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## Research Guides

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## Bibliography of Award-Winning Canadian Children's and YA Speculative Fiction

### Part 1: General information

- "Speculative fiction" = all types of fantasy, science fiction, supernatural, and horror
- Canadian awards and authors, presented between 1995-present
- Only fiction for readers 8-18 is included, no picture books or early readers
- First part of this bibliography has a basic entry for each book, including: author, title, publication information, genre, synopsis and award(s) won
- Second part has continuation of each book's record, including: my personal critical reviews of the book's plot, characterization, setting, writing style, and illustration (if any), plus any environmental or social justice themes. The second page also includes links to Web pages containing author and book information/reviews, if available
- At this point, I have personally reviewed most of the books in the bibliography
- Format used is APA (American Psychological Assoc.), as this is the format most often used in Education, though I have included the authors' first names
- My background: I'm an education librarian, I've taken classes in children's and young adult literature, and have kept reading it all my life for enjoyment, particularly children's and YA speculative fiction. I'm also a writer of adult speculative fiction; I've published a few short stories and have several other projects on the go
- For U of R students: all these books are available through the Regina Public Library, with the exception of *Violet Eyes* by Nicole Luiken

Authors alphabetically: [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [V](#) [W](#)

**Bastedo, Jamie.** (2006). *On thin ice*. Calgary: Red Deer Press.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Mysticism/shamanism. For ages 12-up (young adult).

**Award(s):** Winner, 2007 [Alberta Children's Book of the Year Award](#) (Writers Guild of Alberta, Book Publishers Assoc. of Alberta, and Alberta Community Development).

**Summary:** Ashley's inner and outer worlds are both in turmoil. Freak storms rock her small Northern town. When her polar bear nightmares start coming true, she must face up to her true nature.

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).



**Birdsell, Sandra**, & Flook, Helen, ill. (1997). *The town that floated away* (1st ed.). Toronto: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Humorous fantasy. For 8-11 year-olds.

**Award(s):** Winner, 1997 [Saskatchewan Children's Literature Award](#) (Sask. Book Awards); shortlisted for 2000 Silver Birch Award (Ontario Library Assoc.) ; shortlisted for 2000 Red Cedar Award (British Columbia Young Readers' Book Award). The radio play the novel is based on, which ran on CBC Radio and was then recorded, was nominated for a Juno Award in 1995.

**Summary:** Virginia Potts has "Preposterously Protective Parents." In an effort to get away from them for awhile, she and her best friend orchestrate things so that she wins the town of Wellington's Spring Break prize to visit the city across the river. But due to a strange confluence of events, the town of Wellington floats away the very day that Virginia leaves, and she finds herself beginning to shrink...

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Brooks, Martha**. (1997). *Bone dance*. Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Contemporary fantasy/supernatural. Young adult (12 and up).

**Award(s):** Winner, 1998 [Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award](#) (Canadian Booksellers Assoc., Ontario Arts Council); Winner, 1998 [Young Adult Canadian Book Award \(Canadian Library Association\)](#) .

**Summary:** Alexandra's beloved grandfather, who helped raise her, dies, and leaves her a cabin in the Manitoba woods. Lonny's stepfather, Pop, who has also recently died, always meant for him to have the cabin, but had to sell it for lack of money. The cabin and their respective grief bring Alex and Lonny together.

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Buffie, Margaret**. (1995). *The dark garden*. Toronto: Kids Can Press.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Ghost story. Young adult (12 and up).

**Award(s):** Winner, 1996 [McNally Robinson Book for Young People](#) (Manitoba Literary Awards); shortlisted, 1996 Ruth Schwartz Children's Book Award (Ontario Arts Council, a young readers' choice award); chosen, 1997 Junior Library Guild Book, U.S.A; nominated, Best Book for Young Adults, American Library Assoc.; nominated, 1996 Mr. Christie Book Award.

