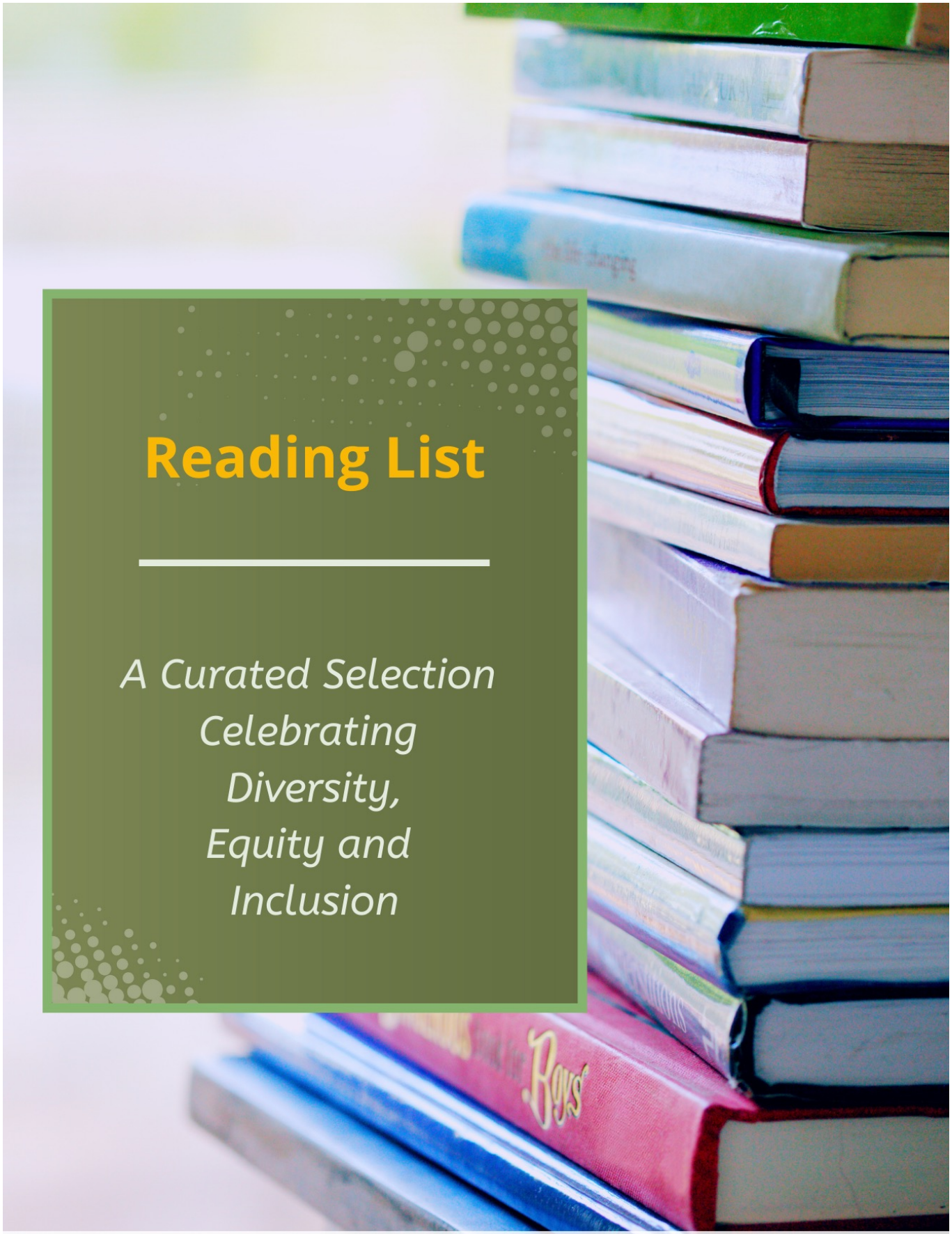
