

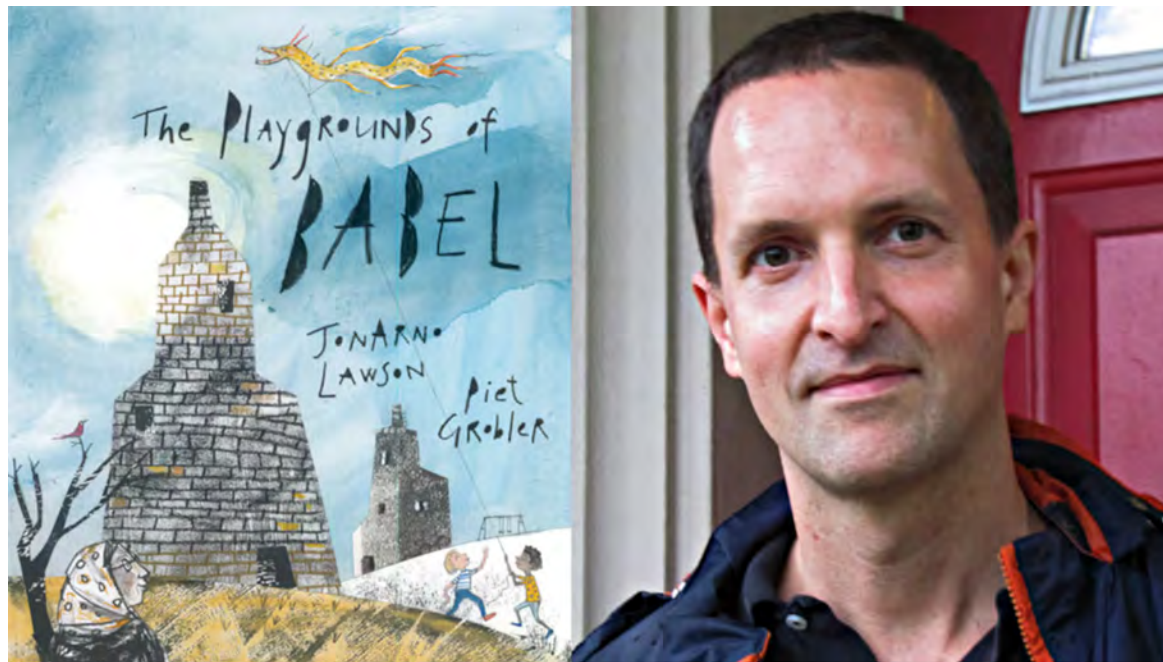
30 Canadian picture books to watch for this fall

[CBC Books](#) · Posted: Aug 16, 2019 10:04 AM PDT | Last Updated: August 16, 2019

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Here are the illustrated books for young readers we are excited for this coming season.

[***The Playgrounds of Babel* by JonArno Lawson, illustrated by Piet Grobler**](#)



The Playgrounds of Babel is a picture book by JonArno Lawson (above) and illustrated by Piet Grobler. (Groundwood Books, Philip de Vos)

[*The Playgrounds of Babel*](#) is a picture book inspired by the Tower of Babel. An old woman tells the story of Babel to two little boys, but only one of them understands her. The other must translate for his friend. The book goes back and forth between the woman's story and the conversation between the two boys.

JonArno Lawson, a children's book writer from Toronto, won the 2015 Governor General's Literary

Award for young people's literature — illustrated books for [Sidewalk Flowers](#).

Piet Grobler, originally from South Africa and now living in the U.K., is an award-winning illustrator and has published over 80 books.

When you can read it: [The Playgrounds of Babel](#) is now available.

[Aunt Pearl](#) by Monica Kulling, illustrated by Irene Luxbacher



Aunt Pearl is a picture book by Monica Kulling (above) and illustrated by Irene Luxbacher. (Groundwood Books)

In [Aunt Pearl](#), a young girl named Marta learns about poverty and homelessness when her aunt comes to live with her family.

Monica Kulling is a Toronto-based writer of more than 50 books for young readers.

Irene Luxbacher is an artist and illustrator whose projects include the I Can... series for Kids Can Press. She is also based in Toronto.

When you can read it: [Aunt Pearl](#) is now available.

[A Little Miss Lou](#) by Nadia I. Hohn, illustrated by Eugenie

A Likkle Miss Lou by Nadia L. Hohn, illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes



A Likkle Miss Lou is a picture book by Nadia L. Hohn (left) and illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes. (Owlkids)

[A Likkle Miss Lou](#) is a picture book about Louise "Miss Lou" Bennett Coverley, a Jamaican poet known for bringing international attention to Jamaican patois.

Nadia L. Hohn is a children's book author from Toronto. Her other titles include *Malaika's Costume* and [Malaika's Winter Carnival](#).

Eugenie Fernandes is an artist and children's book illustrator based in Ontario.

When you can read it: [A Likkle Miss Lou](#) is now available.

Small in the City by Sydney Smith





Small in the City is a picture book by Sydney Smith. (Groundwood Books, Steve Farmer)

In [Small in the City](#), a young boy is on the hunt for a precious item he has lost on a snowy day in a big city. Along the way, he navigates special shortcuts and shares secrets about the city he lives in.

Sydney Smith is a Halifax-based illustrator. His other books include [Town is by the Sea](#), written by Joanne Schwartz, and [Sidewalk Flowers](#), written by JonArno Lawson. [Town Is by the Sea](#) won the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award in 2018 and the U.K.'s [Kate Greenaway Medal for children's illustration](#).

When you can read it: Sept. 1, 2019

- [Sydney Smith: 6 stories I'd love to illustrate](#)

[Fern and Horn by Marie-Louise Gay](#)





Fern and Horn is a picture book by Marie-Louise Gay. (Groundwood Books)

Marie-Louise Gay's newest picture book, [Fern and Horn](#), is the story of twin siblings who love to create and draw. But when Horn's creations keep destroying Fern's, she gets an idea to protect her art once and for all.