**Summary:** Thea Chalmers-Hyphen-Goodall (how she puts it) has recently been in an accident where, through a head injury, she's suffered traumatic amnesia. She can't remember who she is, who her family are, or anything. And when memories do start returning to her, they don't belong to the person people say she is... Mixes a ghost murder mystery/tragic love story with a teen problem novel, with each plot strand/genre type about half of the book.

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Buffie, Margaret.** (2004). *The finder*. Toronto, ON ; Tonawanda, NY: Kids Can Press.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Fantasy. For ages 12-up (young adult).

**Award(s):** Winner, 2005 [McNally Robinson Book for Young People Award -- Older](#) (Manitoba Literary Awards).

**Summary:** The third book in a trilogy. "Emma has a link to the world beyond the portal, but it will take all of her inner strength to solve the many puzzles thrown her way" (from WorldCat catalogue record).

For links to this title or author, click [here](#).

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**Chan, Gillian.** (2001). *The carved box*. Toronto ; Tonawanda, NY: Kids Can Press.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Historical fantasy. For ages 9-12.

**Award(s):** Winner, 2002 [Explora-Toy Award for Best Book of the Year](#) (Hamilton and Region Art Council award for children's fiction).

**Summary:** Fifteen-year-old Callum, the son of a Scottish minister, emigrates to Upper Canada after his father's death to join the family of his dead mother's brother. Life in late 1700s Upper Canada is very physically tough and wearing, and the scholarly Callum's main source of comfort is a very strange dog he impulsively bought from her cruel owner.

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Cullen, Sean,** & Wessels, Johann, ill. (2006). *Hamish X and the cheese pirates*. Toronto ; New York: Penguin Group.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Incredible adventure/fantasy. For ages 9-12.

**Award(s):** Winner, 2007 [Arthur Ellis Best Juvenile Crime Award](#) (Crime Writers of Canada).

**Summary:** Hamish X has only been at the insufferable Wind City Orphanage and Cheese Factory for awhile when it's attacked by pirates -- cheese pirates! -- and all the kids and Mrs. Francis kidnapped and carried off to Snow Monkey Island. So Hamish X and his two friends, Mimi and Parveen, take off on a wild journey across the Arctic to save them.

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**De Lint, Charles.** (2004). *The blue girl*. New York: Viking.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Contemporary fantasy/supernatural (ghosts and fairies). For ages 12-up (young adult).

**Award(s):** Winner, [2006 White Pine Award](#) (Ontario Library Assoc. young readers' choice award for teens).

**Summary:** Imogene is a tough teen, an ex-gang member who decides to go "straight"

at her new school when she and her brother and single mother move to the city of Newford. But Imogene soon becomes a target for bullies, the local school ghost, and, worst of all, a gang of malicious fairies who bring her to the attention of some very nasty creatures. In order to live, she'll need all her courage, fighting ability -- and the help of her new best friend, Maxine.

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**DeMeulemeester, Linda.** (2007). *The secret of Grim Hill*. Montréal: Lobster Press.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Contemporary fantasy/mystery. For ages 9-12.

**Award(s):** Winner, 2008 [Silver Birch Award](#) for fiction (Ontario Library Assoc. young readers' choice award for ages 7-11, grades 3-6).

**Summary:** Cat Peters' parents have divorced, and her mother has moved Cat and her little sister to a new town. There are only two high schools, and public one is a disaster as far as Cat is concerned. She decides to go all out for a soccer match where the winning team will get scholarships to Grimoire, the private high school in town. But something very odd is happening in Grimoire -- odd, and sinister.

For links to this author and book, click [here](#).

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**Ellis, Sarah.** (1996). *The Back of Beyond*. Toronto: Douglas and McIntyre.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Contemporary fantasy and supernatural. Ages 12-up (young adult).

**Award(s):** Winner, 1997 [Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize](#) (British Columbia Book Prizes) .

**Summary:** Short stories on various fantastic and supernatural themes. Two of them don't have any real fantasy or supernatural content, but all the others do.

