SPRING 2021
Kids Can Press
GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS
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1, 2, 3, Off to School!
Marianne Dubuc

Summary
In this playful take on school readiness by award-winning author-illustrator Marianne Dubuc, a child visits their friends' schools and discovers how many wonderful things kindergarteners do in a day!

Pom is ready for the first day of kindergarten. Not the real first day, that's not for another year. But Pom has been hearing a lot from all the animals about each of their schools. So today Pom is visiting them all, to see what kindergarten is really like. Pom starts by watching the mouselings ride the bird bus; then the rabbits learning to read, write and count; the froglets making art; the foxes playing sports; the bear cubs sharing lunch; the sloths napping; the squirrels exploring nature; the wolf pups reading stories; the turtles doing classroom tasks; and, finally, the hedgehogs waiting to be picked up in the schoolyard. Pom is thrilled to discover there are so many fun activities to enjoy at school! Best of all, now Pom knows what Pom wants to do in kindergarten - all of it!

Marianne Dubuc is a master of the delightful small detail, and those details abound in this charming child-friendly look at school readiness. Though there is one main story running through the book, every busy illustration contains numerous individual stories, as the many appealing animal characters (and a few surprise fairy tale characters!) go about their school day. Each fantastically imagined animal school fills its own spread. This is a book that young children will return to again and again, finding something new each time and enhancing their visual literacy.

Contributor Bio
Marianne Dubuc is an award-winning author and illustrator of many books for children, including The Bus Ride, Lucy and Company and Mr. Postmouse's Rounds. Her work has been translated into more than thirty languages around the world. Marianne lives in Montreal, Quebec.

Illustrations
Arnold the Super-ish Hero
Heather Tekavec, Guillaume Perreault

Summary
Nice guys finish first in this endearing story about a humble kid in a family of superheroes who discovers his superpower may not be what everyone (even him!) is expecting.

Though Arnold works in the family superhero business, he isn't exactly a superhero. Unlike all his relatives, Arnold has no superpower. Everyone expects it will show up any day. Arnold believes that the only thing he's good at is taking phone messages. Then, one day, a call from a girl in distress comes in to superhero headquarters, and no one else is around. Arnold has to respond to the call. Determined to succeed, Arnold helps all kinds of people along the way. And that's before he even finds the caller! He does so many good deeds, in fact, he's identified as a masked man "helping the good guys." Wait, could being nice be a superpower?

Award-winning author Heather Tekavec's endearing and funny underdog story is sure to spark a following for a new kind of superhero: Super Nice Guy. Guillaume Perreault's colorful, highly entertaining illustrations in comic book style panels are packed with amusing details that add layers of humor to the text. This delightful book, with its earnest and humble hero, highlights the idea that everyone has a purpose in the world, and it's important to be true to yourself. It makes an excellent choice for character education lessons on kindness and courage.

Contributor Bio
Heather Tekavec discovered while working as a preschool teacher that children's books were a lot more fun than adult books. In addition to books, Heather enjoys writing short stories, articles and poems for children's magazines, such as CRICKET, Chirp, Highlights and Totline, and has delved a few times into writing scripts and directing live theater. Heather lives in Cloverdale, British Columbia.

Guillaume Perreault is a graphic designer and illustrator of numerous books for children. He lives and works in Gatineau, Quebec.

Illustrations
The Collectors
Alice Feagan

Summary
Nature lovers and collectors of all kinds will love this high-adventure quest story about two brave and clever girls who head into the forest in search of something extraordinary.

Winslow and Rosie have been building an impressive collection of natural wonders, and now it's nearly complete. With just enough space left for one final piece, the girls set off into the forest to find something extraordinary. Their journey takes them far - along the creek, across the valley, through the spruce grove and up the mountain. And while they find many extraordinary things, nothing is just the right extraordinary thing. When the girls find a deep, dark cave, they decide to venture farther than ever before. Surely, a mysterious cave must hold something extraordinary ...

Bestselling creator Alice Feagan's distinct cut-paper collage artwork brings this fun quest story to life and packs it with learning opportunities. The story highlights that girls can be adventurous, brave, clever and fascinated by science, and also that the natural world is a wondrous place to explore. From the detailed depictions of the girls' gear to the many portrayals of their extraordinary finds (a gemstone, dinosaur fossils, a rare woodpecker's feather), there are numerous STEM curriculum applications here. The story also offers excellent character education lessons in perseverance, resilience and teamwork.

Contributor Bio
Alice Feagan is a children's book creator known for her distinct cut-paper collage style. Her playful illustrations can be found in books such as School Days Around the World, magazines such as National Geographic Kids, educational products and games. The Collectors is her authorial debut. Alice lives with her family in the mountains of Edwards, Colorado.

Illustrations
Napoleon vs. the Bunnies
J.F. Fox, Anna Kwan

Summary
The renowned Napoleon Bonaparte faces an army of a different sort in this witty, unconventional telling of a true event in his life.

Everyone knows the Battle of Waterloo was Napoleon Bonaparte's most crushing defeat, right? Well, some beg to differ. It seems there was another less famous (though perhaps more humiliating) surrender in his past. Let's call it Bunnyloo. In 1807, Napoleon had ordered his chief of staff to round up rabbits for a celebratory hunt, only, he collected domesticated rabbits, not wild ones. So, when the rabbits were released to begin the hunt, they didn't run away. Instead, they ran straight at Napoleon and his hunting party. Now, some might think Napoleon - king overthrower, army commander, territory conqueror - would only laugh at an advancing battalion of cute, fluffy bunnies. Think again!