Gay is an award-winning writer and illustrator of children's books. Her other works include the Stella and Sam series and the books [Rainy Day Magic](#) and [Any Questions](#). In 2005, she received the Vicky Metcalf Award for literature for young people, which recognizes a children's book author for their complete body of work.

When you can read it: Sept. 1, 2019

- [Children's book author and illustrator, Marie-Louise Gay](#)

[Ping by Ani Castillo](#)



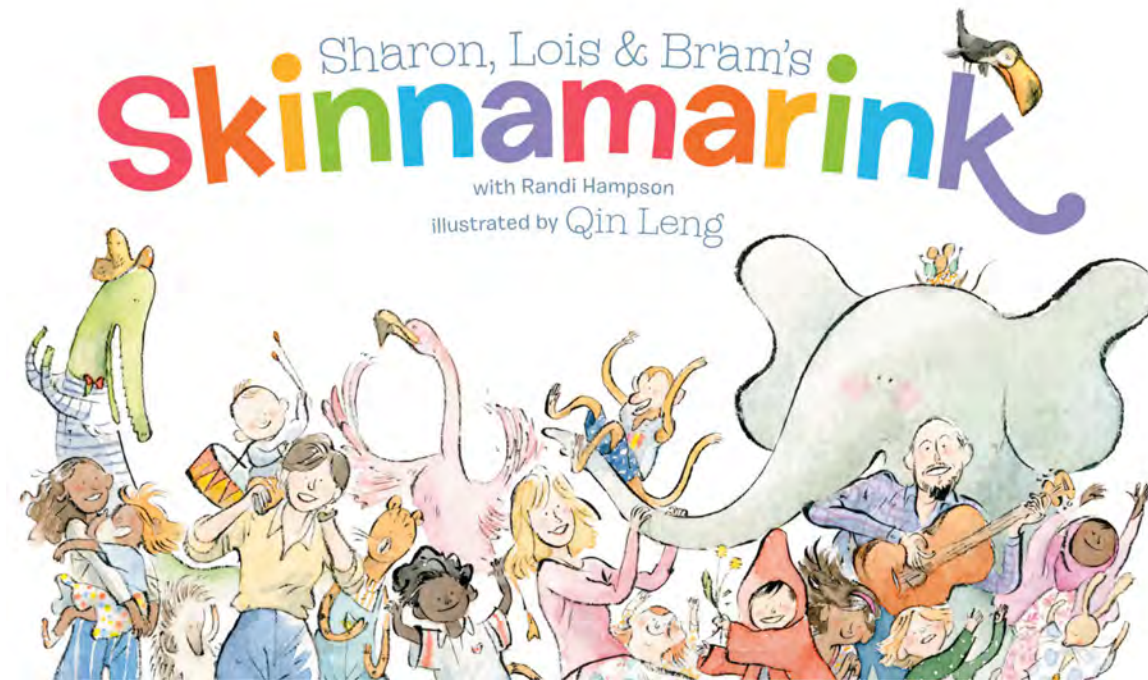
Ping is a picture book by Ani Castillo. (Hachette Book Group, Jamie Campbell)

[Ping](#) by Ani Castillo is a celebration of self-expression in the digital age, with so much communication happens digitally and when we are constantly connected.

Castillo is a Mexican Canadian illustrator. [Ping](#) is her first book.

When you can read it: Sept. 3, 2019

[Sharon, Lois & Bram's Skinnamarink](#) illustrated by Qin Leng



Qin Leng illustrates the picture book version of the classic children's song Skinnamarink, sung by entertainers Sharon Hampson, Lois Lilienstein & Bram Morrison. (Tundra Books)

Qin Leng illustrates a picture book based on Sharon, Lois & Bram's beloved children's song.

Sharon, Lois & Bram are a Canadian children's musical group that have performed together for over 40 years.

Leng is a children's book illustrator from Toronto who has also illustrated the books [Good Night, Good Night](#) by Dennis Lee and [Away](#) by Emil Sher.

When you can read it: Sept. 3, 2019

- [Sharon & Bram say goodbye to 40 years of enduring fans](#)

[The Scarecrow by Beth Ferry, illustrated by Terry Fan & Eric Fan](#)



The Scarecrow is a picture book illustrated by the Fan Brothers (above) and written by Beth Ferry. (Michelle Quance, HarperCollins)

[The Scarecrow](#) is a picture book illustrated by the Fan brothers about an unexpected friendship: one between a scarecrow and a small, scared crow.

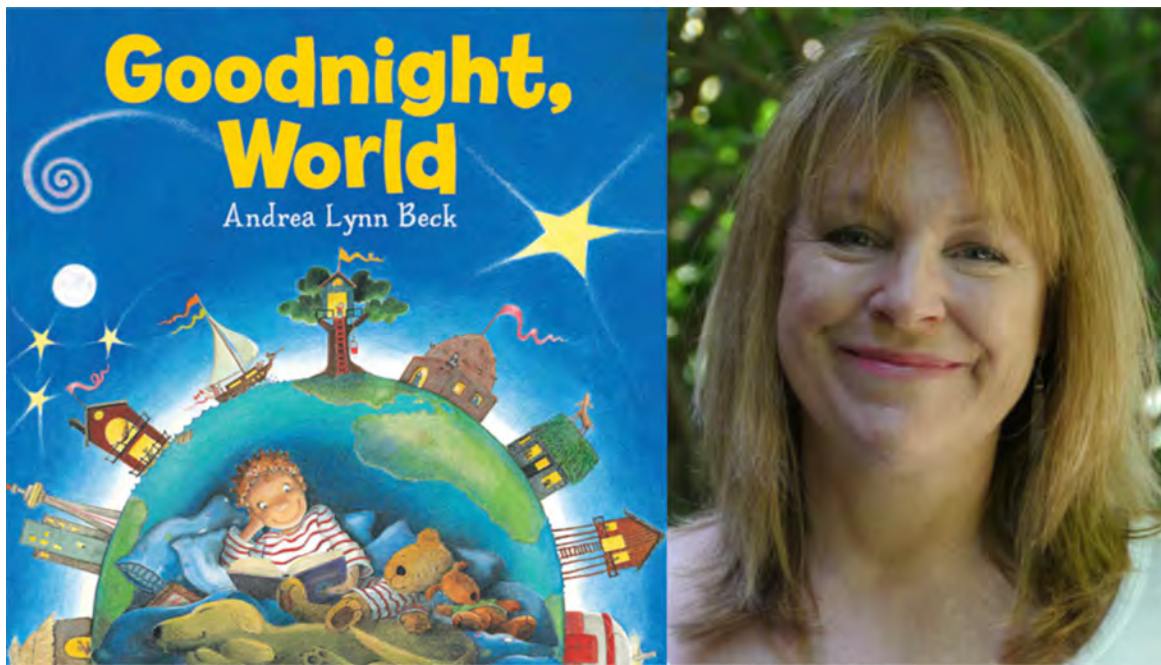
Beth Ferry is an American children's book author.

