

## Table of Contents

<b>Children's Picture Books - English</b>	1
<i>Sukaq and the Raven, by Roy Goose, Kerry McCluskey, Soyeon Kim</i>	1
<i>One Winter Night - by Jennifer Lloyd, Lynn Ray</i>	1
<i>Sick Simon by Dan Krall</i>	1
<i>The Old Woman Who Named Things by Cynthia Rylant, Kathryn Brown</i>	1
<i>Dirty Cowboy by Amy Timberlake</i>	2
<i>The Three Questions, by Jon J Muth</i>	2
<i>The prairie fire by Marilyn Reynolds</i>	2
<i>Which Way Should I Go? by Sylvia Olsen, Ron Martin, Kasia Charko</i>	2
<i>The Kindhearted Crocodile by Lucia Panzieri, AntonGionata Ferrari</i>	3
<i>Proud as a Peacock, Brave as a Lion by Jane Barclay, Renne Benoit</i>	3
<i>Best Friend Trouble by Frances Itani, Geneviève Després</i>	3
<i>Some Things Are Scary by Florence Parry Heide, Jules Feiffer</i>	4
<i>Squeak, Rumble, Whomp! Whomp! Whomp!: A Sonic Adventure by Wynton Marsalis, Paul Rogers</i>	4
<i>Mama, I'll Give You the World by Roni Schotter, S. Saelig Gallagher</i>	4
<i>The Polar Bear's gift, by Jeanne Bushey</i>	4
<i>Stolen Words, by Melanie Florence</i>	5
<i>Song for the Summer Night: a Lullaby, by Robert Heidbreder</i>	5
<i>Earth to Audrey, by Susan Hughes</i>	5
<i>Have you Filled your Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud</i>	5
<i>Enzo Races in the Rain, by Garth Stein</i>	6
<i>Noni Says No, by Heather Hartt-Sussman</i>	6
<i>Stella, Fairy of the Forest, by Marie-Louise Gay</i>	6
<i>Missuk's Snow Geese, by Anne Renaud</i>	6
<b>Children's Chapter Books</b>	7
<i>Dear Earthling: Cosmic Correspondent, by Per Avey</i>	7
<i>Very Rich, by Polly Horvath</i>	7
<i>Black Chuck, by Regan McDonell</i>	7
<i>Pulse Point, by Colleen Nelson</i>	8
<i>Don't Tell the Enemy, by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch</i>	8
<i>A World Below, by Wesley King</i>	8
<i>Sit, by Deborah Ellis</i>	9
<i>Looking for X, by Deborah Ellis</i>	9



# Children's Picture Books - English

## **Sukaq and the Raven, by Roy Goose, Kerry McCluskey, Soyeon Kim**

36 Pages

Sukaq loves to drift off to sleep listening to his mother tell him stories. His favourite story is the tale of how a raven created the world. But this time, as his mother begins to tell the story and his eyelids become heavy, he is suddenly whisked away on the wings of the raven to ride along as the entire world is formed! This traditional legend from Inuit storyteller Roy Goose is brought to life through co-author Kerry Mc Cluskey's jubilant retelling.

## **One Winter Night - by Jennifer Lloyd, Lynn Ray**

32 Pages

One winter night, out of their nest, ten little grey mice climb onto the ice. One by one they run back to the house scared off by a new animal that comes by until the last one find itself far down the ice and has to hurry back, past each of the ten animals. Hurry, hurry! Scurry scurry! Safe in the house, sneaked the small mouse, one winter night, under the moonlight.

## **Sick Simon by Dan Krall**

48 Pages

Are germs gross, or great? Sick Simon learns how to be health-conscious during cold and flu season in this clever picture book from the author-illustrator of The Great Lollipop Caper. Simon is going to have the best week ever. Who cares if he has a cold? He goes to school anyway, and sneezes everywhere, and coughs on everyone, and touches everything. Germs call him a hero! Everyone else calls him... Sick Simon. When will it end? How far will he go? Will the germs take over, or can Sick Simon learn to change his ways

## **The Old Woman Who Named Things by Cynthia Rylant, Kathryn Brown**

32 Pages

How does an old woman who has outlived all her friends keep from being lonely? By naming the things in her life she knows she will never outlive - like her house, Franklin, and her bed, Roxanne. When a shy brown puppy appears at her front gate, the old woman won't name it, because it might not outlive her. Tender watercolors capture the charm of this heartwarming story of an old woman

who doesn't know she's lonely until she meets a plucky puppy who needs a name - and someone to love.