J. F. Fox's funny, quirky picture book story is based on a little-known event in the life of one of history's most notable figures and greatest generals. With an afterword containing further information about him and what's known about the ill-fated rabbit hunt, it makes a highly entertaining introduction to Napoleon. It also could spark lively discussions about notions of power, strength and courage, promoting inquiry-based learning. Adorable bunnies loom large in Anna Kwan's fun brightly colored illustrations that lean heavily toward shades of blue, white and red. Adding to the read-aloud appeal, dialogue bubbles in the illustrations contain easily decipherable French words, along with English text as spoken with a French accent.

Contributor Bio
J. F. Fox is a former editor at Lee & Low Books and has ghostwritten over seventy books for children, but she has switched gears to focus on her own projects. She is also the author of one other picture book, Friday Night Wrestlefest, published in 2020 by Roaring Brook Press. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband and two sons.

Anna Kwan is a recent grad from the Ontario College of Art and Design. She is a Toronto-based illustrator and makes comics as a founding member of the Wavering Line Collective.

Illustrations
Poem in My Pocket
Chris Tougas, Josée Bisaillon

Summary
In this charming picture book allegory of the creative writing process, happenstance and weather events symbolize the emotional ebb and flow of writing a poem.

I had a poem in my pocket,
but my pocket got a rip.
Rhymes tumbled down my leg
and trickled from my hip.

Thus begins the journey of a young poet's words out into the world, where they join randomly with other words to form funny riffs and puns all over a busy city street. The child scrambles to capture the loose words and arrange them back into poem form, only to lose them again as a storm swoops in on a rushing wind. Eventually, the words plant themselves in the muddy ground, where they grow into something that might be even better than the original poem: a Poet-Tree.

Not only a fanciful rhyming adventure tale, Chris Tougas's picture book is also a delightful allegory for the creative writing process. Perfect for classroom discussions about the emotional ups and downs of writing, this highly innovative book celebrating poetry and creativity is an excellent choice for National Poetry Month. It also showcases the magic of language and how much fun words can be. High-energy artwork by Josée Bisaillon is so full of words in flight and at play that children can pore over it again and again, and in the final spread, readers can search for rhyming pairs. An afterword discusses National Poetry Month and Poem in Your Pocket Day. This is a book that adult writers will also appreciate.

Contributor Bio
Chris Tougas is a writer and illustrator whose picture books include Mechanimals and Dojo Daycare. Chris lives in Victoria, British Columbia.

As a young girl, Josée Bisaillon loved drawing cats and houses. She really enjoyed school and always returned home full of stories to tell (and, of course, to draw!). She liked being in the classroom so much that she pursued her education all the way to university, where she studied graphic design. It was there that she fell in love with the occupation of illustrator. Josée lives just outside of Montreal with her spouse, three small chickens, one hairless cat and many characters she has created.

Illustrations
ROAR-chestra!
A Wild Story of Musical Words
Robert Heidbreder, Dušan Petričić

Summary
An animated conductor and his orchestra of animals let the words move them in this engaging exploration of some beautiful and inspiring musical terms.

In this simple introduction to seven musical terms, Robert Heidbreder's rhythmic poetry is paired with Dušan Petričić's exuberant illustrations to perfectly convey the terms' meanings. Each term is first featured on a spread beside an image of a conductor animatedly leading his (unseen) orchestra in alignment with the term. Turn the page, and we find a short line of text that provides a succinct physical definition of the term, along with expressive art showcasing the animal orchestra using movement to interpret the description. For **glissando**, we find: "Gently gliding, slipping, sliding," with an image of animals flowing across the pages as if rolling on a wave. For **fortissimo**, the text reads, "Loudly crashing - stomping, stamping," while the animals are shown with their heads thrown back and their mouths wide open, roaring for all the world to hear. It's a performance so enticing, readers won't be able to resist joining in!

This unique picture book provides an engaging and entertaining way for children to understand and remember the meanings of these common musical terms (all Italian and great fun to pronounce). But it is also sure to inspire readers to get up and move, following and mimicking the animals, or, perhaps, playing the conductor. An excellent choice for any unit on music, this book offers an accessible and effective way to learn musical terms as well as a fun opportunity to play with music.

Contributor Bio
**Robert Heidbreder** was born in Illinois but now lives in British Columbia. He has enchanted children with his joyful poems and rhymes for more than two decades. A former elementary school teacher (and winner of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence), he believes that children's love of silly and absurd combinations of words makes them natural poets.

**Dušan Petričić** is the award-winning illustrator of more than twenty books for children. His books include *In the Tree House*, *The Enormous Potato*, *Bagels from Benny* and *Lickety-Split*. He currently lives in Toronto, Ontario.

Illustrations
Sloth and Squirrel in a Pickle

Cathy Ballou Mealey, Kelly Collier

Summary

A speedy squirrel and a sleepy sloth try to get the job done in this funny, heartwarming tale of two lovable, but unlikely, friends.