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Ellis, Sarah, & St-Aubin, Bruno, ill.** (2003). *The several lives of Orphan Jack*. Toronto, Ont. ; Berkeley, Calif: Douglas & McIntyre.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Incredible adventure. For ages 7-10.

**Award(s):** Winner, 2003 [Mr. Christie Book Award for English book, 8-11 years](#) (presented by Christie, Brown and Co.; no longer given); winner, 2004 [I.O.D.E. Violet Downey Children's Book Award](#).

**Summary:** When Jack turns 12, he gets the "opportunity" given to all the unfortunate denizens of the Opportunities School for Orphans and Foundlings: he gets apprenticed to a firm of bookkeepers. He discovers, however, that he doesn't like bookkeeping, and hits the road to find his fortune.

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Falcone, Lucy M.** (2005). *Walking with the dead*. Toronto: Kids Can Press.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Contemporary fantasy. For ages 8-11.

**Award(s):** Winner, 2007 [Silver Birch Award](#) (Ontario Library Assoc., young readers' choice award for grades 4-6); winner, 2006 [Diamond Willow Award](#) (Saskatchewan young readers' choice award for ages 9-12).

**Summary:** Alex's dad acquires an ancient Greek corpse for their museum, and weird things start to happen. The corpse becomes animated, and Alex and his cousin, Freddie, find themselves on a whirlwind tour of the Greek Underworld, trying to save the corpse's soul from Tartarus.

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Fitch, Sheree.** (2005). *The gravesavers : a novel*. Toronto: Doubleday Canada.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Ghost story/problem novel. For ages 10-up (middle years-young adult).

**Award(s):** Winner, 2006 [Snow Willow Award](#) (Saskatchewan young reader's choice awards for young adults).

**Summary:** Twelve-year-old Cinnamon Elizabeth Hotchkiss, Minn for short, is sent to spend the summer with her grandmother in a small Nova Scotia town while her mother gets over depression due to losing a baby. Minn doesn't get along with Nana, but discovers a common interest in saving the mass grave of victims of the *S.S. Atlantic*, which sank in 1873. A strange boy she meets on the beach also shares that interest...

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Gilmore, Rachna.** (2005). *The Sower of Tales*. Markham, Ont. ; Allston, Mass: Fitzhenry & Whiteside.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Fantasy. For ages 10-14 (middle years).

**Award(s):** Winner, 2006 [I.O.D.E. Violet Downey Children's Book Award](#) (National Chapter of Canada of the International Order of the Daughters of the Empire).

**Summary:** The story pods are an important part of life on the Plains. When a sorcerer steals them all and plans to use them to take over the Plains and his own kingdom, 13-year-old Calantha sets out to stop him.

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Goobie, Beth.** (2000). *Before wings : a novel*. Victoria, BC: Orca Book Publishers.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Supernatural -- spirits/ghosts. For ages 12-up (young adult).

**Award(s):** Winner, 2000 [Saskatchewan Book Award for Children's Literature](#) (Sask.

Writers' Guild, Sask. Publishers' Group, and Sask. Library Assoc.); winner, 2001 [Young Adult Canadian Book Award](#) (Canadian Library Assoc.).

Summary: Adrien nearly died of a brain aneurysm two years ago. Her aunt invites her to work at a summer camp, where she is caught between the living and the dead, constantly seeing the spirits of five dead girls. And somehow, these girls are connected to a much younger Aunt Erin...

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Goobie, Beth.** (2004). *Flux*. Victoria, B.C.: Orca Book Publishers.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Science fiction/adventure. For ages 12-up (young adult).

**Award(s):** Winner, 2004 [Saskatchewan Book Award for Children's Literature](#) (Sask. Writers' Guild, Sask. Publishers' Group, and Sask. Library Assoc.).