Eric Fan and Terry Fan are frequent collaborators on children's books. Their books include [The Darkest Dark](#), written by Chris Hadfield, [The Night Gardener](#) and [Ocean Meets Sky](#).

When you can read it: Sept. 3, 2019

- [The Fan brothers: Books we'd love to illustrate](#)

[Goodnight World by Andrea Lynn Beck](#)



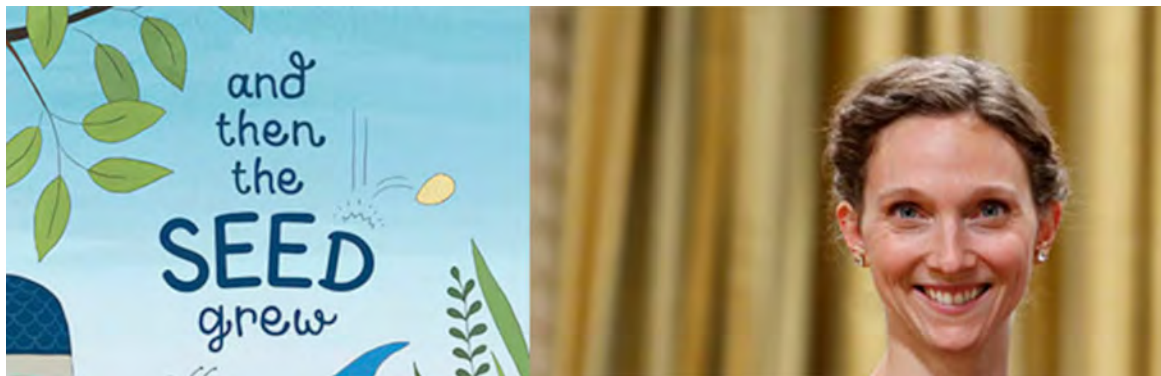
Goodnight, World is a picture book by Andrea Lynn Beck. (Scholastic Canada)

Children will learn how the world is connected as everyone goes to sleep one night in [Goodnight World](#). The book celebrates this global connection while sharing different customs from around the around.

Andrea Lynn Beck is a children's book author and illustrator based near Toronto. Her other books include *Goodnight, Canada*, [Good Morning, Canada](#) and *Thank You, Canada*.

When you can read it: Sept. 3, 2019

[**And Then the Seed Grew by Marianne Dubuc**](#)





And Then the Seed Grew is a picture book by Marianne Dubuc. (Kids Can Press, Canadian Press/Patrick Doyle)

When a new seed starts growing in the garden, it disrupts the life of everything that calls the garden home: the gnomes, the mole, the earthworm. But when they decide it's time for the new plant to go, they realize that it's not just a nuisance, it's someone else's home too.

Marianne Dubuc is a Montreal-based writer and illustrator. Her other books include *Mr. Postmouse Takes a Trip* and *The Bus Ride*.

When you can read it: Sept. 3, 2019

Treasure by Mireille Messier, illustrated by Irene Luxbacher



Treasure is a picture book by Mireille Messier (above) and illustrated by Irene Luxbacher. (Orca Book Publishers)

In [Treasure](#), a brother and a sister look for treasure in the forest. When the brother sees treasure everywhere, it's a gentle reminder that every day life is filled with treasure, if you only look for it.

Mireille Messier has lived in Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto. She has written more than 20 books for children.

This is the second book on this list illustrated by Toronto-based artist Luxbacher. The other is [Aunt Pearl](#) by Monica Kulling.

When you can read it: Sept. 10, 2019

[The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammad with S.K. Ali, illustrated by Hatem Aly](#)



The Proudest Blue is a picture book by Ibtihaj Muhammad (top) with S.K. Ali (bottom left) and illustrated by Hatem Aly. (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, Heidi Gutman-Guillaume, Andrea Stenson)

Ibtihaj Muhammad was the first Muslim American woman to compete for the United States in the Olympics while wearing a hijab. In [The Proudest Blue](#), her first book, two sisters are facing their own firsts: it's Faizah's first day of school and Asiya's first day wearing a hijab.