Though Sloth and Squirrel are good friends, they have different ways of doing things - and different speeds of doing them. So, when Squirrel gets them jobs as pickle packers to earn money for a new bike, things don’t go according to plan. It seems that the contrasting skill sets of a fast-as-lightening squirrel and a slow-as-molasses sloth can make for a mess of an outcome, and before long, the friends are shown the pickle factory's door, along with the 677 1/2 jars of pickles they packed incorrectly! Now the pair are bicycle-less, with only pickles to show for themselves. Or so they think - until the resourceful pair come up with an ingenious plan!

This delightful story from Cathy Ballou Mealey is a celebration of friendships of all kinds and a testament to ingenuity and hard work. Packed with funny details that aren't in the text, Kelly Collier's engaging illustrations are full of personality and silly, emotionally expressive humor. Together they create a hilarious picture book that's perfect for a fun and lively read-aloud. At the same time, the positive themes in the book highlight a growth mindset and character education lessons on teamwork, perseverance and initiative.

Contributor Bio

Cathy Ballou Mealey is a former college administrator and instructor. She volunteers in schools and organizations supporting children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. She has degrees in psychology, classical studies and higher education administration. She is also the author of When a Tree Grows, published by Sterling in 2019. She lives north of Boston with her family.

Kelly Collier has been drawing since she was little and studied Illustration in college. Kelly lives in Toronto, Ontario, with her husband and their dog.

Illustrations
This Is a Dog Book!
Judith Henderson, Julien Chung

Summary
In a rib-tickling display of duplicity and diversion, a bunny tries to show he has what it takes to be included in this dog book.

"How did the bunny get on the cover?"
"I don't know."
"There ARE bunny books, you know."
"I'm not a bunny. I'm a dog."

To get into this dog book, a bunny attempts to prove to some skeptical dogs that he's one of them. Does he like to run and catch a ball? Of course. Can he use his puppy-dog eyes to get himself out of trouble? Absolutely. Does he smell dog doo-doos? Umm . . . can he get back to that one later? As the bunny answers a succession of questions that run the gamut of a dog's essential qualities, he does his best to demonstrate his dog credentials. Of course, in the end, a bunny is a bunny, not a dog. The real question is, does it have to matter?

Written entirely in dialogue, this playful picture book story highlights Judith Henderson's signature mix of dry and silly humor. On the surface, this is a giggle-inducing crowd-pleaser. But in ultimately deciding that it's what's on the inside that really counts, the deeper character education messages of kindness and inclusiveness give the book lots of heart. Julien Chung's simple yet high-energy drawings of mostly thick black lines with splashes of red are a perfect complement to the snappy text and manage to convey a world of emotion. There are excellent lessons here on identity, community and belonging. This story would be great fun for children to act out.

Contributor Bio
Judith Henderson is an Emmy Award-winning children's TV composer and producer. She is the author of the Big Words Small Stories series. Judith lives in Montreal, Quebec.

Julien Chung is an award-winning designer and illustrator. He has created licensed characters for brands worldwide and works as a designer for La Presse in Montreal, Quebec.

Illustrations
Wingmaker
Dave Cameron, David Huyck

Summary
A mix of humor and fact keep the interest high in this creative take on the ever-popular subject of metamorphosis, in which a curious - and inventive - old caterpillar has an unusual technique for transforming into a moth.

Gramma Tinker is an old, old caterpillar who lives at the end of a cherry tree branch. Leaf and Lou, ant friends who live and work nearby, like to visit her to hear about her latest inventions. One day, Gramma Tinker shows the friends what she calls her greatest invention yet: the Wingmaker 77. Gramma is busy preparing for an upcoming adventure, and Leaf and Lou can't imagine what it might be - especially when Gramma mysteriously explains that she'll rest inside the Wingmaker for two weeks, and when she emerges she'll be "changed." Leaf and Lou don't understand. Why does Gramma Tinker need to make wings? And why is she studying flying creatures to learn about flight? What's going on with Gramma Tinker?

In this fun, unconventional picture book on the subject of metamorphosis, award-winning magazine writer Dave Cameron stokes children's imaginations about one of nature's wonders. Award-winning illustrator David Huyck's playful imagery of the cheerful and enterprising caterpillar adds to the appeal. The story highlights an intergenerational relationship, featuring a strong older character with an intense scientific curiosity and who delights in inventing. The final page explains the science behind the real Gramma Tinker: a tent caterpillar who lives about 77 days before making its cocoon and emerging two weeks later as a lappet moth. This is a great choice to add levity to life science lessons on growth and changes in animals, and also on the idea of being an inventor.

Contributor Bio
Dave Cameron is an award-winning magazine writer whose work has appeared in The Walrus, Reader's Digest and Cottage Life. This is his first book for children. He lives with his family in Hamilton, Ontario.

David Huyck is an award-winning illustrator, as well as a printmaker, a painter and a sculptor. He illustrated If Kids Ruled the World, which won both the Blue Spruce Award and the Shining Willow, and Manners Are Not for Monkeys. He lives with his family in Northfield, Minnesota.

Illustrations
Different? Same!
Heather Tekavec, Pippa Curnick

Summary
This clever picture book introduces the concept of animal characteristics by highlighting how there can be both differences and similarities within a group.

For example, the zebra gallops, the bumblebee flies, the lemur leaps and the tiger prowls - "But look closer now ... We all have STRIPES!" And so it goes. Again and again, readers will be surprised to find that a group of four seemingly different animals all have one trait in common - whiskers, horns, shells and the like - for a total of thirteen traits in all. Observant children will notice that one of the animals from each group also appears on the following spread with three new animals that have a different characteristic in common. Finally, all forty of the featured animals are shown together, and readers are asked to search for those with specific characteristics not already covered in the book - for example, those with spots, those who live in the ocean or those with six or more legs.