Summary: Nellie Joan Kinnan is a street kid living in the Outback whose mother disappeared 16 months ago, possibly kidnapped by the Interior Police. Using her ability to travel the "Levels" -- connected parallel universes -- Nellie sets off to find out what happened to her mother. With her goes Deller, whose brother disappeared. Was he one of the children taken by the Interior Police for secret experiments?

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Goobie, Beth.** (2005). *Fixed*. Victoria, B.C.: Orca Book Publishers.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Science fiction/adventure. For ages 12-up (young adult).

**Award(s):** Winner, 2005 [Saskatchewan Book Award for Children's Literature](#) (Sask. Writers' Guild, Sask. Publishers' Group, and Sask. Library Assoc.).

Summary: Sequel to *Flux*. Nellie Joanne Kinnan, twin to Nellie Joan in *Flux*, has been training as an elite agent for the Interior government for years. Killing is second nature to her. But, in a deadly training exercise, she meets her twin, an event which soon has her questioning everything she's been taught to believe.

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Heneghan, James.** (2000). *The grave*. Vancouver B.C.: Douglas & McIntyre.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Time-slip/fairies. For ages 9-14 (middle years).

**Award(s):** Winner, 2001 [Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize](#) (BC Book Prizes).

Summary: Tom Mullen, thirteen, is an unhappy kid who's gone through a series of useless to harmful foster homes. He finds a mass grave that construction has revealed on his school's grounds, and is oddly drawn to it. He falls in, and is transported (by the Shee-Og, the Irish fairies) to 1847 Ireland, and the infamous potato famine.

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Heneghan, James.** (2002). *Flood*. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Contemporary fantasy (fairies)/problem novel. For ages 8-12.

**Award(s):** Winner, 2003 [Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize](#) (BC Book Prizes); winner, 2004 [Chocolate Lily Award](#) (BC young reader's choice award for BC fiction for grades 4-8).

**Summary:** Eleven-year-old Andy Flynn's house is wrecked in a mudslide, and his mother and stepfather killed. Andy, however, is rescued by the Sheehogue, the Irish fairies. He learns from his aunt that his real father is still alive and runs away to live with him in a cheap boarding hotel. But Andy's father is being chased by some of the "Halifax mafia"...

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Horrocks, Anita.** (2000). *Topher*. Toronto ; New York: Stoddart Kids.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Supernatural -- reincarnation. For ages 9-12.

**Award(s):** Winner, 2001 [R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature](#) (Writers Guild of Alberta); shortlisted, 2002 CLA Book of the Year for Children (Canadian Library Assoc.); runner-up, 2003 Golden Eagle Children's Choice Book Award (an Alberta award given to an Alberta writer for grades 4-7).

**Summary:** Thirteen-year-old Christopher and his seven-year-old sister, Stacie, go with their dad to fix up their grandmother's cabin at Christopher Lake. Their father hates the place and wants to sell it, and won't tell them why. Is it tied up with the mysterious boy, Topher, who drowned there thirty years earlier? And why does Stacie keep having visions about him?

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Hutchins, Hazel J., & Ohi, Ruth, ill.** (1997). *The Prince of Tarn*. Toronto: Annick Press.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Contemporary fantasy. For 8-11 year olds.

**Award(s):** Winner, 1998 [R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature](#) (Writers Guild of Alberta).

**Summary:** Fred is astonished to be awakened at midnight on his 11th birthday by the Prince of Tarn, a character in a book that his dead mother wrote. Fred and his friend, Rebecca, have to steer the cantankerous and demanding Prince through the real world, and then help him save his kingdom, Tarn, from destruction.

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Leavitt, Martine.** (2006). *Keturah & Lord Death*. Calgary: Red Deer Press.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Fantasy. For ages 12-up (young adult).

**Award(s):** Winner, 2008 [White Pine Award](#) (Ontario Library Assoc.'s young readers' choice award for young adults.)