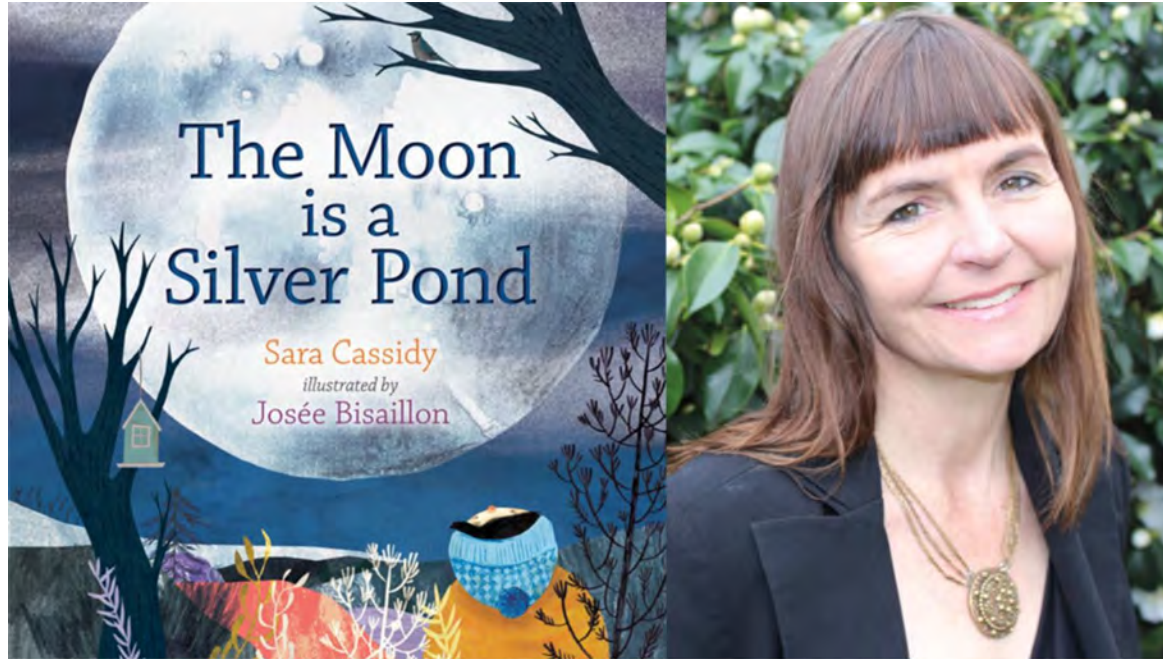
S.K. Ali is a YA author. Her books include [Saints and Misfits](#) and [Love from A to Z](#).

Hatem Aly is a children's book illustrator who lives in New Brunswick.

When you can read it: Sept. 10, 2019

- [S.K. Ali on why we need more Muslim stories](#)

***The Moon is a Silver Pond* by Sara Cassidy, illustrated by Josée Bisailon**



The Moon is a Silver Pond is a picture book by Sara Cassidy (above) and illustrated by Josée Bisailon. (Orca Book Publishers, Amaya Tarasoff)

The Moon is a Silver Pond celebrates the unique way children see the world. It encourages imagination and seeing the magic in every day objects.

Sara Cassidy is a journalist, editor and author living in Victoria. She has written more than 10 books geared to young readers.

Josée Bisailon is a children's book writer and illustrator based outside Montreal. Her other books include *Leap!*, written by JonArno Lawson and *The Snow Knows*, written by Jennifer McGrath.

When you can read it: Sept. 10, 2019

[Our Big Little Place](#) by James A. Conan, illustrated by Nicolle Lalonde



Our Big Little Place is a picture book by James A. Conan and illustrated by Nicolle Lalonde. (Tinara Herpel, Annick Press, Dumitru Diaconu)

In [Our Big Little Place](#), a young boy shares the joys of living in a small apartment high in the sky in a big city.

[James A. Conan](#) is a chef and [Nicolle Lalonde](#) is an illustrator. Both are based in Toronto and [Our Big Little Place](#) is their first book.

When you can read it: Sept. 10, 2019

[The House at the End of the Road](#) by Kari Rust





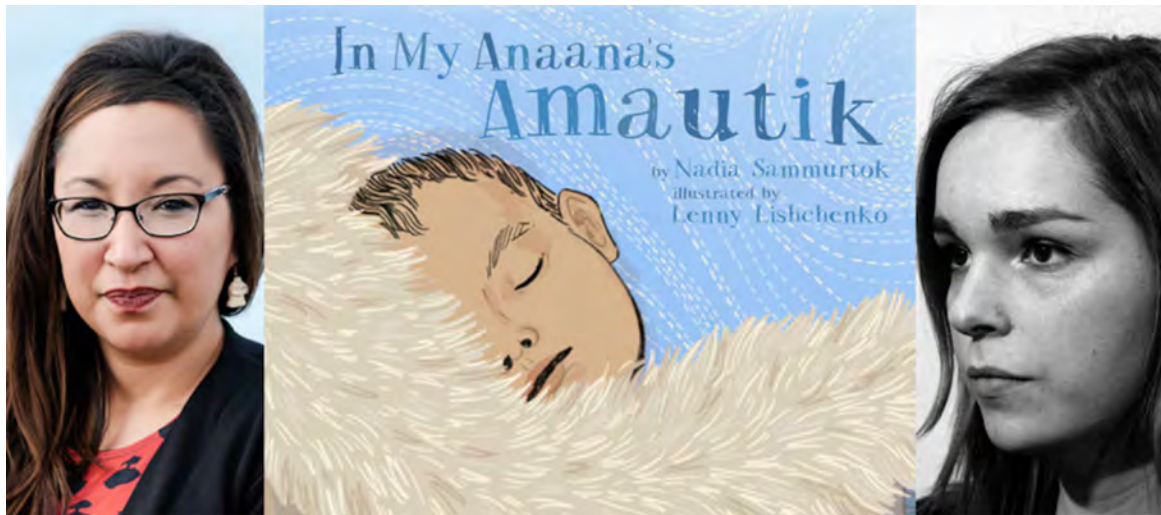
Kari Rust is a Canadian author and illustrator. (Owlkids Books, kerirust.com)

In *The House at the End of the Road*, two siblings and their cousin encounter a spooky building close to their grandmother's house. But it's not empty: they find out the house is inhabited by old Mr. Peterson. They become regular visitors, until one day, Mr. Peterson is gone. He has left for a retirement home and his house sits empty. The children decide to honour his life by creating mementos for Mr. Peterson to cherish.