Author Heather Tekavec has discovered a fun and interactive approach to helping young children begin to explore the ways animals are classified. Pippa Curnick's playful and engaging illustrations of the animals in their habitats are all scientifically accurate, keeping the experience both enjoyable and informative. The searching activity also works to enhance visual literacy. With a detailed glossary included, this is an ideal book for introducing early lessons on the characteristics of living things and for starting discussions on the ways all creatures are like and unlike one another.

Contributor Bio
Heather Tekavec discovered while working as a preschool teacher that children's books were a lot more fun than adult books. In addition to books, Heather enjoys writing short stories, articles and poems for children's magazines, such as CRICKET, Chirp, Highlights and Totline, and has delved a few times into writing scripts and directing live theater. Heather lives in Cloverdale, British Columbia.

Pippa Curnick works as both a book designer and illustrator and draws her inspiration from long walks in the woods. She lives in rural Essex, UK.

Quotes
Little ones will have fun examining the brightly colored, cartoonlike artwork, trying to figure out a common ground beyond obvious features such as mouths and eyes.—Kirkus Reviews

Ages two to six will love sharing the unique style of this look and find book.—The Calgary Herald

... will delight old and young alike ...—Canadian Children's Book News

This engaging, celebratory paean to animal kingdom traits offers little ones a lively introduction to classification ...—Booklist

Illustrations
Dinosaur Countdown
Nicholas Oldland

Summary
In this simple and clever picture book from Nicholas Oldland, small children will have fun counting backward, as they're introduced to different dinosaurs grouped from ten to two, and a final, single dinosaur.

Then, in a unique twist, the book goes on to "zero" dinosaurs as well (because "they're extinct, silly!"). Each number gets its own two-page spread, where it is both written as a numeral and spelled out as a word within the illustration's description (for example, "ten striding velociraptors"). The dinosaur names are appropriately long and tongue-twisting, one of the things young children love about dinosaurs --- but not to worry, there's a pronunciation guide at the end of the book! And the dinosaurs are all actively engaged, "sauntering" and "soaring," "rearing" and "roaring." A couple of spreads offer clues to something extra on the page to search for (a "looming predator" on one, "and what's that flying overhead?" on another), to keep the counting activity fun and not too repetitive.

Oldland's fresh, playful and lively artwork will keep young eyes engaged, an important task as they begin to learn to count. This book is an excellent choice for an interactive preschool or kindergarten early numeracy or counting lesson. It also works for first lessons on prehistoric animals or on animal biology in general (herbivores and carnivores are both mentioned, for example). And it makes a terrific vocabulary stretcher, as children use visual cues to figure out what it means that a tyrannosaurus is "towering" or a stegosaurus is "lumbering."

Contributor Bio
Nicholas Oldland earned a degree in fine arts at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, Canada, and enjoyed success as a commercial artist and filmmaker before taking up the role of creative director at Hatley/Little Blue House, a popular apparel company. He lives in Toronto, Ontario, with his family.

Quotes
This title works as a concept book about counting and as a nontthreatening intro to dinos.—School Library Journal
... Oldland both emphasizes an important mathematical concept and the scientific concept of extinction. A worthy addition to the dinosaur collection.—Booklist

Illustrations
Burt the Beetle Doesn't Bite!
Ashley Spires

Summary
Ashley Spires brings her signature deadpan humor to this hilarious story about one bug's quest for greatness (with some cool insect facts mixed in!).

Meet Burt, a ten-lined june beetle. He's sure he belongs in the category of bugs with superpower-like abilities. No, he can't carry 50 times his weight, like ants. No, he's not able to spray paralyzing venom, like some termites. No, he can't release a bad smell to repel predators, like stink bugs. What june beetles are known for is chasing porch lights and flailing their legs in the air - does that count? Hmm ... Maybe Burt will just have to accept the truth. June beetles don't have any special abilities. But when some other bugs find themselves in perilous trouble that even their superpowers can't get them out of, Burt suddenly realizes there is one thing that he can do to save his friends - and it's something that only a june beetle can do!

Bestselling author-illustrator Ashley Spires's signature mix of slapstick and dry humor is front and center in this winning story that highlights how being special is as much about character as it is about abilities. Full of simply drawn panels prominently featuring the ever-plucky Burt, it's a perfect pick for emerging readers and young fans of comics. Burt's positive attitude toward himself and others offers many opportunities for character education lessons on caring, positive thinking and initiative. Snuck into the pages are facts about bugs and their traits, making this a fun choice for a science unit on the characteristics of living things.

Contributor Bio
Ashley Spires grew up in the Pacific Northwest, the supposed stomping grounds of Bigfoot. She is the author and illustrator of a number of books for children, including Small Saul and the Adventures of Binky the Space Cat. She was the recipient of the 2011 Silver Birch Express Award and the 2011 Hackmatack Award for Binky the Space Cat and was shortlisted for a Joe Shuster Comics for Kids Award and an Eisner Award for Binky Under Pressure. Ashley currently lives in British Columbia.