**Summary:** "When Lord Death comes to claim sixteen-year-old Keturah while she is lost in the King's Forest, she charms him with her story and is granted a twenty-four hour reprieve in which to seek her one true love" (from Edmonton Public Library's catalogue record).

**Luiken, Nicole.** (2001). *Violet eyes : a novel*. New York ; Toronto: Pocket Pulse.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Science Fiction. For ages 12-up (young adult).

**Award(s):** Winner, 2004 [Golden Eagle Children's Choice Book Award](#) (an Alberta award given to an Alberta writer for grades 4-7).

**Summary:** "In 2098, two teenagers find out that they're the subject of secret government experiments" (from WorldCat catalogue record).

For links to this title or author, click [here](#).

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**McBay, Bruce, & Heneghan, James.** (2003). *Waiting for Sarah*. Victoria, BC ; Custer, WA: Orca Book Publishers.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Problem novel/ghost story. For ages 12-up (young adult).

**Award(s):** Winner, 2005 [Manitoba Young Reader's Choice Award](#) (Manitoba School Library Assoc., for readers in grades 4-8).

**Summary:** Seventeen-year-old Mike's parents and little sister died in the car crash that took his legs. Bitter and withdrawn, he returns to high school a year after the crash. There he meets Sarah, whom he slowly realizes is not an ordinary thirteen-year-old -- particularly when he finds her grave...

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**McGowan, Michael, & McNulty, Shelagh, ill.** (2003). *Newton and the giant*. Toronto: Harper Trophy Canada.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Contemporary fantasy. For ages 8-11.

**Award(s):** Winner, 2004 [Silver Birch Award](#) (Ontario Library Assoc.'s young reader's choice award for grades 3-6).

**Summary:** 10-year-old Newton, a science nerd, thinks he's got problems fighting off his bullying older quadruplet brothers. While hiding from them in the attic, he gets pulled through to another dimension by Herbert the giant. Then Newton's problems *really* begin.

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**McNaughton, Janet Elizabeth.** (2000). *The secret under my skin* (1st HarperCollins trade paper ed.). Toronto: HarperCollins.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Science fiction. For ages 12-up (young adult).

**Award(s):** Winner, 2001 [Mr. Christie's Book Award](#) (presented by Christie, Brown and Co.; no longer given); winner, 2001 [Ann Connor-Brimer Award for Children's Literature](#) (Nova Scotia Library Assoc.'s award for best children's book from Atlantic Canada); winner, 2002 [Bruneau Family Children's/YA Award](#) (Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador); winner, 2001 [Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award](#) (Ontario Arts Foundation).

**Summary:** Blay Raytee, a captured street kid who now lives in a government work camp in 24th Century Newfoundland, has no identity -- not even a real name. But then she gets chosen to be the tutor of a powerful young woman, and she finds her talent, her name, and her background, as well as making several friends along the way.

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**McNaughton, Janet Elizabeth.** (2003). *An earthly knight* (1st ed.). Toronto: HarperTrophy Canada.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Historical fantasy/fairies. For ages 12-up (young adult).

**Award(s):** winner, 2004 [Bruneau Family Children's Literature Award](#) (Newfoundland and Labrador Book Awards); 2004 [Mr. Christie Award](#), Silver Seal, senior category (presented by Christie, Brown and Co.; no longer given); Honour Book, 2004 Young Adult Book Award (Canadian Library Association); Honour Book, 2006 Stellar Book Award (B.C. Teen Readers Choice Award – with teens choosing the shortlist, as well). To see more honours and shortlists of awards this book received, go [here](#), under its title.

**Summary:** The main plot is a novelization of the traditional Scottish ballad, "[Tam Lin](#)". The subplot is based on another Scottish ballad, "[Lady Isabel and the Elf Knight](#)"/"The outlandish Knight".