Kari Rust is a Victoria-based author, educator and illustrator. She is also the author of the 2017 picture book *Tricky*.

When you can read it: Sept. 15, 2019

***In My Anaana's Amautik* by Nadia Sammurtok, illustrated by Lenny Lishchenko**





In My Anaana's Amautik is a picture book by Nadia Sammurток (left) and illustrated by Lenny Lishchenko (right). (Inhabit Media)

An amautik is a pouch inside a parka where you can carry children. The picture book [In My Anaana's Amautik](#) is told from the perspective of a baby safely nestled in their mother's amautik.

Nadia Sammurток is an Inuk writer and educator. Her books include *The Caterpillar Woman* and [The Owl and the Two Rabbits](#).

Lenny Lishchenko is an illustrator based in Toronto.

When you can read it: Sept. 17, 2019

- [20 books to read for Nunavut's 20th anniversary](#)

[It Began with a Page by Kyo Maclear, illustrated by Julie Morstad](#)



It Began with a Page is a picture book by Kyo Maclear (above) and illustrated by Julie Morstad. (Tundra Books)

[It Began with a Page](#) is a picture book that tells the story of iconic children's book writer and illustrator Gyo Fujikawa. Fujikawa wrote more than 50 books, including the popular *Babies* and *Baby Animals*. But as a Japanese woman, she faced many challenges to become an artist and fought for every opportunity she could.

Kyo Maclear is an essayist, novelist and author of children's books. Her other children's books include [Virginia Wolf](#) and [Bloom](#), which Julie Morstad also illustrated.

Morstad is an artist based in Vancouver. Her other books include *Today, How To* and *This is Sadie*, written by Sara O'Leary.

When you can read it: Sept. 24, 2019

- [What keeps Kyo Maclear from loitering at the edge of writing](#)

[What Is a Refugee? by Elise Gravel](#)



What Is a Refugee? is a picture book by Elise Gravel. (Schwartz & Wade)

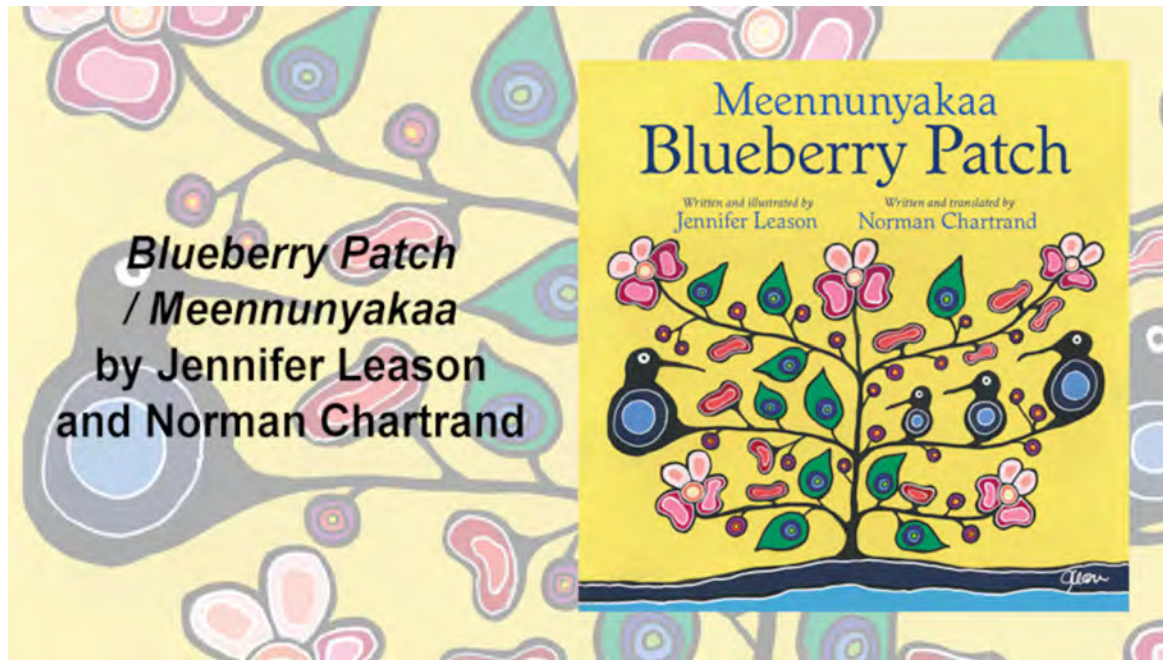
Elise Gravel gently explains what a refugee is, why they need to leave their homes and why they end up in Canada in her new picture book, [What Is a Refugee?](#)

Gravel is a Montreal-based illustrator. Her books include [The Worst Book Ever](#), [The Cranky Ballerina](#) and [The Mushroom Fan Club](#).

When you can read it: Sept. 24, 2019

- [Want to learn how to draw? Here are 5 tips from Elise Gravel](#)

[Blueberry Patch / Meennunyakaa](#) co-written and illustrated by Jennifer Leason, co-written and translated by Norman Chartrand



Blueberry Patch / Meennunyakaa is a picture book by Jennifer Leason and Norman Chartrand. (Theytus Books)

In [Blueberry Patch / Meennunyakaa](#), a Salteaux elder remembers what it was like collecting blueberries in his youth. The picture book, co-written and illustrated by Jennifer Leason, and co-written and translated by Norman Chartrand, includes both English and Anishinaabemowin.

Leason is an academic and researcher. [Blueberry Patch / Meennunyakaa](#) is her first children's book. Chartrand is her great-uncle.