Illustrations
Extremely Gross Animals
Stinky, Slimy and Strange Animal Adaptations
Claire Eamer

Summary
All things disgusting are featured in this weird and wonderful exploration of the grossest of the gross in the animal kingdom. (Barf bag not included!)

Snot. Vomit. Spit. Poop. Everyone knows these are gross, right? Well, for some animals, they’re crucial ingredients for survival! This book describes more than 30 of these animals - the grossest of the gross - and explores how their habits, as revolting as they might be, help them thrive. From dung beetles who live for feces, to hagfish who cover themselves in gooey slime to ward off predators, to bullfrogs who can puke up their entire stomachs for cleaning purposes, these animals have novel adaptations that work well for them. It’s all so icky. And so awfully interesting!

A definite kid pick, the strange-but-true gross factor of this book will appeal to readers at every aptitude level. It’s also sure to inspire curiosity about these unusual creatures - many of which will be new to most readers - and about life science in general. In her signature style, Claire Eamer, an award-winning children's science writer, has fun with the yuck factor without sacrificing credibility or accuracy of the information. Organized into seven four-page sections, the playful, eye-catching design, with lots of detailed photos, keeps the interest level high on every spread. There are links here to life science topics, including animals and the diversity of living things. Endmatter includes a glossary, selected sources and an index.

Contributor Bio

Illustrations
Her Epic Adventure
25 Daring Women Who Inspire a Life Less Ordinary
Julia De Laurentiis Johnston, Salini Perera

Summary
Thrilling true stories of female adventurers who never stopped believing in themselves - and achieved the unimaginable!

Throughout history, women eager for adventure have long faced obstacles and opposition. But here are the stories of 25 remarkable women - from pilots to mountain climbers, deep-sea divers to Antarctic explorers - who defied expectations and made their mark on history. Included are Bessie Coleman, famously known as the first Black woman to earn a pilot's license (two years before Amelia Earhart!). But readers also learn about lesser-known women, such as Diana Nyad, who, at age 64, became the first person to swim from Cuba to Florida without a shark cage, and Arunima Sinha, the first woman amputee to climb Mount Everest. The women’s experiences are all different, but they have one thing in common: they didn't let anything get in the way of their dreams!

This highly readable and inspiring book - organized by sky, peaks, ice, land and water adventures - describes the achievements of a diverse group of female adventurers from around the world, including women of color, Indigenous women, LGBTQ+ women and women with disabilities. Author Julia De Laurentiis Johnston's text pays particular attention to the barriers and biases these adventurers faced because of their gender and the character and uncompromising ambition they displayed to overcome them. Sidebars provide how-to tips for adventurers, engaging STEM content, fun facts and inspirational quotes. Illustrations throughout the pages by Salini Perera enhance the compelling stories and bring a contemporary feel to the book that makes it accessible and appealing to kids today. Also included are an interview with the modern-day adventurer Lois Pryce, a world map that locates the stories throughout the book, author's sources, resources for kids and an index. This book links to both biography and history curriculums.

Contributor Bio
Julia De Laurentiis Johnston is a writer and podcast host who has worked with Maclean's, The Walrus and Shameless magazines. She holds a MA in journalism from City University and has sat on the Equal Voice Youth Board, an organization dedicated to getting more women elected to government. Julia lives with her family in Toronto, Ontario.

Salini Perera has been making art for as long as she can remember. Born in Sri Lanka and raised in Canada, she now lives in Toronto, Ontario.

Illustrations
Mad for Ads
How Advertising Gets (and Stays) in Our Heads
Erica Fyvie, Ian Turner

Summary
This amusing and engaging behind-the-scenes look at advertising and its influence will help kids decode the ads that surround them every day and make smart decisions.

For children growing up in an advertising-saturated world, here's an eye-opening explanation of what advertising is, how it works and why that matters. The book covers the components of an advertising campaign, from slogans to logos, and the many ways marketers seek to influence behavior, from tapping into fears to using psychological pricing. It then brings these techniques and tools to life by taking readers through the creation of two fictional advertising plans. Along the way, there's information about the strategies that advertisers use to influence their audience, as well as valuable background on how digital technology allows companies to track people and what that means for privacy. It's a savvy look at the business of advertising that teaches children to pay better attention to ads and be more discerning about the messages they find.

Award-winning author Erica Fyvie has geared this vital, comprehensive and entertaining look at advertising to children who are just beginning to notice and to be swayed by brands. By building media literacy and promoting critical thinking about all kinds of marketing tools - from in-game ads to social media "kid influencers" - the book empowers readers to analyze and respond to what they see every day. Relevant, child-friendly language and examples, along with bold and humorous illustrations by Ian Turner, keep the pages lively and interesting. There are direct curriculum links to language arts, visual arts, technology and social studies lessons. Also included are a glossary, index and selected bibliography.

Contributor Bio
Erica Fyvie has worked as an academic editor and writer and has written for magazines and blogs. She is also the author of Trash Revolution, which won a Green Earth Book Award and was nominated for a Red Maple Award, the Norma Fleck Award and a Lane Anderson Award, among others. She lives in Toronto, Ontario.

Ian Turner is a graphic designer and illustrator based in Toronto, Ontario. Over the years, he has created commercial and editorial work for print, television, film and children's books.

Illustrations
Sakamoto's Swim Club
How a Teacher Led an Unlikely Team to Victory
Julie Abery, Chris Sasaki

Summary
The inspirational and little-known story of a dedicated teacher who coached Hawaiian swimmers all the way to the Olympics, beautifully told in simple rhyme.

