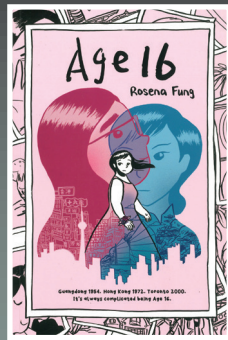




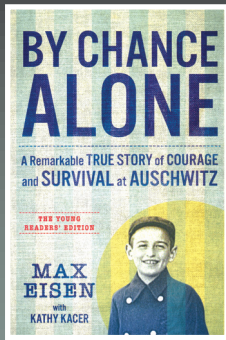
WILLOW AWARDS

2025
SASKATCHEWAN
YOUNG READERS'
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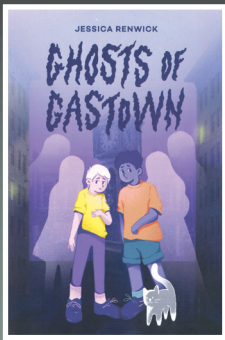
Snow Willow Finalists



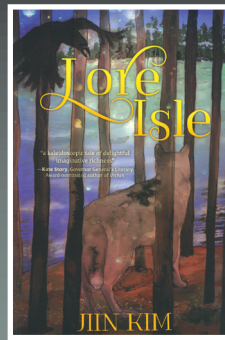
Age 16
by Rosena Fung



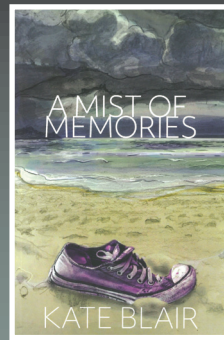
By Chance Alone: Young Readers' Choice
by Max Eisen with Kathy Kacer



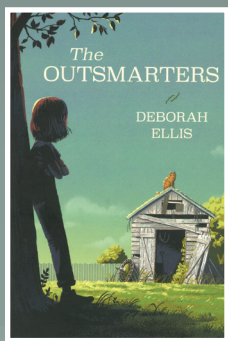
Ghosts of Gastown
by Jessica Renwick



Lore Isle
by Jiin Kim



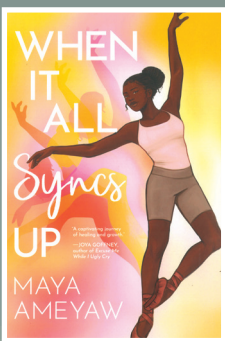
A Mist of Memories
by Kate Blair



The Outsmarters
by Deborah Ellis



Simon Sort of Says
by Erin Bow



When It All Syncs Up
by Maya Ameyaw

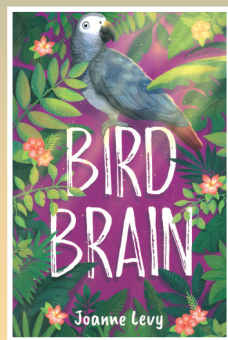


When the Dikes Breached
by Martha Attema

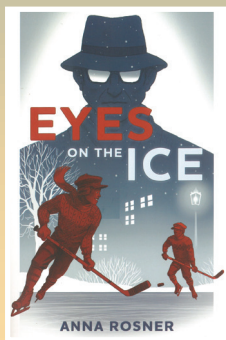


Who We Are in Real Life
by Victoria Kooops

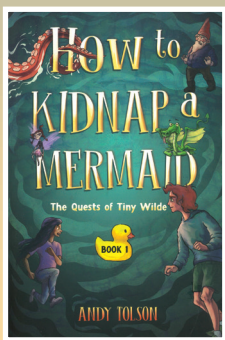
Diamond Willow Finalists



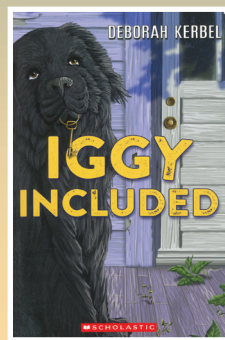
Bird Brain
by Joanne Levy



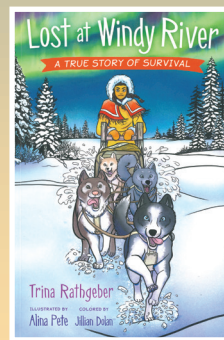
Eyes on the Ice
by Anna Rosner



How to Kidnap a Mermaid: The Quest of Tiny Wilde
by Andy Tolson



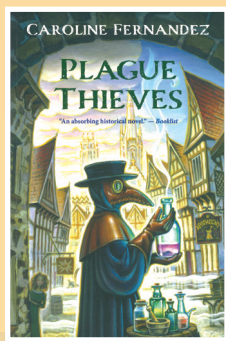
Iggy Included
by Deborah Kerbel



Lost at Windy River: A True Story of Survival
by Trina Rathgeber
illustrated by Alina Pete, coloured by Jillian Dolan