Jenny Avenel, the 16-year-old daughter of a minor noble in Teviotdale, Scotland in 1162, is to marry the King of Scotland's brother. This will save the family's honour, which was destroyed by her elder sister, who ran off with a nobleman who then tried to kill her. Instead, Isabella killed him (he'd already killed several girls), which was even worse than running off with him, according to the mores of the time. But rather than the King of Scotland's brother, Jenny falls in love with young Tam Lin, a knight who's rumoured to have been stolen by fairies as a boy. And the rumours turn out to be true...

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Nickel, Barbara Kathleen.** (2005). *Hannah Waters and the daughter of Johann Sebastian Bach*. Toronto: Penguin Canada.

**Genre and recommended ages:** A modified time slip. For ages 8-12.

**Award(s):** Winner, 2006 [Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize](#) (B.C. Book Prizes). For other award nominations that this book has received, click [here](#).

**Summary:** Catharina Bach, unable to say anything to her famous composer father, reaches across the centuries through his Concerto for Two Violins to touch the life of Hannah Waters. Hannah is a contemporary girl trying to learn the concerto, overcome by memories of her dead mother, who used to say that they'd play it together

sometime. The two girls take strength from each other and are able to grow, each in her own time.

For links to this title or author, click [here](#).

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**Oppel, Kenneth.** (1998). *Silverwing* (1st HarperCollins Publishers Ltd mass market ed.). Toronto: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Animal fantasy/adventure. Ages 9-12.

**Award(s):** Winner, 1998 [Mr. Christie's Book Award](#) (presented by Christie, Brown and Co.; no longer given); winner, 1998 [Book of the Year for Children Award](#) (Canadian Library Assoc.); winner, 2000 [Manitoba Young Reader's Choice Award](#) (Manitoba School Library Assoc.); winner, 1998 [Silver Birch Award](#) (Ontario Library Assoc. young reader's choice award for grades 3-6); winner, 2000 [Red Cedar Book Award](#) (British Columbia's young reader's choice award for grades 4-7); winner, 1999 [Tiny Torgi Literary Award for Audio](#) (children's choice award for best print braille or audio book).

**Summary:** Shade, a runty newborn bat, is knocked off course during his first fall migration. He makes a heroic journey to regain his colony, making friends -- and enemies -- along the way, and growing both physically and emotionally.

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Oppel, Kenneth.** (1999). *Sunwing* (1st ed.). Toronto: HarperCollins.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Animal fantasy/adventure. For ages 9-12.

**Award(s):** Winner, 2000 [Mr. Christie's Book Award](#) (sponsored by Christie, Brown, and Co.; no longer given); winner, 2000 [Book of the Year for Children Award](#) (Canadian Library Assoc.); winner, 2000 [Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award](#) (Ontario Arts Council); winner, 2000 [Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award](#) (Atlantic Provinces); winner, 2001 [Rocky Mountain Book Award](#) (Alberta young reader's choice award for grades 4-7); winner, 2002 [Red Cedar Book Award](#) (British Columbia's young reader's choice award for grades 4-7); winner, 2001 [Tiny Torgi Literary Award for audiobook](#) (children's choice award for best print braille or audiobook).

**Summary:** Shade, the young bat hero of *Silverwing*, continues his adventures in this second book of a trilogy. In fact, the action starts up where the first book ended, with Shade and various others setting off in search of Shade's father and the human-created paradise he was supposed to have found before he disappeared. Along the way, an old villain resurfaces, this time with very big plans indeed...

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Oppel, Kenneth.** (2002). *Firewing* (1st ed.). Toronto: HarperCollins.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Animal fantasy/adventure. For ages 9-12.

**Award(s):** Winner, 2004 [Manitoba Young Reader's Choice Award](#) (Manitoba School Library Assoc.).

Summary: Continuation of *Silverwing* and *Sunwing*. Shade's newborn son, Griffin, whom he's never met, gets sucked into the Underworld during an earthquake. Shade goes off in search of him -- but his old enemy is hunting Griffin, too...

For links to this title or author, click [here](#).