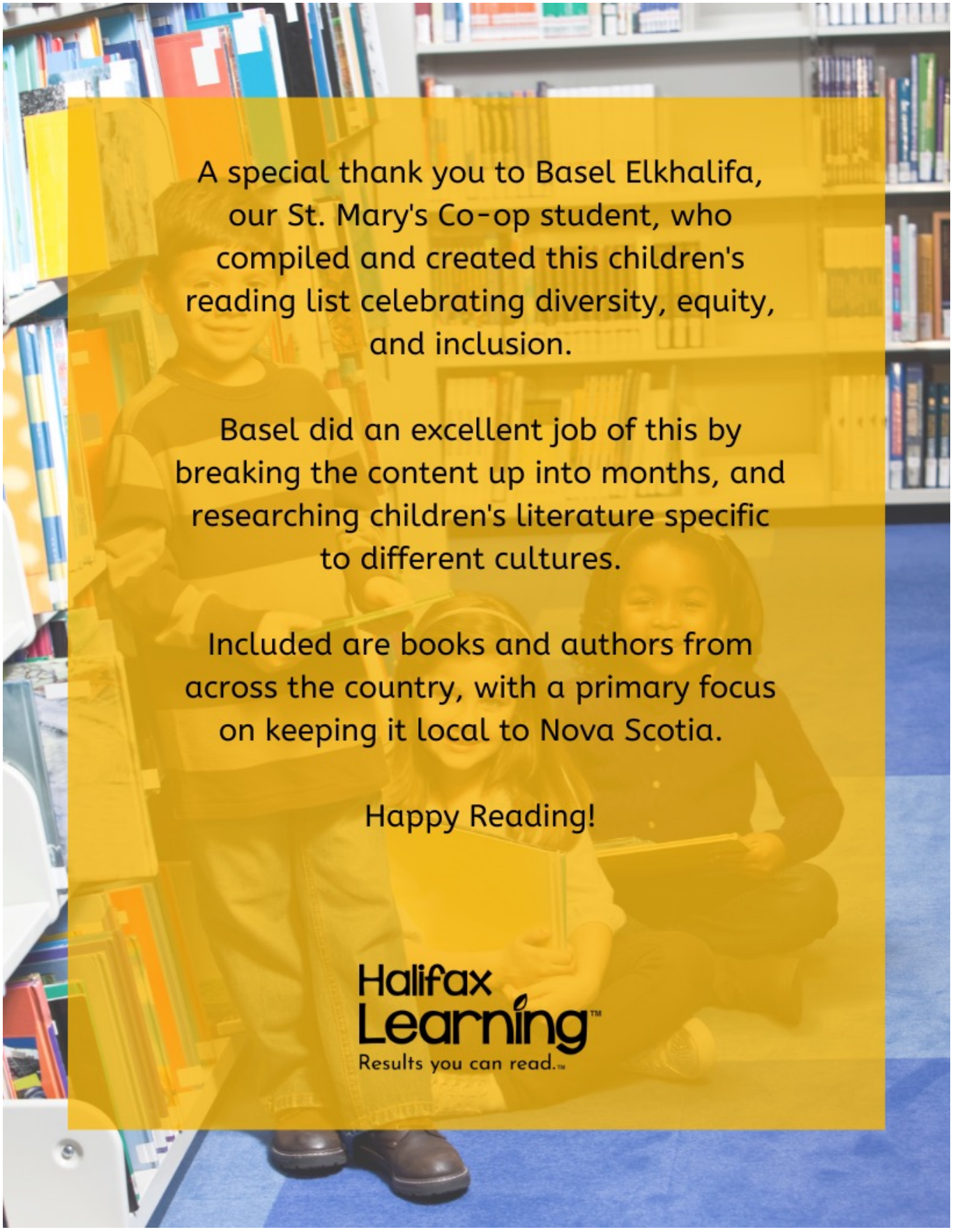