## **Dirty Cowboy by Amy Timberlake**

32 Pages

After he finds a tumbleweed in his chaps and the numerous bugs buzzing around him affect his hearing, the cowboy decides it's time to head to the river. Once there, he peels off all his clothes and tells his trusty old dog to guard them against strangers. He takes a refreshing bath and emerges clean as corn - but so fresh-smelling that his dog doesn't recognize him! Negotiations over the return of the clothes prove fruitless. A wrestling match ensues in a tale that grows taller by the sentence, climaxing in a fabric-speckled dust devil.

## **The Three Questions, by Jon J Muth**

32 Pages

Nikolai is a boy who believes that if he can find the answers to his three questions, he will always know how to be a good person. His friends—a heron, a monkey, and a dog—try to help, but to no avail, so he asks Leo, the wise old turtle. "When is the best time to do things? Who is the most important one? What is the right thing to do?" Leo doesn't answer directly, but by the end of Nikolai's visit, the boy has discovered the answers himself.

## **The prairie fire by Marilyn Reynolds**

32 Pages

A historical picture book set during the Westward expansion. Young Percy is impatient to help with the farm chores, but his father tells him he must wait till he is older. When a prairie fire threatens their homestead, the boy bravely joins in the efforts to save it. When the danger has passed, his father asks him to help bring the livestock back to the barn: "It's a job for two men. Why don't you come with me, Son?" The text explains the very real threat that prairie fires posed to pioneers and the methods they used to protect their homes and lives while engaging readers with Percy's story. Children will appreciate the homesteaders' hardships as well as the closeness and love between the boy and his father. The illustrations are realistic and endearing; the prairie landscape is beautifully portrayed throughout, culminating with a striking sunset. This dramatic title gives readers several themes to discuss and think about, such as survival on the prairie, family, responsibility, and cooperation. - School Library Journal.

## **Which Way Should I Go? by Sylvia Olsen, Ron Martin, Kasia**

## **Charko**

40 Pages

Joey is a happy Nuu-chah-nulth boy, eager to help and quick to see the bright side of things. But when he loses his beloved grandmother, the sun goes out in his world. Fortunately, she has left something of herself behind—a song, which keeps knocking on Joey's heart, and a dance, which urges him to get up on his feet and choose again.

## **The Kindhearted Crocodile by Lucia Panzieri, AntonGionata Ferrari**

32 Pages

Once upon a time, there was a crocodile—not just any old crocodile with big sharp teeth and powerful jaws, but a crocodile with the kindest of hearts that was gentle and sensitive, and dreamed of one day being a beloved pet in a happy family. Through the magic of a picture book and with an irrepressible desire to please, this ferocious-looking crocodile that tidies toys, washes dishes, and fights monsters in bad dreams makes his own dream come true.

## **Proud as a Peacock, Brave as a Lion by Jane Barclay, Renne Benoit**

24 Pages

Much has been written about war and remembrance, but very little of it has been for young children. As questions come from a young grandchild, his grandpa talks about how, as a very young man, he was as proud as a peacock in uniform, busy as a beaver on his Atlantic crossing, and brave as a lion charging into battle. Soon, the old man's room is filled with an imaginary menagerie as the child thinks about different aspects of wartime. But as he pins medals on his grandpa's blazer and receives his own red poppy in return, the mood becomes more somber.

## **Best Friend Trouble by Frances Itani, Geneviève Després**

32 Pages

Hanna is fed up with her best friend, Lizzy, who is always trying to be better than her. When Lizzy tells Hanna she can throw her ball farther and succeeds, it's the last straw. Hanna is tired of feeling second best, but what she doesn't realize is that sometimes she makes Lizzy feel that way too. Maybe there's a way they can still be best friends after all. A funny and relatable story about best friends, competition and learning to see things from another's point of view.

