OLA’s Canadian Materials Committee

BEST BETS 2001

PICTURE BOOKS

Bouchard, David. *Fairy*. Illustrated by Dean Griffiths
This Harley riding Tooth Fairy is determined to have Victoria’s father believe as much as his daughter does – with hilarious results.

Carney, Margaret. *The Biggest Fish In The Lake*. Illustrated by Janet Wilson.
Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2001
A young girl loves to fish with her grandfather. Early morning, after a dream, she slips out and makes her own big catch.

Ellis, Sarah. *Big Ben*. Illustrated by Kim La Fave.
Toronto: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2001
Ben is the smallest of three children and is only in preschool. His siblings have report cards but there are no report cards in preschool. How can he show his parents his progress?

Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2001
A beautifully illustrated story about hockey. A young boy’s father, who works as a scalper at Maple Leaf Gardens, talks about a time when he played with the famous forward Charlie Conacher.

Khan, Rukhsana. *King Of The Skies*. Illustrated by Laura Fernandez and Rick Jacobson.
Toronto: Scholastic Canada Inc., 2001
In Lahore Pakistan, the annual kite festival is a time of joy for a wheelchair bound boy whose kite beats all the others.

Frank wants to give his best friend, Mrs. Kazinski, the best present in the world for her 80th birthday. When he decides on something, he likes it so much himself that he wants to keep it. What’s a boy to do?

Ruurs, Margriet. *Emma’s Cold Day*. Illustrated by Barbara Spurll.
The farmer forgets to switch on the heat lamps in the hen house! Emma braves the snow to save the day in this humourous tale.
Simmie, Lois. **Mister Got To Go And Arnie.** Illustrated by Cynthia Nugent. Vancouver: Raincoast Books, 2001
Life in the hotel was great for the cat Mister Got to Go until that pesky little dog arrived. Now somebody’s got to go!

Van Kampen, Vlasta. **A Drop Of Gold.** Illustrated by Vlasta Van Kampen. Toronto: Annick, 2001
Vibrant watercolours illustrate this story about how birds got their colours and how the Nightingale got his special gift.

Leon was a chameleon who just couldn’t blend in with his friends or his surroundings. It was most embarrassing! It’s not good to stand out so much. Or is it?

**Picture Book Series**

The Mole Sisters continue to delight with their naïve take on the world.

**FICTION**

Butcher, Kristin. **The Gramma War.** Victoria: Orca, 2001
Annie’s life is turned upside down when her unpleasant and unhappy grandmother moves in with her family. It is not until they find a mutual interest in genealogy that Annie and her “Gramma” learn to appreciate each other.

Crook, Connie. **The Hungry Year.** Toronto: Stoddart, 2001
Twelve year old Kate is forced to survive a harsh winter alone in a cabin with her four year old brothers when her father disappears on a hunting trip.

De Vries, Maggie. **Chance And The Butterfly.** Victoria: Orca, 2001
School has always been hard for Chance and Third Grade doesn’t seem to be any different until the class is given caterpillars to raise.

Goldring, Ann. **Spitfire.** Vancouver: Raincoast, 2001
April suffers at the hands of her classmates and eventually stops speaking. When some of them go too far, Kathryn realizes she has to switch sides.

Horvath, Polly. **Everything On A Waffle**
Primrose Squarp just knows that her parents did not perish at sea during a terrible storm, but just try convincing the other residents of Coal Harbour. Primrose starts visiting a restaurant where everything is served on a waffle and the proprietor, Miss Bowzer, offers help and advice.

Aggie sees her life as one big movie. Her two older sisters are constantly squabbling and continually threatening to leave. Their father is dead and their mother ran away years ago. When the girls inherit their grandfather’s old house, they are told that the house is theirs on just one condition.

Behind the wall of the Terezin concentration camp, the production of the children’s opera “Brundibar” gives Clara and the other children light in their bleak lives.

Hang on to your seat as John Spencer once again takes to sea. This time he’s off to the West Indies. Along the way, he plucks a man out of the middle of the ocean and crosses paths with Captain Bartholomew Grace and his band of murderous buccaneers. This third book in the High Seas trilogy is sure to keep fans of the first two books riveted.

When a group of native children are taken from their schoolyard by a government agent and sent to Kuper Island Residential School, their lives change forever.

Leon Mazzei lives in a town with no roads. When a politician decides they need a fire truck, a controversy flares. The truck is driven into the ocean, but it still comes in handy!