When the children of workers on a 1930s Maui sugar plantation were chased away from playing in the nearby irrigation ditches, local science teacher Soichi Sakamoto had an idea. He offered to take responsibility for the children - and then he began training them how to swim. Using his science background, Sakamoto devised his own innovative coaching techniques: he developed a strict practice regime for the kids, building their strength and endurance by using the ditch water's natural current. The children worked hard under the dedicated Sakamoto's guidance, and their skills improved. They formed a swim club and began to dominate in swimming events around the world. And then one day, the proud Sakamoto saw an impossible dream come true - Olympic gold!

In a unique approach that makes for a moving read-aloud, Julie Abery uses limited rhyming text to tell the little-known story of Coach Sakamoto and the Three-Year Swim Club. The stunning art of award-winning and highly acclaimed Chris Sasaki perfectly complements the lyrical storytelling. This inspiring picture book offers excellent lessons in perseverance, believing in yourself and not letting others define you, while wonderfully capturing how one person can make a huge difference in the lives of others. In highlighting the team's "bright and loud" presence at events, with their Hawaiian dress and ukulele, it also encourages children to take pride in their heritage and view it as a strength. An author's note with photos and more information tell the fuller story of Soichi Sakamoto and his Three-Year Swim Club.

Contributor Bio
Julie Abery is a children's author and early childhood educator. Originally from England, she has spent half of her life living in Europe, immersing herself in new languages and cultures. She currently lives in Switzerland.

Chris Sasaki is an animation art director and illustrator living in Oakland, California. He's worked at Pixar Animation Studios and designed characters for Monsters University, Inside Out, Coco and Onward. He also served as a production designer on the Oscar-nominated shorts Sanjay's Super Team and Weekends. In 2016, Chris made his first venture into illustrated books with a short story collection for young adults entitled Ghost.

Illustrations
See Where We Come From!
A First Book of Family Heritage
Scot Ritchie

Summary
In this perfect, kid-friendly introduction to the concept of family heritage, the five friends from Scot Ritchie's popular series participate in a Heritage Festival at their school.

Today is a big day for the five friends. Their class is hosting a Heritage Festival to celebrate the customs and traditions of people from all over the world. Martin, Sally, Pedro, Nick and Yulee are best friends, and they each have their own heritage. Martin’s mom was born in Japan, and his dad's family is from India. Sally is Haida, one of the Indigenous peoples in the Pacific Northwest. Pedro is from Brazil, Yulee is from Egypt and Nick's ancestors were Scandinavian. The friends have so much to share with each other! They discover the many ways they're alike and also what makes them unique. Which makes everyone feel like they belong!

Part of Scot Ritchie's popular and award-winning Exploring Our Community series, this picture book is a perfect introduction to the concept of family heritage. It sensitively explores aspects of diverse cultures that include music, food, language, traditions, stories, crafts, clothing and games, teaching readers to value differences and to respect the customs and beliefs of others. It also encourages children to learn about their own heritage, and offers instructions for a heritage craft project. Boxes on the pages provide background information on the cultural items being shared. Comprehensive yet entertaining, with a glossary in the back, this is an excellent teaching tool for social studies units on heritage and identity, prompting children to consider who they are, and who came before them.

Contributor Bio
Scot Ritchie is an award-winning author-illustrator of over 50 books including Join the No-Plastic Challenge!, Follow That Map! and Look Where We Live!. He lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Illustrations
Sounds All Around
The Science of How Sound Works
Susan Hughes, Ellen Rooney

Summary
A comprehensive exploration of sound for young children that's friendly, fun and easy to digest.

From a cat's purr to a thunderstorm's clap, from a friend's voice to a school bell's clang, sounds can lull us, entice us or call us to action. But how does sound happen? How do we hear it? What makes some sounds loud and some soft? Some high pitched and some low pitched? How do humans and animals use sound to communicate? Which sounds happen naturally, and which are created for a specific purpose? This charming picture book explores all of these questions in child-friendly language, offering readers a gentle introduction to how sound works that will encourage them to stop and listen.

In this highly original book, Susan Hughes uses appealing and inviting text that speaks directly to young children to explain the physics of sound. From describing how sounds are made by the vibrations of air, to identifying and considering the different sources of sound and its properties (pitch, tone, volume), this book is an excellent curriculum-based tool for physical science that strongly supports the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for kindergarten and first grade. Ellen Rooney's sweet, playful illustrations colorfully illuminate the concepts, incorporating the same character and his dog on every spread. Easy-to-understand decibel and hertz charts are included. There is also a fun activity and a glossary.

Contributor Bio
Susan Hughes is an award-winning author, whose books for children include Case Closed?, No Girls Allowed, Earth to Audrey and Maggie McGillicuddy's Eye for Trouble. Susan lives in Toronto, Ontario.

Ellen Rooney is an illustrator, designer and artist. She's originally from Massachusetts, but now lives in the southern Okanagan Valley in British Columbia. She loves graphic shapes, textured color, printmaking, drawing outdoors, painting - and her hidden art powers are released when cutting up paper!

Illustrations
That's No Dino!
Or Is It? What Makes a Dinosaur a Dinosaur
Helaine Becker, Marie-Ève Tremblay

Summary
Dino-loving kids will learn what a dinosaur is by discovering what it's not, in this fun and innovative introduction to some other prehistoric creatures.