When you can read it: Sept. 24, 2019

Bon Voyage, Mister Rodriguez by Christiane Duchesne, illustrated by François Thisdale



Bon Voyage, Mister Rodriguez is a picture book by Christiane Duchesne (above) and illustrated by François Thisdale. (Pajama Press)

Mister Rodriguez is an old man who lives in a small village. Every day at four o'clock, he goes for a walk. The village children are fascinated by this mysterious man. Who is he and where is he going?

Christiane Duchesne is a writer based in Montreal who has worked in TV, film and radio.

[François Thisdale](#) is an award-winning illustrator also based in Montreal. His other children's books include [Missing Nimama](#) and [The Stamp Collector](#).

When you can read it: Sept. 27, 2019

Birdsong by Julie Flett





Birdsong is a picture book by Julie Flett. (Greystone Books, Canadian Press/Patrick Doyle)

In *Birdsong*, a lonely girl becomes friends with her new neighbour, an elderly woman. Together, they watch the seasons change, but as they both grow older, the young girl learns to cope with her friend's declining health.

Julie Flett has illustrated several picture books including *Little You, My Heart Fills with Happiness* and *We Sang You Home*. She won the 2017 Governor General's Literary Award for young people's literature — illustration for *When We Were Alone*, written by David A. Robertson.

When you can read it: Sept. 30, 2019

- [Illustrator Julie Flett brings light to a dark period of history](#)

[Hello, Crow!](#) by Candace Savage, illustrated by Chelsea O'Byrne





Hello, Crow! is a picture book by Candace Savage and Chelsea O'Byrne. (Keith Bell, Greystone Books)

In [Hello, Crow!](#), a young girl named Fanny has a friend that's a crow. But her family doesn't believe her. Can she prove it?

Candace Savage is a Saskatchewan-based writer who has penned more than 20 books. She also has a work of nonfiction, [Strangers in the House](#), coming out in fall 2019.

Chelsea O'Byrne is an illustrator based in Vancouver.

When you can read it: Sept. 30, 2019

[I Promise](#) by Catherine Hernandez, illustrated by Syrus Marcus Ware



I Promise is a picture book by Catherine Hernandez (right) and illustrated by Syrus Marcus Ware. (Arsenal Pulp Press, Dahlia Katz)

[*I Promise*](#) is a portrayal of all the joys and challenges of parenting and a celebration of the many different forms that loving families come in.

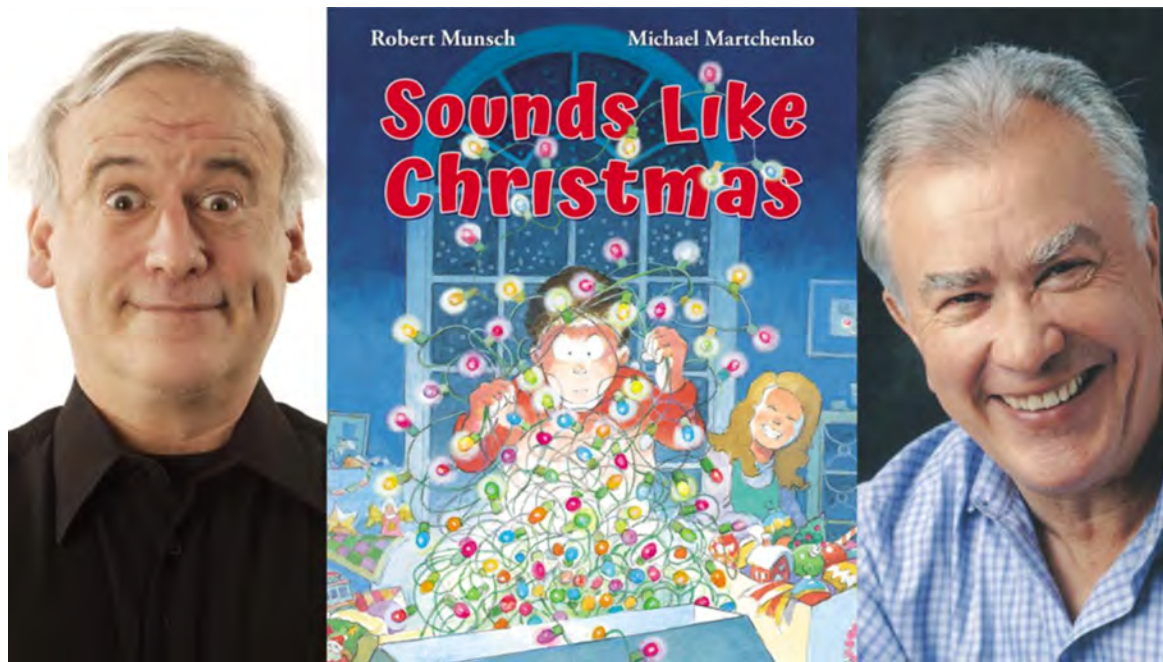
Catherine Hernandez is a playwright, performer and the author of the novel [*Scarborough*](#).

Syrus Marcus Ware is a visual artist, activist and scholar whose work has appeared in the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Globe and Mail and part of Nuit Blanche.

When you can read it: Oct. 1, 2019

- [How Catherine Hernandez opens her heart to find the stories she should tell](#)

[***Sounds Like Christmas* by Robert Munsch, illustrated by Michael Martchenko**](#)



Sounds Like Christmas is a picture book written by Robert Munsch (left), and illustrated by Michael Martchenko, right. (Scholastic Canada)

Robert Munsch takes on Christmas in his latest children's book. In [*Sounds Like Christmas*](#), Lincoln and Georgia want to make their Christmas tree the best tree ever, complete with the best — and the noisiest — decorations.

Munsch is one of Canada's iconic storytellers and Michael Martchenko is the long-time illustrator of several of his books. Their books together include [Mortimer](#), [The Paper Bag Princess](#), [A Promise is a Promise](#) and many more.