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**Oppel, Kenneth.** (2004). *Airborn* (1st ed.). Toronto: HarperCollins.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Alternate history/adventure. For ages 11-up (middle years-young adult).

**Award(s):** Winner, 2004 [Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Literature \(English\)](#) ; winner, 2005 [Red Maple Award](#) (Ontario Library Assoc.'s young readers' choice award for 11-15 year olds); winner, 2005 [Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award](#) (Ontario Arts Foundation); winner, 2006 [Rocky Mountain Book Award](#) (Alberta's young reader's choice award for grades 4-7); 2006 [IBBY Honour List](#) (International Board on Books for Young People); winner, 2007 [Red Cedar Book Awards](#) (B.C. young reader's choice award for grades 4-7); for more shortlists and honours for this book, look [here](#) under its title.

Summary: Matt Cruise is the cabin boy on the *Aurora*, a 900 foot luxury airship. He rescues a balloonist who raves about weird, flying mammals before dying. A year later, the balloonist's granddaughter, Kate de Vries, books passage on the *Aurora* to find those mammals. But air pirates and shipwreck on an uncharted island intervene, and Matt and Kate career from one crisis to another. A subplot of Matt's coming to terms with his father's death from a fall while repairing the *Aurora* runs through the novel.

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Oppel, Kenneth.** (2005). *Skybreaker*. Toronto: HarperCollins.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Alternate history/adventure. For ages 11-up (middle years-young adult).

**Award(s):** Winner, 2006 [Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award](#) (Ontario Arts Foundation); winner, 2006 [Red Maple Award](#) (Ontario Library Assoc.'s young reader's choice awards for 11-15 year olds); nominee, 2007 [Snow Willow Award](#) (Saskatchewan Young Reader's Choice award for young adults); winner, *Times* (London) 2005 Children's Book of the Year.

Summary: Sequel to *Airborn*. Matt Cruse, now a student at the Airship Academy in Paris, rejoins Kate de Vries on a hunt for the *Hyperion*, an airship that went missing 40 years ago and that's rumoured to contain vast treasure.

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Pearson, Kit.** (1996). *Awake and dreaming*. Toronto ; New York: Viking.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Ghost story/problem novel. For 8-11 year-olds (middle years).

**Award(s):** Winner, 1997 [Governor-General's Literary Award for Children \(English\)](#); winner, 1997 [Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Award](#) (Ontario Arts Council); winner, 1997 [Red](#)

[Cedar Book Award](#) (British Columbia's young reader's choice for grades 4-7); winner, 1999 [Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award](#) (Manitoba School Library Assoc.); winner, 1997 [?] CBC Young Canada Reads.

Summary: Nine-year-old Theo is deeply unhappy living in poverty with her irresponsible young mother, Rae. Theo dreams of living with a perfect family with four kids, two boys and two girls, and she'd fit right in the middle. And then, somehow, it happens! But she comes back to reality to find that she's still on the ferry with Rae, who's going to dump her with her sister while she, Rae, goes to live with her new boyfriend. Then a strange woman that Theo sees on the ferry starts haunting her -- literally -- but in a good way.

For my review and links to this title and author, click [here](#).

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**Richardson, Bill.** (2000). *After Hamelin*. Toronto ; New York; Buffalo, NY: Annick Press.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Fantasy. For ages 9-12.

**Award(s):** Winner, 2001 [Silver Birch Award](#) (Ontario Library Assoc. young reader's choice book award for grades 4-6).

Summary: Tells the story of what happened after the Pied Piper lured all Hamelin's children away, except for one.

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**Scrimger, Richard.** (c. 1998). *The nose from Jupiter*. Toronto; Northam: Tundra; Roundhouse.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Contemporary science fantasy. For ages 8-12.

