OLA Best Bets Top Ten List for 2004
Selected by the Canadian Materials Committee: Dinah Gough, Patrick Gracey, Sandy Laird, Sheilah O’Connor, Laura Reed, Cecily Reid and Jane Salmon.

**Picture Books**

Arsenault, Elaine, illustrated by Fanny
*Doggie in the Window*
Douglas & McIntyre

Mademoiselle Madeleine needs a doggie. She really needs a doggie. She just doesn’t know it yet. And not just any doggie will do. Her Doggie comes tailor made, just for her.

Edwards, Wallace
*Monkey Business*
Kids Can Press

In a style reminiscent of Graham Base, Edwards illustrates 26 idioms with hilarious results. Add monkeys hiding in each picture and you have a lot of fun along with education.

Gay, Marie Louise
*Stella, Princess of the Sky*
Douglas & McIntyre

Big sister Stella once again answers all of Sam’s questions with her usual whimsical take on things.

Graham, Georgia.
*A Team Like No Other*
Red Deer Press

A young boy and his father take out their sled dog team for an exciting expedition. The bravery of the lead dog prevents tragedy when the sled gets away from the father. All ends well as the boy and dog ride back in the sled together. Great illustrations.

Jocelyn, Marthe
*Mayfly*
Tundra

Intricate collage by the author/illustrator creates bright, colourful, detailed illustrations which capture the excitement of packing up and heading for the cottage. Three exuberant children glory in the summer days. Once the geese start to fly it’s back to the city - and school.
Manuel, Lynn
**Camels Always Do.** Illustrated by Kasia Charko
Orca

This charming story set in 1860s British Columbia recalls the experimental introduction of camels as pack animals in the Cariboo gold fields.

Oppel, Kenneth
**Peg and the Yeti.** Illustrated by Barbara Reid.
Harper Collins

Peg, the feisty heroine of *Peg and the Whale*, is back and looking for an even bigger adventure. And a bigger adventure she gets as she and her new, snowy friend scale Mount Everest.

Pearson, Debora
**Leo’s Tree.** Illustrated by Nora Hilb
Annick Press

With rhyming text and gentle watercolour illustrations. Watch as Leo and the tree his father planted for him when he was born grow bigger and stronger together.

Yee, Paul
**A song for Ba.** Illustrated by Jan Peng Wang
Douglas & McIntyre

A beautifully-illustrated glimpse into the world of Chinese opera struggling to survive in Chinatown with smaller audiences and fewer singers. Secretly coached by his grandfather, Wei Lim is able to help his father's singing at a critical moment.

Wilson, Troy
**Perfect Man**
Illustrated by Dean Griffiths
Orca

Michael Maxwell McAllum worships superhero Perfect Man until a wise teacher helps him discover his own special powers.
Great Fiction for Younger Readers

Ellis, Deborah
**Keeley: The Girl From Turtle Mountain** (Our Canadian Girl series)
Penguin
Keeley has moved with her father to the small town of Frank at the base of Turtle Mountain to make a fresh start after the death of her mother. Keeley is soon getting up to mischief with her new friend Peter. A spunky new heroine in the Our Canadian Girl series.

Guest, Jacqueline
**Belle of Batoche**
Orca

Can Belle and Sarah put aside their differences and work together to save themselves and their families? Read this exciting novel set in the time of the Riel Rebellion to find out.

Hutchins, Hazel
**T.J. and the Rocket**
Orca

We join TJ in his third funny and touching book as he struggles to come up with a Science Fair project. As always, Hutchins has a good grasp of how one boy’s worries can speak to all readers.

Olsen, Sylvia
**Catching Spring**
Orca

Bobby would like to take part in a fishing derby for a chance at winning a new bike. The only problem is that even if he had the money to enter, he’ll be too busy working at the marina and tackle shop to get out and compete.

Fiction

Bow, Patricia.
**The Bone Flute**
Orca

Camrose Ferguson gets a birthday gift from her long dead great grandmother along with a note. Unlike most gifts she’s received, this is not one she’ll enjoy, not least of all because it’s not really for her.
Carter, Anne Laurel

**Last Chance Bay**
Penguin Canada

What are the chances of Meg Christie ever becoming the next Amelia Earhart? Set in a mining town in Cape Breton during World War II, Anne Laurel Carter’s story introduces us to a girl who surmounts prejudice and tragedy to realize her dream.

Cumyn, Alan

**After Sylvia**
A Groundwood Book

Cumyn continues to follow the antics of Owen and his family. This time we find Owen trying to locate his true love, Sylvia, who has moved to another town. In a hilarious race against time, Owen tries desperately to invite Sylvia to his birthday.