When you can read it: Oct. 1, 2019

- [74 things you might not know about Robert Munsch](#)

[Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao](#) by Kat Zhang, illustrated by Charlene Chua



Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao is a picture book illustrated by Charlene Chua (above) and written by Kat Zhang. (Simon & Schuster, Wayne Santos)

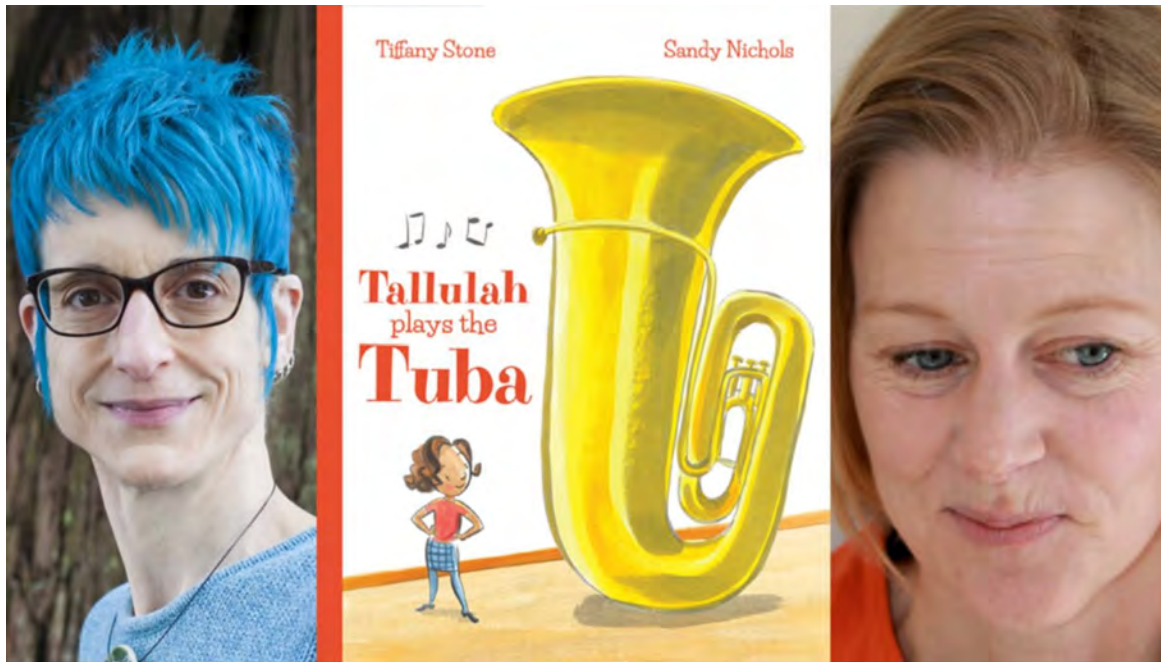
In [Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao](#), a young girl named Amy is determined to make the perfect bao, a Chinese dumpling. But hers never come out right. One day, she gets an idea that she knows will make her recipe work.

Kat Zhang is an American children's book writer.

Charlene Chua is an illustrator based in Hamilton, Ont. Her books include *The Wind Plays Tricks*, *Akilak's Adventure* and *How Nivi Got Her Names*.

When you can read it: Oct. 5, 2019

Tallulah Plays the Tuba by Tiffany Stone, illustrated by Sandy Nichols



Tallulah Plays the Tuba is a picture book by Tiffany Stone (left) and illustrated by Sandy Nichols. (Tanya King, Annick Press)

[Tallulah Plays the Tuba](#) is about a young girl named Tallulah, who wants to play the tuba. But the tuba is very big and Tallulah is very small.

Tiffany Stone's other children's books include *Floyd the Flamingo and his Flock of Friends* and *Rainbow Shoes*.

Sandy Nichols is a Calgary-based illustrator. She has worked on several children's books, including the 40th anniversary edition of Dennis Lee's [Alligator Pie](#).

When you can read it: Oct. 8, 2019

Kevin the Unicorn: It's Not All Rainbows by Jessika von Innerebner



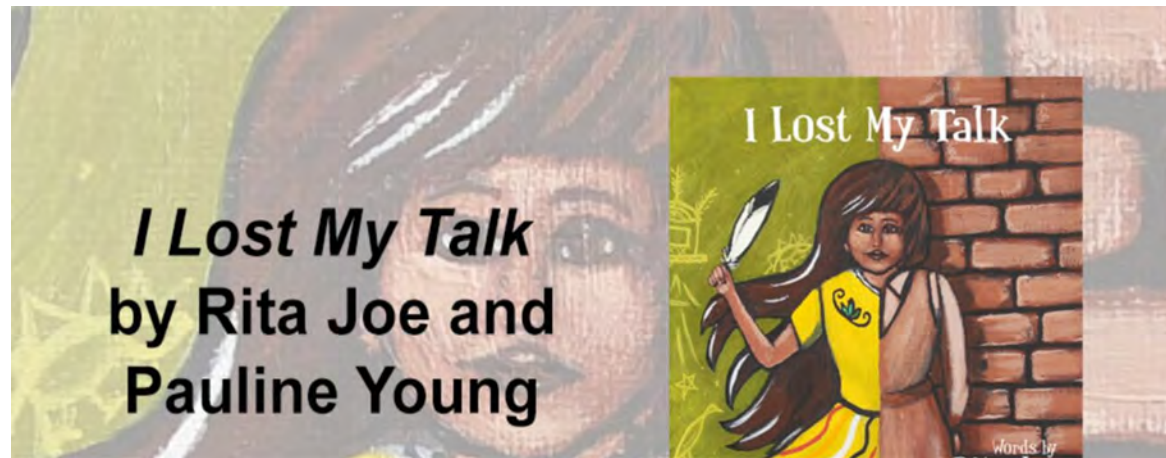
It's Not All Rainbows is a picture book by Jessika von Innerebner. (Dial Books)

In [Kevin the Unicorn: It's Not All Rainbows](#), Kevin is having a less-than-perfect day. This is a problem when you're a unicorn, the most perfect creature imaginable.