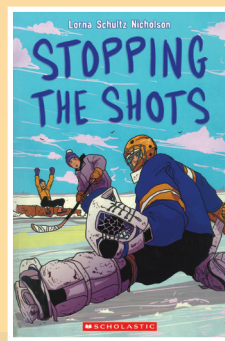
Picture a Girl
by Jenny Manzer



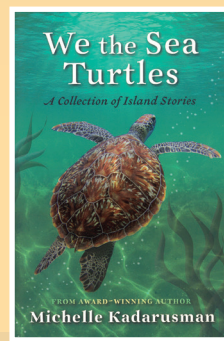
Plague Thieves
by Caroline Fernandez



Slugfest
by Gordon Korman

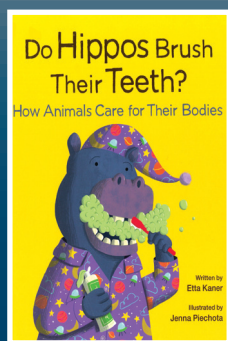


Stopping the Shots
by Lorna Schultz Nicholson

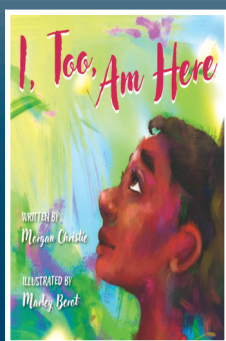


We the Sea Turtles: A Collection of Island Stories
by Michelle Kadarusman

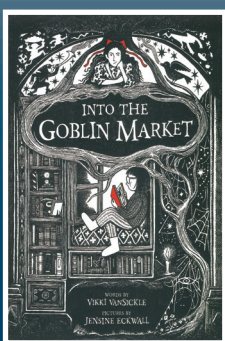
Shining Willow Finalists



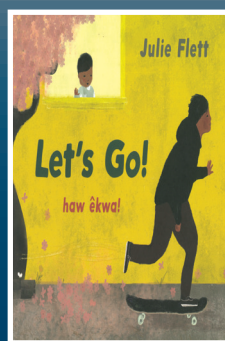
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by Etta Kaner
illustrated by Jenna Piechota



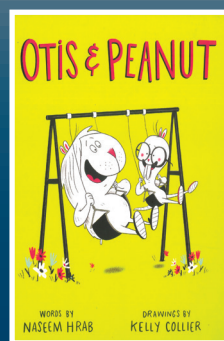
I, Too, Am Here
by Morgan Christie
illustrated by Marley Berot



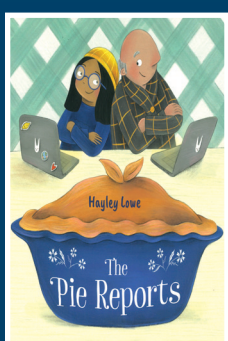
Into the Goblin Market
by Vikki VanSickle
illustrated by Jensine Eckwall



Let's Go! / haw êkwa!
by Julie Flett



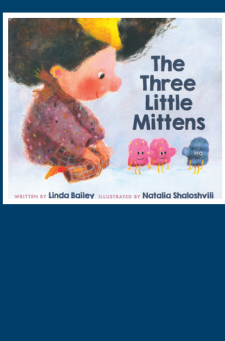
Otis & Peanut
by Naseem Hrab
illustrated by Kelly Collier



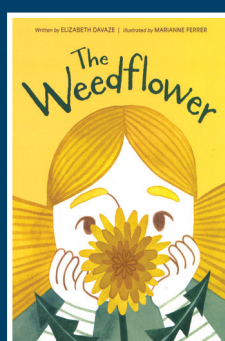
The Pie Reports
by Hayley Lowe



Still My Tessa
by Sylv Chiang
illustrated by Mathias Ball



The Three Little Mittens
by Linda Bailey
illustrated by Natalia Shaloshvili



The Weedflower
by Elizabeth Davaze
illustrated by Marianne Ferrer



Zander Stays
by Maureen Fergus
illustrated by Scot Ritchie

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2025 Who Can Vote

Saskatchewan children who have read or had read to them the minimum number of titles in each category may vote once for their favourite title.