Reading List

A Curated Selection Celebrating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Halifax Learning™

Results you can read.™



A special thank you to Basel Elkhalifa, our St. Mary's Co-op student, who compiled and created this children's reading list celebrating diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Basel did an excellent job of this by breaking the content up into months, and researching children's literature specific to different cultures.

Included are books and authors from across the country, with a primary focus on keeping it local to Nova Scotia.

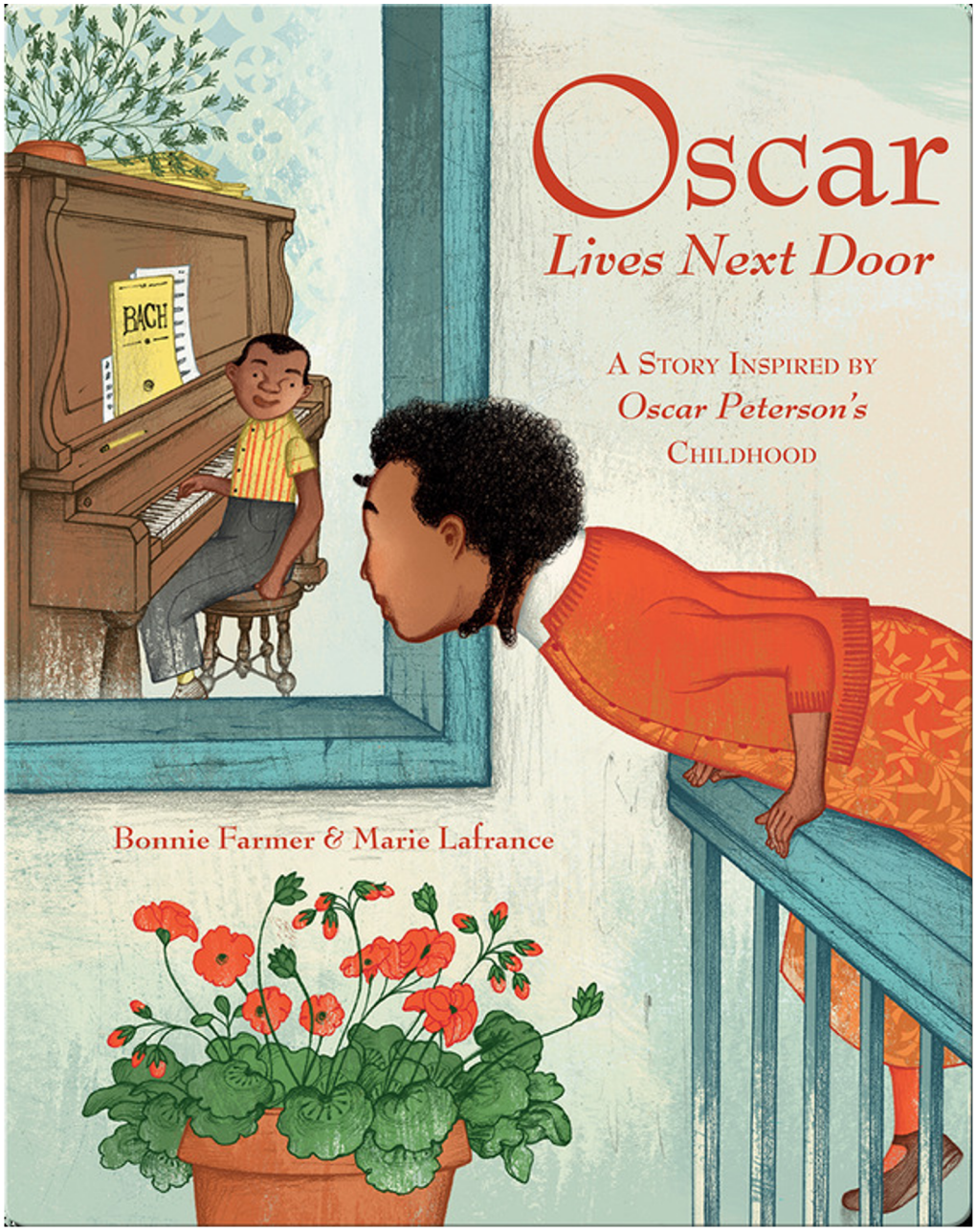
Happy Reading!