**Award(s):** Winner, 1999 [Mr. Christie's Book Award](#) (sponsored by Christie, Brown and Co. -- no longer given).

Summary: 13-year-old Allan Dingwall is an ordinary kid: his parents are divorced, he's a bully-magnet, and he can't seem to say much to his favourite girl. Then things all change with a bang, when Norbert, a tiny alien from Jupiter, takes up residence in Alan's nose...

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**Slade, Arthur G.** (2001). *Dust*. Toronto: HarperCollins Canada.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Historical horror. For ages 12-up (young adult).

**Award(s):** Winner, 2001 [Governor General's Literary Award \(English\)](#); winner, 2002 [Mr. Christie's Book Award](#) (sponsored by Christie, Brown and Co. -- no longer given) ; winner, 2001 [Saskatchewan Book Award for Children's Literature](#) (Sask. Writers' Guild, Sask. Publishers Group, Sask. Library Assoc.) .

Summary: In 1930's Horshoe, Saskatchewan, 7-yr-old Matthew Steelgate disappears while walking to town to buy candy. Soon after, wonder-worker Abram Harsich promises rain to the drought-stricken farmers. But then more children go missing, and nobody even seems to notice, except Robert, Matthew's 11-year-old brother. Robert sets out to discover what's happening and to save his brother and the other missing children.

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**Slade, Arthur G.** (2003). *Return of the Grudstone ghosts*. Regina, Saskatchewan: Coteau Books.

**Genre and ages:** Ghost story. For 9-11 year olds.

**Award(s):** Winner, 2003 [Diamond Willow Award](#) (Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice Awards, grades 4-6).

**Summary:** After Daphne sees her grade 6 teacher plummet from her school's belfry, she and her friends try to figure out whether Miss Vindez jumped, or whether she was pushed. They discover that there are ghosts in the belfry, which was part of an older school that burnt down in 1927...

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**Stewart, Angela, & Stuart, M., ill.** (2004). *The curious adventures of India Sophia*. Edmonton, Alberta: River Books.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Contemporary fantasy. For ages 8-11.

**Award(s):** Winner, 2006 [Golden Eagle Children's Choice Book Award](#) (an Alberta award given to an Alberta writer for grades 4-7).

**Summary:** India Sophia and her parents move to a strange apartment in the Gulf Islands, where the eleven-year-old finds that one of the building's inhabitants has set a number of adventures in motion for her.

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**Stewart, Sharon.** (2003). *Raven quest*. Markham, Ont: Scholastic Canada.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Animal fantasy. For ages 9-12.

**Award(s):** Winner, 2005 [Silver Birch Award](#) (Ontario Library Assoc. young reader's choice award for grades 4-6).

**Summary:** Tok, a young raven, is wrongly accused of murder and banished. He decides to go in search of the legendary Grey Lords, who used to help the ravens hunt, and without whom some of them are starving. A very eventful journey awaits him.

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**Thornton, Duncan.** (2003). *The star-glass*. Regina: Coteau Books.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Fantasy. For ages 12-up (young adult).

**Award(s):** Winner, 2003 [McNally Robinson Book for Young People Award -- Older](#) (Manitoba Writers' Guild and Assoc. of Manitoba Book Publishers).

Summary: The third part of a trilogy, the first part of which, *Kalifax*, was nominated for several awards, including the Governor General's. "Tom, Jenny, and Gimlet set off to seek the safety of an Unknown Land, but something deadly is hunting Tom, drawn by the power of his Star-Glass" (from Regina Public Library's catalogue record).

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**Van Belkom, Edo.** (2004). *Wolf pack*. Toronto: Tundra Books.

**Genre and recommended ages:** Contemporary fantasy (werewolves). For ages 8-11.

**Award(s):** Winner, 2006 [Silver Birch Award](#) (Ontario Library Assoc. young readers' choice award for grades 4-6).

Summary: A forest ranger rescues four wolf cubs from a fire, adopting them when he discovers that they're werewolves. When the four are fifteen, one of them is kidnapped, and her three brothers use mostly their own brains and brawn to rescue her.

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