## **Some Things Are Scary by Florence Parry Heide, Jules Feiffer**

40 Pages

You're skating downhill, but you don't know how to stop. You're having your hair cut, and you suddenly realize . . . they're cutting it too short. There's no question about it: some things are scary. And never have common bugaboos been exposed with more comic urgency than in this masterful mix of things horrible and humiliating, monstrous or merely unsettling. Perfectly pitched to a kid's perspective, Florence Parry Heide's witty text and Jules Feiffer's over-the-top illustrations will get even the most anxious recipients laughing, while reassuring them (no matter how old they are) that they're not alone in their fears.

## **Squeak, Rumble, Whomp! Whomp! Whomp!: A Sonic Adventure by Wynton Marsalis, Paul Rogers**

40 Pages

What's that sound? The back door squeeeeaks open, sounding like a noisy mouse nearby — eek, eeeek, eeeek! Big trucks on the highway rrrrrrrumble, just as hunger makes a tummy grrrrumble. Ringing with exuberance and auditory delights, this second collaboration by world-renowned jazz musician and composer Wynton Marsalis and acclaimed illustrator Paul Rogers takes readers (and listeners) on a rollicking, clanging, clapping tour through the many sounds that fill a neighborhood.

## **Mama, I'll Give You the World by Roni Schotter, S. Saelig Gallagher**

40 Pages

Every day after school Luisa goes to Walter's World of Beauty to watch her mama work— cutting, coloring, and curling customer's hair, transforming them into the images of their dreams. Mama works hard and hardly ever smiles, but when she does, she is the prettiest flower in all the World. At the end of each day, she puts her tip money in a special envelopes for Luisa— the envelope marked "college." She wants to give her daughter the world— but Luisa has plans of her own. It's Mama's birthday and, for one night, she wants to make Mama smile... the way she smiles in an old photograph of her dancing at a place called Roseland. So Luisa transforms Walter's World of Beauty into Roseland, by decorating it with roses and collages of Mama's customers, who are also in on Luisa's secret. And it isn't long before everyone is happily dancing, especially Mama, who is the happiest of all.

## **The Polar Bear's gift, by Jeanne Bushey**

32 Pages

Inspired by a traditional Inuit legend, *The Polar Bear's Gift* is about the compassion and resourcefulness of a young girl with ambitious dreams. It is Pani's trial and her triumph to discover that what makes a great hunter is not necessarily a straight aim. It is the lure of the heart on the cold arctic ice.

## **Stolen Words, by Melanie Florence**

24 Pages

The story of the beautiful relationship between a little girl and her grandfather. When she asks her grandfather how to say something in his language – Cree – he admits that his language was stolen from him when he was a boy. The little girl then sets out to help her grandfather find his language again. This picture book explores the intergenerational impact of the residential school system that separated young Indigenous children from their families. The story recognizes the pain of those whose culture and language were taken from them, how that pain is passed down, and how healing can also be shared.

## **Song for the Summer Night: a Lullaby, by Robert Heidbreder**

32 pages

As night falls on a soft summer evening, neighborhood children are drawn out of their houses by the sights and sounds of the world after dark. First the fireflies come sparkling past, followed by a host of domestic and wild animals, from cats and dogs to owls and skunks. Accomplished children's poet Robert Heidbreder creates a world of enchantment, while Qin Leng's illustrations conjure the harmonious interplay between our everyday domestic world and one that is just a little bit wilder. All the characters, both human and otherwise, have their moment on the nighttime stage, but eventually, the curtain falls, and sleepiness beckons.

## **Earth to Audrey, by Susan Hughes**

32 pages

Audrey comes into Ray's life like an earthbound star. Everything about her is a bit far-out. And she's always in her own little world. So Ray decides that this unusual girl who has dropped into his neighborhood for the summer must be an alien. As they become friends, Audrey takes Ray on a journey of discovery — one that enables him to see his own planet in a new light. Soon, Ray can't imagine life on Earth without her.

## **Have you Filled your Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud**

31 pages

This heartwarming book encourages positive behavior by using the concept of an invisible bucket to

show children how easy and rewarding it is to express kindness, appreciation and love by "filling buckets."