Halifax Learning™
Results you can read.™

Black History Month Books

Halifax Learning

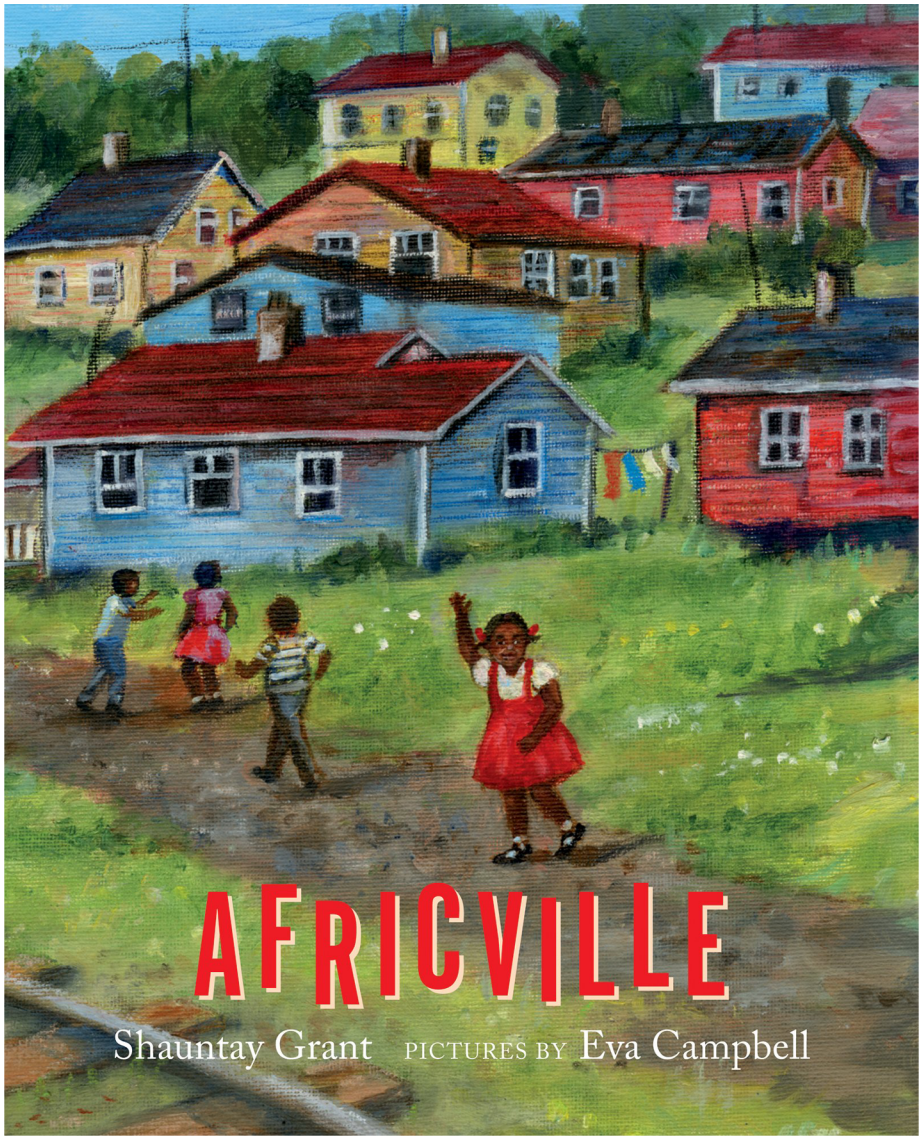
Results you can read.



Bonnie Farmer is an elementary school teacher, a children's book author, and a playwright living in Dorval, Quebec. One of her books, **'Oscar Lives Next Door'** is a fictional story inspired by Oscar Peterson, a Canadian jazz pianist.