Everyone knows what a dinosaur is, right? Well, maybe not. Roaming the earth alongside dinosaurs, there were other less well-known animal species - but they were not dinosaurs. So, what is it that sets the dinosaurs apart? Here, readers are introduced to ten prehistoric animals that look like dinosaurs, but they're missing at least one key characteristic that all true dinosaurs have. One by one, each of those "missing" characteristics is added to a growing list, so that, by the end of the book, readers will know what makes a dinosaur a dinosaur!

Bestselling and award-winning author Helaine Becker uses an innovative approach to expand the world of dinosaurs for young readers. Each funny, fact-packed spread presents one prehistoric creature, with a large illustration and information about its habitat, behavior and characteristics, including which characteristic makes it not a dinosaur. Cumulative checklists of these characteristics help readers build a definition of what a dinosaur is, making complex paleontology concepts accessible. An example of a true dinosaur at the end ties it all together. All content has been well-researched and thoroughly vetted by museum and university paleontologists. Marie-Ève Tremblay's quirky, colorful illustrations include several clarifying side diagrams to support understanding. The backmatter contains more about true dinosaurs as well as a glossary, index and sources for further reading. With many curriculum links in life science, this book is particularly useful for lessons on the classification of living things.

Contributor Bio
Helaine Becker is a bestselling children's author of more than ninety books, including Hubots, Monster Science, Zoobots, The Big Green Book of the Big Blue Sea and Lines, Bars and Circles. She is a two-time recipient of the Lane Anderson Award and a winner of the Silver Birch Award and the Red Cedar Award. She lives in Toronto, Ontario.

Illustrator Marie-Ève Tremblay's work has appeared on posters, stamps and television, as well as in numerous magazines and children's books, including Inside Your Insides and Lines, Bars and Circles. She lives in Montreal, Quebec.

Illustrations
Walking for Water
How One Boy Stood Up for Gender Equality
Susan Hughes, Nicole Miles

Summary
In this inspiring story of individual activism, a boy recognizes gender inequality when his sister must stop attending school - and decides to do something about it.

Victor is very close to his twin sister, Linesi. But now that they have turned eight years old, she no longer goes to school with him. Instead, Linesi, like the other older girls in their community, walks to the river to get water five times a day, to give their mother more time for farming. Victor knows this is the way it has always been. But he has begun learning about equality at school, and his teacher has asked the class to consider whether boys and girls are treated equally. Though he never thought about it before, Victor realizes they’re not. And it’s not fair to his sister. So Victor comes up with a plan to help.

Based on a true story of a Malawian boy, award-winning author Susan Hughes's inspiring book celebrates how one person can make a big difference in the lives of others. It's a perfect starting point for children to explore themes of gender inequality and unequal access to education, as well as the lack of clean water in some parts of the world. Nicole Miles's appealing artwork in this graphic novel / picture book hybrid format adds emotional context to the story. Also included are information about education and water availability in Malawi, resources and a glossary of Chichewa words. Part of the CitizenKid collection and featuring a growth mindset, this important book has links to social studies lessons on global communities and cultures, as well as to character education lessons on initiative, fairness and adaptability.

Contributor Bio
Susan Hughes is an award-winning author, whose books for children include Case Closed?, No Girls Allowed, Earth to Audrey and Maggie McGillicuddy's Eye for Trouble. Susan lives in Toronto, Ontario.

Nicole Miles is a cartoonist, graphic designer and illustrator. Her work has appeared on greeting cards and in digital and print media, and her comic Barbara was nominated for an Eisner Award. Originally from the Bahamas, Nicole lives in England.

Illustrations
Wednesday Wilson Gets Down to Business
Bree Galbraith, Morgan Goble

Summary

In the first entertaining installment in a new early chapter book series, one unfortunate kale incident isn’t enough to stop the unbeatable Wednesday Wilson from pursuing her entrepreneurial dreams - or is it?

The most important thing to know about Wednesday Wilson is that she’s an entrepreneur. She hasn’t started any businesses yet, but she’s pretty sure today is the day. She and her best friend, Charlie (Wednesday’s future Vice President of Operations), with some help from her little brother, Mister, have made a list of potential businesses. But before they get to move forward on one, there’s an unfortunate incident in class with the Emmas (whose last initials happen to spell M.E.A.N.) involving a bearded dragon named Morten and a piece of kale . . . it’s a long story. It figures that Wednesday’s archenemies would be the ones to mess up her plans! But maybe all is not lost. Maybe this is just the opportunity Wednesday and her friends needed to come up with a brilliant business idea that will save the day and make them millionaires. Or . . . not?

With its fresh voice, diverse cast of lovable and relatable characters and delightfully determined heroine, Bree Galbraith’s illustrated early chapter book series hits the spot for beginning readers (and their grown-ups!). Endearing black-and-white drawings by Morgan Goble add nuance and clarity and help guide the story forward for early readers. Definitions of vocabulary words, all related to business, appear as footnotes throughout the text.

Contributor Bio

Bree Galbraith is a children’s book author whose critically acclaimed picture books include Usha and the Stolen Sun, Milo and Georgie and Once Upon a Balloon. Bree holds a master’s degree in creative writing from the University of British Columbia. She lives with her family in Vancouver, Canada.

