic Links:

Meteorology, Geography, Cartography, STEM, Autism, Biography, Cape Breton

Activity Ideas:

Kid Meteorologist Video:

pbslearningmedia.org/resource/ess05.sci.ess.watcyc.kidmeteor/kid-meteorologist/

Climate change discussion:

The climate is changing, making it harder to “be prepared.” What can *you* do to protect our habitat? What changes do you wish adults would make?

Make a map:

Map out a floor of your school, your house, or your playground. If you’re feeling adventurous, head to a park with lots of trails, and map *that* out.

Learning discussion:

What subject are you most passionate about? Can you think of a creative way to learn more about that topic?

Make a video:

Set up your own in-class news station! Work together to understand the 10-day forecast, draw a weather map on the whiteboard, and put on your most serious weather-person faces. Then work together in different roles to create recorded weather reports, just like Frankie!

Sarah Sawler is the award-winning author of three books: *100 Things You Don't Know About Nova Scotia*, *100 Things You Don't Know About Atlantic Canada - For Kids*, and the Moonbeam Spirit Award-winning *Be Prepared: The Frankie MacDonald Guide to Life, the Weather, and Everything* (written with Frankie MacDonald).

When she's not writing books, she's working as a publicist for graphic novel publisher Conundrum Press and reviewing children's literature. She lives in Saint Margaret's Bay, Nova Scotia, with her partner, two kids, one cat, one dog, and one bearded dragon.



Frankie MacDonald is a YouTube celebrity living in Sydney Nova Scotia. He's studied meteorology from an early age and shares his weather reports with more than 150,000 subscribers living all over the world.

In his free time, he enjoys watching movies, going to hockey games, and walking along the Sydney waterfront.



Selected Nominations and Awards – Sarah Sawler:

Be Prepared: The Frankie MacDonald Guide to Life, the Weather, and Everything was awarded the 2018 Moonbeam Spirit Award (Exploration category).

“Level Up” and “Choose Your Own Halifax Disaster,” were both shortlisted for Atlantic Journalism Awards after appearing in *Halifax Magazine*.

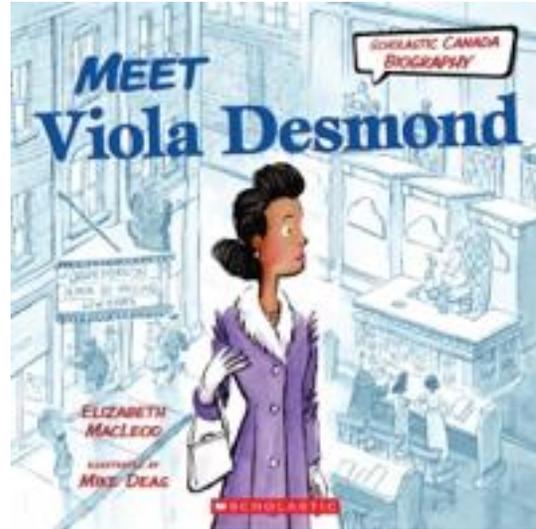
Other Books by Sarah Sawler:

100 Things You Don't Know About Nova Scotia (Nimbus Publishing, 2016)

100 Things You Don't Know About Atlantic Canada for Kids (Nimbus Publishing, 2018)

Scholastic Canada Biography: Meet Viola Desmond by Elizabeth MacLeod

Have you ever wondered who the woman is who's on the Canadian \$10 bill? What did she do that was important enough to put her on the bill? In *Meet Viola Desmond* you'll learn all about this black rights activist.



I wrote this book because many Canadians — both adults and kids — don't know Viola's story. She's so important to our country's history, yet for many years no one knew much about her. It wasn't until Viola's sister, Wanda Robson, began to speak out about the discrimination that Viola had faced that Canadians learned about Viola.

I also wanted to share Viola's story with kids because I think it's amazing when ordinary people, like Viola, do extraordinary things. I hope Viola's story will inspire readers to think about what they can do to make our country and our world a better place.

Thematic Links:

History	Black Canadians	Human Rights
Racial Discrimination	Social Studies	Biography

Activity Ideas:

If you could meet Viola, what five questions would you ask her?

Imagine you're Viola driving back to Halifax after being found guilty by the judge. Write down what you feel she was thinking.

When Viola spent that night in prison, she passed the time organizing her purse. Think about what you know about Viola and list 10 items you think she might have had in her purse and why.

At bankofcanada.ca/banknotes/vertical10/ you can see the \$10 bill with Viola's picture on it. Create your own \$10 bill that shows Viola. What other images do you want to be sure to include on it?

Elizabeth MacLeod is a nosy author who loves finding out why people do what they do and how. Then she likes sharing these incredible stories and amazing facts with readers.

Researching and writing Viola Desmond's story was a lot of fun for Liz. Like Viola's sister Wanda, Liz is the little sister in her family, so she really likes the fact that it was Wanda who made sure that Viola's story wasn't forgotten. If you're a little sister, maybe you feel the same way! You can see photos of Wanda online and in *Meet Viola Desmond*.