Jessika von Innerebner is a Kelowna, B.C.-based illustrator who has worked with Disney, Marvel, DreamWorks and more.

When you can read it: Oct. 22, 2019

[I Lost My Talk by Rita Joe, illustrated by Pauline Young](#)





I Lost My Talk is a picture book by Rita Joe and Pauline Young. (Nimbus Publishing)

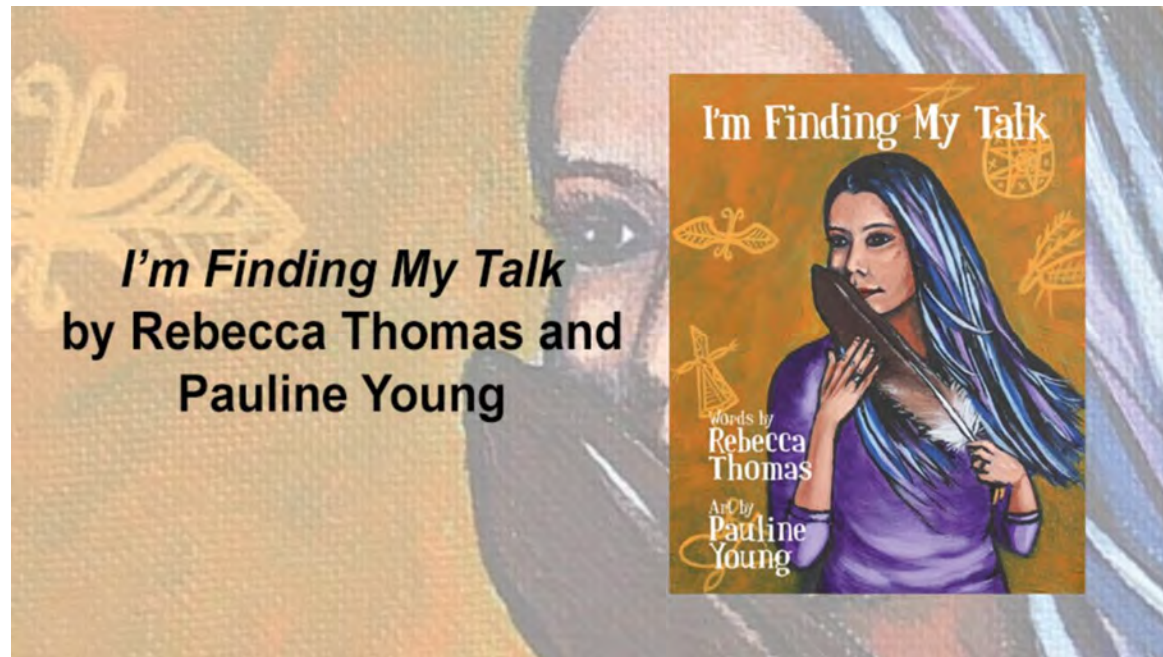
This children's book shares Rita Joe's iconic poem *I Lost My Talk* with a new generation. *I Lost My Talk* is about how Joe, a Mi'kmaw elder and poet, lost her language and culture after she was sent to residential school.

I Lost My Talk is the companion book to *I'm Finding My Talk* by Rebecca Thomas. Both books are illustrated by Pauline Young, a Mi'kmaw illustrator who lives in New Brunswick.

When you can read it: Oct. 31, 2019

- [Ferry named for Rita Joe, Mi'kmaw poet who longed for her culture's revival](#)

***I'm Finding My Talk* by Rebecca Thomas, illustrated by Pauline Young**



I'm Finding My Talk is a picture book by Rebecca Thomas and Pauline Young. (Nimbus Publishing)

[I'm Finding My Talk](#) is Rebecca Thomas's response to Rita Joe's poem [I Lost My Talk](#). Thomas is a poet and a second-generation residential school survivor. In [I'm Finding My Talk](#), she celebrates reconnecting with her language and culture.

Both books are illustrated by Pauline Young, a Mi'kmaw illustrator who lives in New Brunswick.

When you can read it: Oct. 31, 2019

- [Rebecca Thomas on defining her Mi'kmaw identity](#)

[My Hair is Beautiful by Shauntay Grant](#)



My Hair Is Beautiful is a children's book by Shauntay Grant. (Nimbus Publishing, shauntaygrant.com)

Shauntay Grant's latest children's book is a celebration of natural hair. [My Hair is Beautiful](#) is a board book that encourages self-love and self-expression.

Shauntay Grant is a Canadian writer and performance artist based in Halifax. Her other books for children include [Up Home](#) and [Africville](#).

When you can read it: Oct. 31, 2019

Popular Now in Books

1 Meet the Canada Reads 2026 contenders



VIDEO

Rescued raven 'Huxley' imitates loud sneeze



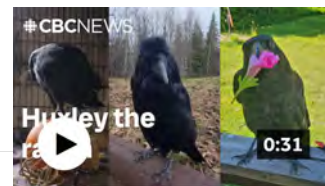
VIDEO

Trump threatens 'a whole civilization will die tonight' ahead of Iran deadline



VIDEO

No matter what happens tonight, Trump is bluffing | About That



VIDEO

Rescued raven shows big personality



VIDEO

Carney responds to Trump's latest threats to Iran

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Catharine Tunney
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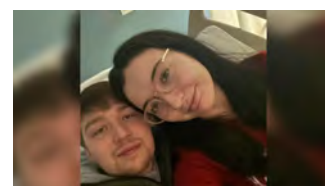
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NEW

'Never seen it to this scale': What an RCMP alcohol bust says about NSLC theft

Richard Woodbury
News - Canada - Nova Scotia



A workout class sent this St. John's woman to hospital. She's not the only one

Jennifer La Grassa
News - Health |



This chart shows how many voters are for floor-crossers to survive the next election

Graeme Bruce
News - Canada