- Snow Willow Award:** At least 3 of the 10 titles.
- Diamond Willow Award:** At least 4 of the 10 titles.
- Shining Willow Award:** At least 5 of the 10 titles.
- Voting Deadline:** March 31, 2026
- To Vote Go To:** www.willowawards.ca

- Find at:** www.willowawards.ca
- Online voting ballots
 - Vote summary forms
 - Book sticker order form
 - Posters
 - Learning activities
 - Author biographies
 - Book reviews
 - Bookmarks

Snow Willow Finalists (Gr. 7 & Up)

Age 16 by Rosena Fung Annick Press, ©2024 <i>ISBN 9781773218342 (pbk)</i>	By Chance Alone: The Young Reader's Edition by Max Eisen with Kathy Kacer HarperCollins Publishers Ltd., ©2024 <i>ISBN 9781443469425 (pbk)</i>	Ghosts of Gastown by Jessica Renwick Yellowdog, ©2024 <i>ISBN 9781773371269 (pbk)</i>	Lore Isle by Jiin Kim Nimbus Publishing, ©2023 <i>ISBN 9781774711927 (pbk)</i>	A Mist of Memories by Kate Blair Cormorant Books Inc., ©2023 <i>ISBN 9781770866966 (pbk)</i>
Toronto, 2000. Hong Kong, 1972. Guangdong, 1954. Shown through shifting times and perspectives, Roz learns that being 16 isn't easy, no matter the time or place, when past family secrets and traumas begin to surface.	Max Eisen's courageous memoir tells of the atrocities he endured and survived during the Holocaust. This young reader's edition tells of resilience, determination and a little bit of chance and is an important story that readers will not soon forget.	Hope Graves can see ghosts, except no one believes her. When she moves to Gastown, in Vancouver, a ghost appears to her, begging her for help. Hope reluctantly recruits Oliver, a strange boy who can also see ghosts, to help banish the spirit and their attempts lead them down a twisted and dangerous path.	Newfoundland doesn't have wolves, so when Peter sees one, he is confused. The confusion intensifies when Mr. Doyle, a supposed friend of Peter's deceased grandpa, convinces him that he can help Peter find gold on Lore Island to save his home. Their quest sends them to a fantastical island where things are not as they seem.	On Levay Island, Charlotte struggles with memory loss and eerie visions after an accident. Meanwhile, Ajay searches for his missing friend, Oleander, whose room had clues about the mysteries of Levay Island. Their paths converge and they must uncover the truth behind the Lady of Levay legend before it consumes them.
The Outsmarters by Deborah Ellis Groundwood Books, ©2024 <i>ISBN 9781773068572 (hc)</i>	Simon Sort of Says by Erin Bow Scholastic Canada Ltd., ©2023 <i>ISBN 9781039708778 (pbk)</i>	When It All Syncs Up by Maya Ameyaw Annick Press, ©2023 <i>ISBN 9781773217826 (pbk)</i>	When the Dikes Breached by Martha Attema Ronsdale Press, ©2023 <i>ISBN 9781553806745 (pbk)</i>	Who We Are In Real Life by Victoria Kooops Groundwood Books, ©2024 <i>ISBN 9781773068893 (pbk)</i>
Life is full of questions, both big and small, which is why 12-year-old Kate opens up her own Philosophy Booth - much to her Gran's chagrin. Taking questions from neighbours opens her eyes to a world of secrets, lies, and answers that will involve reaching out to some unexpected people.	Simon O'Keeffe tells stories – some unbelievable. But the story Simon doesn't tell is that he is the only survivor of a school shooting. The story has followed him everywhere except this new place, the National Quiet Zone. Here Simon gets the chance to tell a new story about himself.	After being denied a lead position at her ballet academy, Aisha leaves to visit her friend Neil for the last week of summer. While there, she auditions for his art school and ends up finding that she may be better off following her own choreography.	Kiara, a sixteen-year-old with big dreams of adventure, and her family live through a devastating flood that causes death and destruction in their small, restrictive community in the Netherlands. In the aftermath, Kiara learns of first love, family secrets and the chance to escape her prescribed life.	When Darcy and her moms pack up and move to a small prairie town, she feels like she left everything good behind in the city. That is until she meets Art and his friends, joins their D&D game, and inspires them to start a queer-straight alliance at school.