## **Enzo Races in the Rain, by Garth Stein**

36 pages

Life on the farm is pretty quiet—except when he races the cars that come down the barn road. Because Enzo is fast. He knows he's different from other dogs. But people never understand Enzo when he barks, and it drives him crazy! Then one day Enzo meets a little girl named Zoë and her father, Denny, and everything changes.

## **Noni Says No, by Heather Hartt-Sussman**

24 pages

Noni can do many things: she can give her baby brother his bottle, she can help her mother in the kitchen, and she can even walk over to her friend Susie's house. But Noni just can't say "no." When she was very small, it was easy saying "no" to everybody, but now that she has a best friend, she wants to please. Noni can't say "no" to her friend, even when it means she has to hand over a precious toy, or when it means agreeing to a hideous haircut, or even giving up her bed at a sleepover. But when Noni finally finds her voice, the consequences are not what she – or the reader – expects.

## **Stella, Fairy of the Forest, by Marie-Louise Gay**

32 pages

Stella's little brother, Sam, wonders whether fairies are invisible. Stella assures him that she has seen hundreds of them and says that if she and Sam venture across the meadow and into the forest, they are likely to find some. So begins another adventure of Stella, the irrepressible redhead, and her slightly apprehensive little brother. But Sam surprises Stella and himself by having a few ideas of his own — ideas that ensure a wonderful end to a perfect day in the woods.

## **Missuk's Snow Geese, by Anne Renaud**

36 pages

In the land under the Northern lights, a little girl dreams of carving snow geese out of soapstone, just like her father. He promises that he'll teach her when he returns from his hunt, so Missuk goes out to play in the snow, hoping to forget her worry that she lacks his skill as a carver. Then, when a terrifying storm blows in, Missuk has something far worse to worry about: Will her father return from his hunt?



# Children's Chapter Books

## **Dear Earthling: Cosmic Correspondent, by Per Avey**

183 pages

Dethbert Jones is your average ten-year-old – only he lives on the planet Crank with his pet chicken-snail and his robot best friend Andi Social. When he and Andi join the Space Cadets, a Scouts-like organization, they are totally smooched at the prospect of going to Space Camp where they'll learn to pilot a real shuttlecraft and disintegrate weapons of mass destruction. Blamtastic!

To earn his cosmic correspondent badge, Dethbert begins writing to an earthling – and boy, does he have a lot to write about! Between questions about Earth food, culture, and activities, Dethbert recounts his experiences attempting to avoid his horrible little sister, impress his animal-obsessed crush, and fly a space shuttle. Misadventures – from hairy ankles to crash landings – abound, but Dethbert's curiosity and enthusiasm can't be crushed, not by anything in this galaxy, anyway!

## **Very Rich, by Polly Horvath**

304 pages

Rupert lives with his parents and many siblings in a small house in the poorest section of Steelville, Ohio. When he spends Christmas with his classmate Turgid Rivers, he is offered all the food he can eat, and the opportunity to win wonderful prizes in the family games—prizes he hopes to take home so he can share his Christmas bounty with his family. But after he loses everything in the last game, Rupert resigns himself to going home empty handed.

Feeling secretly guilty, all of the adults in Rivers family try to make it up to him by taking Rupert on one unlikely adventure after another, embroiling him in everything from time travel to bank robberies. But can anything he experiences make up for what he has lost?

Deftly blending magical realism with heartbreak, hope, and a wide cast of eccentric characters, Polly Horvath weaves a tale that is darkly funny and deeply poignant. *Very Rich* is a bittersweet and quirky story that celebrates the unique nature of human experience.

## **Black Chuck, by Regan McDonell**

304 pages

Psycho. Sick. Dangerous. Réal Dufresne's reputation precedes him. When the mangled body of his best friend, Shaun, turns up in a field just east of town, tough-as-hell Réal blames himself. But except for the nightmares, all Ré remembers is beating the living crap out of Shaun the night of his death.

Shaun's girlfriend, sixteen-year-old Evie Hawley, keeps her feelings locked up tight. But now she's pregnant, and the father of her baby is dead. And when Réal looks to her to atone for his sins, everything goes sideways. Fast.

The tighter Evie and Réal get, the faster things seem to fall apart. And falling in love might just be the card that knocks the whole house down.