Liz lives in Toronto, Ontario, with her husband, Paul, and cat Cosimo. She's written more than 60 books, many of them biographies (books about people). While she writes, Cosimo is usually sprawled across her desk — often right on the book she needs for research!

Selected Nominations and Awards:

Meet Viola Desmond was nominated for the 2019 Silver Birch Express Award.

Top Dogs won the 2018 Silver Birch Award and was nominated for the 2019 Red Cedar Information Book Award.

Canada Year by Year won the 2017 Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children's Non-Fiction.

Bones Never Lie won the 2014 Arthur Ellis Award for Best Juvenile Book.

Colossal Canada (co-author) was nominated for the 2016 Hackmataack Non-Fiction Award, 2016 Silver Birch Award for Non-Fiction and 2017 Red Cedar Information Book Award.

Everything But the Kitchen Sink (co-author) won the 2011 Red Cedar Award and was the 2009 Silver Birch Award #1 Honour Book.

Other Books by Elizabeth MacLean:

Meet Elsie MacGill (Scholastic Canada)

Meet Tom Longboat (Scholastic Canada)

Meet Chris Hadfield (Scholastic Canada)

How to Become an Accidental Genius (co-author) (Orca)

Super Cats (Annick Press)

Vanished (Annick Press)

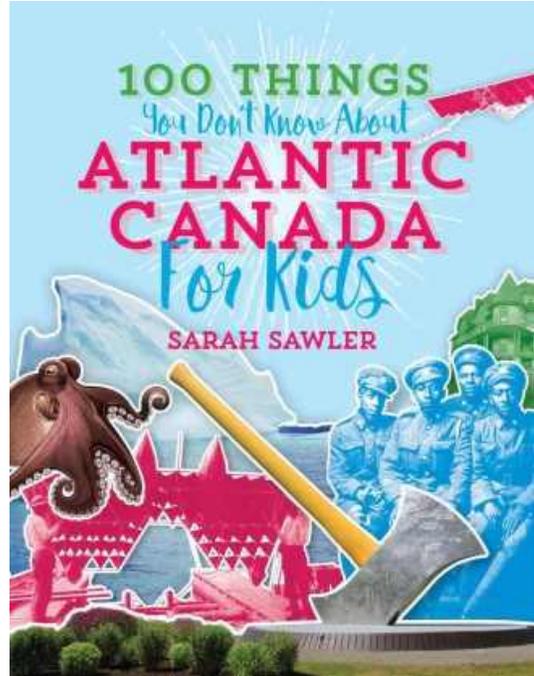
Bunny the Brave War Horse (Kids Can Press)

Secrets Underground (Annick Press)

Monster Fliers (Kids Can Press)

100 Things You Don't Know About Atlantic Canada (for Kids) by Sarah Sawler

Did you know that you can walk on the ocean floor at the Hopewell Rocks in New Brunswick? Or that there was once a UFO sighting in PEI? Or that someone found a real Maud Lewis painting in a thrift shop? *100 Things You Don't Know About Atlantic Canada for Kids* collects the most interesting, surprising, and bizarre facts you never knew about Atlantic Canada. The book also includes fun photos and helpful explanations. As an added bonus, each section is paired with a sidebar with ideas for things to do and places to visit.



I wrote this book after people started telling me that they'd enjoyed my first book, *100 Things You Don't Know About Nova Scotia*, as a family. I wanted to give kids a chance to stump the adults in their lives, so I decided to write a similar book for a younger audience. I also wanted to branch out to include the rest of Atlantic Canada—I was born in Moncton, after all. In the end, my plan worked—now, kids are always telling me about the cool facts they know (and adults don't).

Thematic links:

Culture, history, science, literature, current events, industry

Activity Ideas:

Try the activities included in the book. There are 100 of them!

Sarah Sawler is the award-winning author of three books: *100 Things You Don't Know About Nova Scotia*, *100 Things You Don't Know About Atlantic Canada (for Kids)*, and the Moonbeam Spirit Award-winning *Be Prepared: The Frankie MacDonald Guide to Life, the Weather, and Everything* (written with Frankie MacDonald).

When she's not writing books, she's working as a publicist for graphic novel publisher Conundrum Press and reviewing children's literature.

She lives in Saint Margaret's Bay, Nova Scotia, with her partner, two kids, one cat, one dog, and one bearded dragon.



Selected Nominations and Awards:

Be Prepared: The Frankie MacDonald Guide to Life, the Weather, and Everything was awarded the 2018 Moonbeam Spirit Award (Exploration category).

“Level Up” and “Choose Your Own Halifax Disaster,” were both shortlisted for Atlantic Journalism Awards after appearing in *Halifax Magazine*.

Other Books by Sarah Sawler:

100 Things You Don't Know About Nova Scotia (Nimbus Publishing, 2016)

100 Things You Don't Know About Atlantic Canada for Kids (Nimbus Publishing, 2018)