Morgan Goble is a children’s illustrator who has been drawing since she could first hold a crayon. She is a graduate of the Bachelor of Illustration program at Sheridan College. Morgan lives with her husband and their cat, Noni, in Oakville, Ontario. Wednesday Wilson Gets Down to Business is her first book.

Illustrations
My Name Is Elizabeth!
Annika Dunklee, Matthew Forsythe

Summary
Meet Elizabeth. She's got an excellent pet duck, a loving granddad and a first name that's just awesome. After all, she's got a queen named after her!

So she's really not amused when people insist on using nicknames like "Lizzy" and "Beth." She bears her frustration in silence until an otherwise ordinary autumn day, when she discovers her power to change things once and for all. In the process, Elizabeth learns about communication and respect - and their roles in building better relationships with family and friends. The two-toned illustrations reflect the story's energy and sass, and the comic-book-like format makes it easy to follow. The cheeky, retro drawings also keep it real - depicting the sometimes-feisty Elizabeth as a resolutely normal kid - whether she's flossing her teeth or feeding her pet duck.

Contributor Bio
Annika Dunklee was born in Uppsala, Sweden, to a Scottish father and a Swedish mother. She bases a lot of her stories on her own childhood memories. My Name Is Elizabeth! was inspired by anyone who dislikes having his or her name shortened, lengthened, mispronounced or mangled in some way.

Quotes
Children who have had similar experiences will certainly relate to Elizabeth and may be inspired by her directness.— School Library Journal
First-time children's author Annika Dunklee hits the mark with a spunky character who is guaranteed to charm early readers and parents alike.— Quill & Quire
This isn't just a book about one particular name. It's about making it clear to the world who you really are. A lesson some grown-ups could stand to learn as well.— Elizabeth Bird, SLJ.com
The book itself is close to perfect.— The New York Times
This debut picture-book offering from Dunklee and Forsythe is close enough to perfect in its tone, pacing and interplay between words and pictures: Wonderful.— Kirkus
Readers who take pride in their names (especially those who have had their names butchered) may be similarly moved to express that ownership vocally.— Publishers Weekly

Illustrations
The Hive
Barry Lyga, Morgan Baden, Jennifer Beals, Tom Jaco...

Summary
A Winner of People Magazine's Best Books for Fall 2019.

New York Times bestselling authors Barry Lyga and Morgan Baden have teamed up for the first time to create a novel that's gripping, terrifying and more relevant every day.

Cassie McKinney has always believed in the Hive.

Social media used to be out of control, after all. People were torn apart by trolls and doxxers. Even hackers - like Cassie's dad - were powerless against it.

But then the Hive came. A better way to sanction people for what they do online. Cause trouble, get too many "condemns," and a crowd can come after you, teach you a lesson in real life. It's safer, fairer and perfectly legal.

Entering her senior year of high school, filled with grief over an unexpected loss, Cassie is primed to lash out. Egged on by new friends, she makes an edgy joke online. Cassie doubts anyone will notice.

But the Hive notices everything. And as her viral comment whips an entire country into a frenzy, the Hive demands retribution.

One moment Cassie is anonymous; the next, she's infamous. And running for her life.

With nowhere to turn, she must learn to rely on herself - and a group of Hive outcasts who may not be reliable - as she slowly uncovers the truth about the machine behind the Hive.

Contributor Bio
Barry Lyga is the New York Times bestselling author of the I Hunt Killers trilogy as well as such critically acclaimed novels as Boy Toy and Bang. He's also a comic book nerd who geeks out by writing superhero novels, including the Flash series and Thanos: Titan Consumed. He lives outside New York City, in a house bursting with books.

Morgan Baden is a New York Times bestselling ghostwriter, as well as a social media expert who oversees communications for the world's largest children's book publisher. She lives outside New York City, in a house bursting with books.

Quotes
... The Hive is well-worth reading.—CM Magazine
... [A] high-concept, fast-paced ... cautionary tale of the morally fraught territory that results when technology and mob mentality mix ... this dystopian tale seems destined for a screen adaptation.—Kirkus Reviews
A brilliant doomsday warning about the perils of social media, justice, and mob thought, The Hive is also the complex story of a young girl coming of age. This is a novel about ideas, love, grief, and what hold the tricky narratives of history have on the violence of the present.—Walter Mosley, award-winning crime novelist
A gripping immersion in social media gone wrong.—School Library Journal
This fast-paced and sometimes highly technical novel will appeal to readers aged 14 and up who love a dystopian chase.—The Calgary Herald
Everybody told you to quit social media, and you didn't listen. The Hive is your last warning. Thrilling, chilling, nightmare-fulfilling, The Hive is a wild, spooky ride into a terrifying future that looks a lot like tomorrow.—Paul Griffin, author of Adrift
Mob justice rules the internet in this thrilling debut from Lyga and Baden. You'll never
look at your phone the same way again.—Allen Zadoff, author of The Unknown Assassin series
Offering heart-pounding action while asking difficult questions, this novel is perfect for fans of thought-provoking cyberthrillers.—Publishers Weekly
The husband-and-wife writing team capture the horrors of mob mentality in this gripping, tense, action-packed thriller that will appeal to fans of Marie Lu's Warcross (2017) or Gregory Scott Katsoulis' All Rights Reserved (2017).—Booklist
An eye-opening story about online comments and the consequences they may have in real life.—ABQLA