## **Pulse Point, by Colleen Nelson**

284 pages

In Kaia's world, setting foot Outside can be deadly. The safety of the City has kept humans alive as climate change destroys the world. But the City has found a way to survive sustainably: it is run by the energy generated by its Citizens. The energy that citizens create is calculated and displayed on their pulse point, a transmitter embedded in their finger.

Kaia is a Citizen, one of the few deemed genetically perfect enough to live under the protective dome of the City with her grandmother and father. But when Kaia discovers her mother is alive and living Outside, she escapes the safety of the City and learns the truth about the sinister world she left behind.

## **Don't Tell the Enemy, by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch**

160 pages

During the Soviet occupation of Ukraine during World War II, some of Krystia's family are harrassed; others are arrested and killed. When the Nazis liberate the town, they are welcomed with open arms. Krystia's best friend Dolik isn't so sure. His family is Jewish and there are rumours that the Nazis might be even more brutal than the Soviets.

Shortly after the Nazis arrive, they discover a mass grave of Soviet prisoners and blame the slaughter on the Jews. Soon, the Nazis establish ghettos and begin public executions of Jews.

Krystia can't bear to see her friends suffering and begins smuggling food into the ghetto. When rumours circulate that the ghetto will be evacuated and the Jews will be exterminated, Krystia must decide if she's willing to risk her own family's safety to save her friends.

## **A World Below, by Wesley King**

288 pages

A class field trips turns into an underground quest for survival in the latest middle grade novel from the author of Edgar Award winner *OCDaniel*.

Mr. Baker's eighth grade class thought they were in for a normal field trip to Carlsbad Caverns in New

Mexico. But when an earthquake hits, their field trip takes a terrifying turn. The students are plunged into an underground lake...and their teacher goes missing.

They have no choice but to try and make their way back above ground, even though no one can agree on the best course of action. The darkness brings out everyone's true self. Supplies dwindle and tensions mount. Pretty and popular Silvia does everything she can to hide her panic attacks, even as she tries to step up and be a leader. But the longer she's underground, the more frequent and debilitating they become. Meanwhile, Eric has always been a social no one, preferring to sit at the back of the class and spend evenings alone. Now, he finds himself separated from his class, totally by himself underground. That is, until he meets an unexpected stranger.

Told from three different points of view, this fast-paced adventure novel explores how group dynamics change under dire circumstances. Do the students of Mr. Baker's class really know each other at all? Or do they just think they do? It turns out, it's hard to hide in the dark.

## **Sit, by Deborah Ellis**

144 pages

The seated child. With a single powerful image, Deborah Ellis draws our attention to nine children and the situations they find themselves in, often through no fault of their own. In each story, a child makes a decision and takes action, be that a tiny gesture or a life-altering choice.

Jafar is a child laborer in a chair factory and longs to go to school. Sue sits on a swing as she and her brother wait to have a supervised visit with their father at the children's aid society. Gretchen considers the lives of concentration camp victims during a school tour of Auschwitz. Mike survives seventy-two days of solitary as a young offender. Barry squirms on a food court chair as his parents tell him that they are separating. Macie sits on a too-small time-out chair while her mother receives visitors for tea. Noosala crouches in a fetid, crowded apartment in Uzbekistan, waiting for an unscrupulous refugee smuggler to decide her fate.

These children find the courage to face their situations in ways large and small, in this eloquent collection from a master storyteller.

## **Looking for X, by Deborah Ellis**

132 pages

Smart and independent, 11-year-old Khyber lives with her mom, Tammy, a former stripper, and her autistic twin brothers in a poor Toronto neighborhood. Though she doesn't have a lot in common with her classmates, Khyber does have wonderfully eccentric friends: Valerie, Toronto's meanest waitress, and X, a homeless woman in hiding from "the secret police." Despite having to deal with pompous social workers who make her mother cry and ignorant kids who make remarks about her brothers, Khyber manages to enjoy herself, poring over atlases, planning exotic journeys, and taking peanut butter sandwiches to X. But when Tammy decides to move her sons to a group home for proper care, Khyber's world starts to crumble. She fights with her mom and then gets expelled from school. To make matters worse, X suddenly disappears. Khyber sets out to find her in a wild all-night odyssey of self-discovery.

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