Fagan, Cary.

**The Fortress of Kaspar Snit**
Tundra

Children will enjoy this quirky fantasy about stolen fountains, amulets that grant flying powers and the villainous Kaspar Snit.

Grant, Vicki

**The Puppet Wrangler**
Orca

The puppet is alive! Telly couldn’t believe it at first either. She is spending the summer with her aunt, an uptight television producer, while her parents deal with her out-of-control sister, and suddenly she is caught up in one wacky adventure.

Leavitt, Martine

**Heck Superhero**
Red Deer

Heck's belief in The Good Deed and the power of his Superhero help him negotiate his way through difficult situations. Poignant and funny, the book ends on a moving and positive note.

Smith, Linda

**The Minstrel’s Daughter**
Coteau Books

Although Cat recognizes that her new stepfather-to-be is a good man, she still longs for her long gone father. With the use of a finding spell, and some well meaning (if slightly
bumbling friends), Cat not only finds her father but becomes involved with state intrigue as well.

Taylor, Joanne.
**There You Are**
Tundra
This is a sensitive first novel set in post World War II Cape Breton. Twelve year old Jeannie Shaw is lonely and frustrated with her family. However a near tragedy in her family leads to the promise of better things and a friend for Jeannie.

Oppe1, Kenneth
**Airborn**
HarperCollins
A riveting adventure set in a time when goods and people move around the world in huge airships. An attack by pirates and a crash landing on a remote island are just the beginning for cabin boy Matt Cruse, who becomes the reluctant ally of a wilful young passenger who is on a mission to discover a mysterious flying creature in the island jungle. Winner of the Governor General’s Award.

Trottier, Maxine
**Sister to the Wolf**
Kids Can Press
Cecile, a spirited and determined girl living in New France, frees a Pawnee slave. Their deepening friendship clashes with conventional society. A timber wolf acts as a catalyst and brings the novel to a satisfying conclusion.
Non-Fiction

Bowers, Vivian
That's Very Canadian
Maple Tree

Presented as a book report by 'Rachel', this light-hearted and friendly approach to Canadian information is both informative and amusing. Glossy pages and lots of illustrations introduce a variety of facts and trivia.

Brewster, Hugh
On Juno Beach
Scholastic

Photographs and memorabilia make the story of the Canadian landing on Juno beach leap from the page. Brewster has written another entertaining accessible history book for children.

Dunleavy, Deborah
Jumbo Book of Drama
Kids Can Press

You’re a star, and this book will help you shine. From drama games to get you warmed up to the final production, props and all, this is a great resource for budding actors and directors.

Hehner, Barbara
The Tunnel King
HarperCollins

The true story of Wally Floody, the Canadian who masterminded the digging of tunnels for the “Great Escape” of 76 Allied airmen from a German prisoner of war camp in 1944. A fascinating look at how, although under close watch by the camp guards and suffering from near starvation, a group of inventive and courageous men did the impossible.

Love, Ann and Jane Drake
The Kids Book of the Night Sky
Kids Can Press

Love and Drake have written a fun-filled recipe for discovering the wonders of the universe. Using games, experiments, legends, and myths, they take readers on an unforgettable trip to the “stars” of the night sky. An excellent guide.
MacLeod, Elizabeth
**Helen Keller: A Determined Life**
Kids Can Press

MacLeod’s biography shows us a woman who was able to take back her life of silence and make it a truly “daring adventure.” Using excerpts from Helen’s own words and combining them with a unique layout of photos and facts, MacLeod is able to immerse the reader in Helen’s remarkable life.

Miles, Victoria
**Wild Science: Amazing Encounters Between Animals and the People Who Study Them**
Raincoast

This is a fascinating look at scientists who study animals such as bats, grizzlies, sea otters and Vancouver Island Marmots. Tells about how and why they ended up in their careers and offers interesting insights about the animals as well. Great pictures and information sure to thrill the animal lover.

Schroeder, Andreas
**Scams**
Annick Press

Ten terrific tales about some of the most outrageous cons and swindles of all time, including the modern day “discovery” of a lost Stone Age tribe, a brilliant German counterfeiting scheme during World War II, and a best-selling author of international adventure stories who never actually left home.

Szpirglas, Jeff
**Gross Universe**
Maple Tree Press

Do you know who’s living in your hair, or what goings on occur in your orifices on a daily basis? This book will tell you more than you ever wanted to know about this disgusting thing we call life.

Thomas, Keltie
**Kids’ Guide to Money Cent$**
Kids Can Press

This book not only explains what money is and how it works but also covers topics such as going into business, saving, investing and buying on credit. There is also information on donating and spotting counterfeits.