Diamond Willow Finalists (Gr. 4-6)

Bird Brain by Joanne Levy Orca Book Publishers, ©2024 <i>ISBN 9781459837713 (pbk)</i>	Eyes on the Ice by Anna Rosner Groundwood Books, ©2024 <i>ISBN 9781773067377 (pbk)</i>	How to Kidnap a Mermaid: The Quest of Tiny Wilde by Andy Tolson Nimbus Publishing, ©2024 <i>ISBN 9781774713099 (pbk)</i>	Iggy Included by Deborah Kerbel Scholastic Canada Ltd., ©2024 <i>ISBN 9781443197069 (pbk)</i>	Lost at Windy River: A True Story of Survival by Trina Rathgeber, illustrated by Alina Pete, coloured by Jillian Dolan. Orca Book Publishers, ©2024 <i>ISBN 9781459832268 (pbk)</i>
Arden just wanted a normal pet, but living in a cramped apartment means she's unhappily pet-free. Then her Uncle Eli asks her to look after Ludwig, his African Grey Parrot. As Arden grapples with Science Bowl tryouts and bullying, she discovers an amazing secret about Ludwig. Little does she know that Ludwig may be the answer to her problems.	Lukas loves playing hockey. But it's 1963 in Czechoslovakia, where the secret police are always watching for signs of disloyalty like reading a NHL magazine or speaking out against the state. When his father is arrested, Lukas must decide what loyalty really means. Is hockey really "just a game," when cheating could save the people you love? Inspired by true events.	Tiny Wilde is not a hero. He's a short, young giant with no super strength because all Mythics lost their magic years ago. So when mermaid, Nalia, recruits him for a mission to revive the long-lost magic, Tiny agrees, to prove he's a hero. When his father is captured by villains, completing the quest becomes a matter of life or death.	For Paige and her family, winning a huge country house was going to change their lives, but things aren't exactly as advertised. Iggy's Manor is falling apart. Her summer of fun turns into work and Paige soon discovers that the dilapidated property comes with a very BIG secret...or two.	In 1944, thirteen-year-old Ilse gets lost in a fierce snowstorm while checking her family's trapline in northern Canada. Separated from her sled dogs, and without food or supplies, Ilse finds herself alone in the unforgiving barrens and must rely on her Indigenous knowledge if she hopes to survive.
Picture a Girl by Jenny Manzer Orca Book Publishers, ©2024 <i>ISBN 9781459836662 (pbk)</i>	Plague Thieves by Caroline Fernandez DCB Young Readers, ©2024 <i>ISBN 9781770867321 (pbk)</i>	Slugfest by Gordon Korman Scholastic Canada Ltd., ©2024 <i>ISBN 9781039711785 (pbk)</i>	Stopping the Shots by Lorna Schultz Nicholson Scholastic Canada Ltd., ©2024 <i>ISBN 9781039701199 (pbk)</i>	We the Sea Turtles: A Collection of Island Stories by Michelle Kadarusman Pajama Press Inc., ©2023 <i>ISBN9781772782851 (hc)</i>
When eleven-year-old Addie wakes up one Monday, Mama has left. Again. Now Addie has to hide Mama's absence, scrape together meals and look after her little brother, Billy. Then Addie spots a poster for a local surfing competition with a big cash prize. It's enough to keep her family afloat. All she has to do is win it.	"Steal. Trade. Survive." That's what Rose and Lem's father tells them before he dies of the plague. Orphaned and homeless in 1665 London, all they have left is their wits and three bottles of Thieves Oil - created by their father to protect people from the sickness. When Lem disappears, Rose is left to fend for herself in a world filled with danger.	Yash is the best middle school athlete - so good that he's playing on the high school's sports teams. So, he is shocked to learn that experience has kept him from earning a credit for eighth-grade PE. He must take a PE summer class, known as "Slugfest". However, the "slugs" uncover a scandal that could jeopardize everyone's chances of graduating.	Mike, aka Tree, lives in his younger brother Eric's shadow. Eric, a hockey phenom, plays on a top team, while Mike is a goalie on a lower team. But Mike's been working hard and is finally getting noticed - and Eric's not happy about it. When family money troubles arise, threatening Mike's hockey opportunities, he risks his reputation to keep playing.	On islands around the world, nine children face life-changing moments: escaping a flood; embracing their identity; dealing with eco-anxiety. And although each child couldn't be more different, one thing connects them all: a turtle swam into each of their lives at a critical moment and left them changed.