Schwartz, Virginia Frances. *If I Just Had Two Wings.* Toronto: Stoddart, 2001
Our hearts are racing as thirteen year old Phoebe, a slave on an Alabama cotton plantation, runs away from her owner in search of the underground railway. She knows that if she is caught she will be tortured and may even die. But her dream of freedom is stronger than her fear of death. This exciting and poignant novel is filled with hope as Phoebe tries to find her “freedom place”.

Matthew, Robert’s seven year old brother, has vanished on a walk into town. Other children have disappeared too, and no one notices that they are gone. Robert is convinced that Abram Harsich, the ivory-skinned man who has promised the drought-ridden town a rainmaking machine, has something to do with the disappearances. Winner of the 2001 Governor General’s Award.

Wilson, John. **Ghosts of James Bay.**
Toronto: Second Story Press, 2001
Al paddles his canoe away from shore and finds himself enveloped by a thick fog. When he emerges, Al is four hundred years in the past in the time of Henry Hudson. Will Al suffer the same destiny as the doomed explorer or find his way back to his own time?

**Fiction Series**

**Dear Canada,**
Toronto: Scholastic, 2001
This vibrant series takes us into the diaries of young girls from Canada’s past. Meet Ivy Weatherall, an immigrant to the prairies in *A Prairie As Wide As The Sea* by Sarah Ellis and a young girl, Victoria Cope, whose family takes in a Home Girl, in *Orphan At My Door* by Jean Little.

Korman, Gordon. **Island.**
Toronto: Scholastic, 2001
Six maladjusted kids are sent on a sailing expedition to learn teamwork. Their ship sinks stranding them on a desert island along with a group of murderous smugglers and an atom bomb.

**Our Canadian Girl.**
Toronto: Penguin, 2001
Written by such well known Canadian authors as Kathy Stinson and Julie Lawson, these stories explore the lives of girls from different periods in our history and different parts of Canada. Titles include: *Marie-Claire: Dark Spring* by Kathy Stinson; *Rachel: A Mighty Big Imagining* by Lynne Kositsky; *Emily: Across The James Bay Bridge* by Julie Lawson and *Penelope: Terror In The Harbour* by Sharon McKay.

**Non Fiction**

Augustyn, Frank and Tanaka, Shelley. **Footnotes: Dancing The World’s Best-Loved Ballets.**
Who fell asleep on stage playing Sleeping Beauty? The answer to this and other questions about your favourite ballets can be found in this beautiful book. Stunning photos complete this visual delight that both children and adults will love.

Want to start up your own skiffle band? Don’t know what a skiffle band is? Then this book’s for you. Packed with a symphony of ideas for making musical instruments out of found objects, this book is loaded with fun.
Gordon, John. **The Kids Book of Golf.**
This book is a great introduction to golf, one of the fastest growing sports for kids, with lots of illustrations and kid appeal.

Griffin, Margot. **The Sleepover Book.** Illustrated by Jane Kurisu.
Girls love sleepovers and this book is guaranteed to ensure that no sleeping will be done! A variety of games, crafts and activities from hair colouring to body painting make for a wide awake time.

Hickman, Pamela. **Animals Eating: How Animals Chomp, Chow, Slurp And Swallow.**
Suggested activities accompany and expand fascinating facts about how animals eat.

Lesynski, Lois. **Nothing Beats A Pizza.**
Toronto: Annick Press, 2001
A feast of meats, treats with a beat
Wordy feats that you can eat.
Lesynski’s lively illustrations are the perfect accompaniment for her joyous poetry.

Lynch, Wayne. **The Scoop On Poop!**
Calgary: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2001
If you think that you already have the scoop on poop, think again. There’s more to the brown, slippery, smelly muck than you might think!

Sadler, Judy Ann. **The Kids Can Press Jumbo Book of Easy Crafts.**
With an emphasis on “easy”, this craft book uses everyday objects to create interesting games, toys, decorations and more.

Thomas, Lyn. **Ha! Ha! Ha!: 1,000 Jokes, Riddles, Facts And More.**
A vast miscellany of curious facts, jokes, riddles, optical illusions and other mindgames. Guaranteed to distract, derange and develop inquisitive minds.

**Non Fiction Series**

Swanson, Diane. **Mysterious You.**
Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2001
What’s the secret behind the stomach gurgling, burping and your amazing memory? Find out in this series by Diane Swanson with the titles **Burp!** and **Hmm?**