Shining Willow Finalists (Young - Gr. 3)

Do Hippos Brush Their Teeth?: How Animals Care for Their Bodies by Etta Kaner, illustrated by Jenna Piechota. Owlkids Books, ©2024 <i>ISBN 9781771474931 (hc)</i>	I, Too, Am Here by Morgan Christie, Illustrated by Marley Berot Second Story Press, © 2024 <i>ISBN 9781772603873 (hc)</i>	Into the Goblin Market by Vikki VanSickle, illustrated by Jensine Eckwall. Tundra Books, ©2024 <i>ISBN 9780735268562 (hc)</i>	Let's Go! / haw êkwa! by Julie Flett Greystone Kids, ©2024 <i>ISBN 9781771646109 (hc)</i>	Otis & Peanut by Naseem Hrab, illustrated by Kelly Collier. Owlkids Books, ©2023 <i>ISBN 9781771474962 (hc)</i>
Just like humans, animals have unique routines to take care of themselves. This nonfiction picture book presents silly scenarios for 13 different animals practicing self-care that will have kids laughing and learning the amazing ways animals work to survive, ways that are sometimes quite familiar.	The street a young girl lives on is made up of families from all over the world. While her own story begins here in this country, she is still sometimes made to feel she does not belong. Her family's stories and voices, however, help her believe that she is home. A story inspired by Langston Hughes' poem, "I, Too."	Millie loves her quiet life on the farm, but her sister Mina longs for adventure. When the Goblin Market comes to town, Millie knows it's a bad idea, but Mina just can't resist. When Mina doesn't come back, it's Millie's turn to brave the market to bring her home. A tribute to Christian Rossetti's poem "Goblin Market" and fairy-tale villains.	Every day, a little boy watches kids pass by on skateboards and dreams of joining them. One day, his mother brings a surprise: her old skateboard, just for him! Together, they practice everywhere. But when it comes time to try the skatepark, can he find the confidence to join the other skateboarders?	A long-haired guinea pig and a naked mole rat may seem like unlikely friends, but Otis and Peanut are a perfect pair. In three stories told in graphic-novel form, these two endearing characters explore themes of loss, fear of change, and cooperation, while demonstrating what it means to be a supportive and caring friend.
The Pie Reports by Hayley Lowe Orca Book Publishers, ©2024 <i>ISBN 9781459838079 (hc)</i>	Still My Tessa by Sylv Chiang, illustrated by Mathias Ball. North Winds Press, ©2024 <i>ISBN 9781443196239 (hc)</i>	The Three Little Mittens by Linda Bailey, illustrated by Natalia Shaloshvili. Tundra Books, ©2023 <i>ISBN 9781774880111 (hc)</i>	The Weedflower by Elizabeth Davaze, illustrated by Marianne Ferrer Owlkids Books, ©2024 <i>ISBN 9781771475884 (hc)</i>	Zander Stays by Maureen Fergus, illustrated by Scot Ritchie. Pajama Press, ©2023 <i>ISBN 9781772782967 (hc)</i>
Noor and her Granddad love pie. Despite an ocean of distance between them, and Granddad's declining health, the pair connect through their shared passion for pastry by meeting for video chats. When one day Granddad doesn't log in, Noor decides to write down her pie reports, holding space for Granddad until he feels ready.	Evelyn is worried about Tessa. Tessa doesn't want to play the same games they used to play together, but Evelyn is determined to find new ways to connect with her older sibling. Evelyn is also learning to see Tessa as non-binary and using new pronouns for them. Evelyn learns quickly that it isn't hard and helps others see that too.	When Stripes the mitten loses their partner and becomes a single mitten, they are excluded by the matching pair Dotty and Other Dotty. Before long, however, Dotty loses her partner, and now she doesn't match and is excluded by the reunited pair of Stripes and Other Stripes. That is until one day the little girl who owns them asks, "Why do mittens have to match?"	One day, on the gray school playground, Sam notices something new. A little flower has sprouted between the concrete and rubber turf. Sam adores the tiny bud and watches it bloom into a bright yellow flower. Soon, the other students notice it too and under their care, the flower thrives. But when the adults take notice, they decide it has to go....	Zander the goose decides not to go south for the winter with the rest of his flock. Having to adapt to his new snowy environment, Zander asks for advice from forest animals. None of the other animals' adaptations seem right for Zander though and he is about to give up, until a little girl finds him and brings him home.

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