If you'd like to purchase Oscar Lives Next Door, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

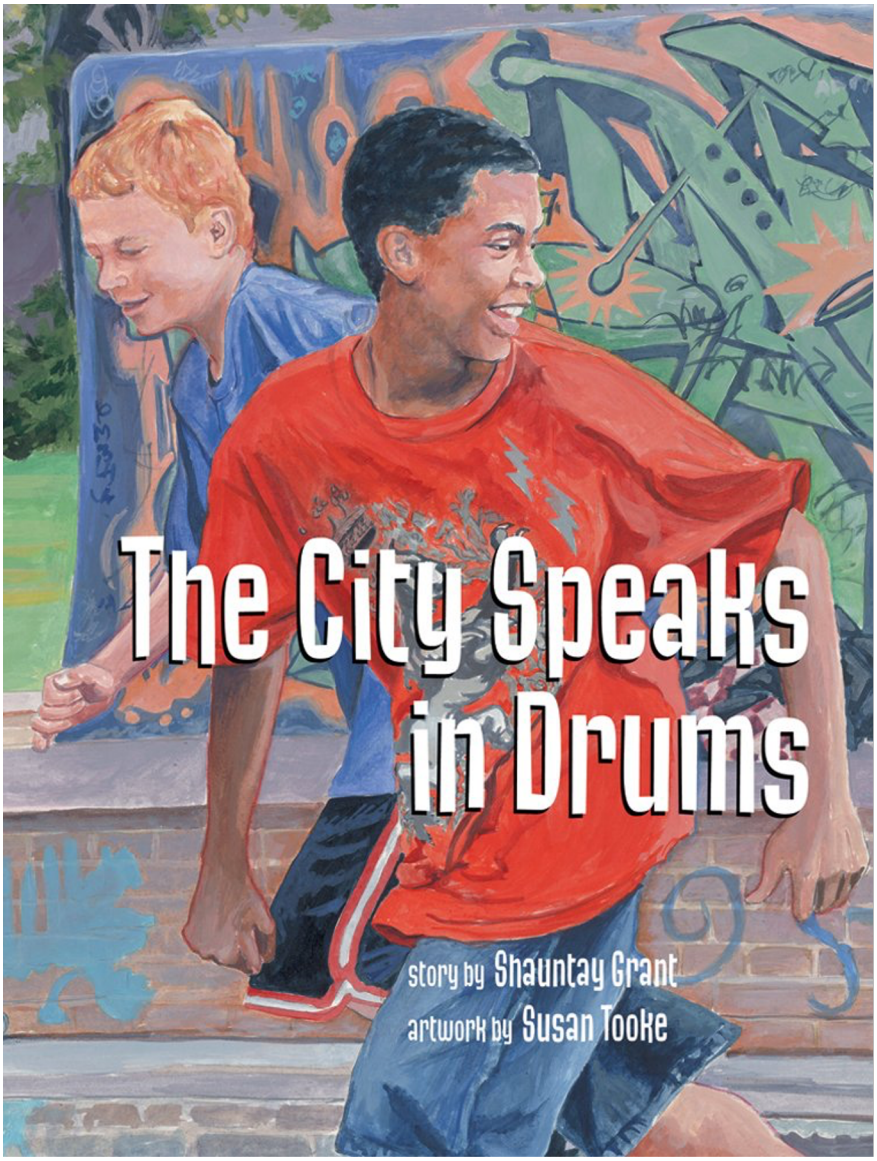


Shauntay Grant's socials:
Website Facebook Twitter Instagram

Shauntay Grant is a Canadian author, poet, playwright, and professor. Between 2009 and 2011, Shauntay served as the third poet laureate of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Her book, **'Africville'** is about a vibrant Black community in Nova Scotia that was home to many African Nova Scotians for more than 150 years. In the 1960s, Halifax city officials decided to demolish the community, moving people out in city dump trucks and relocating them to public housing.

If you'd like to purchase Africville, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

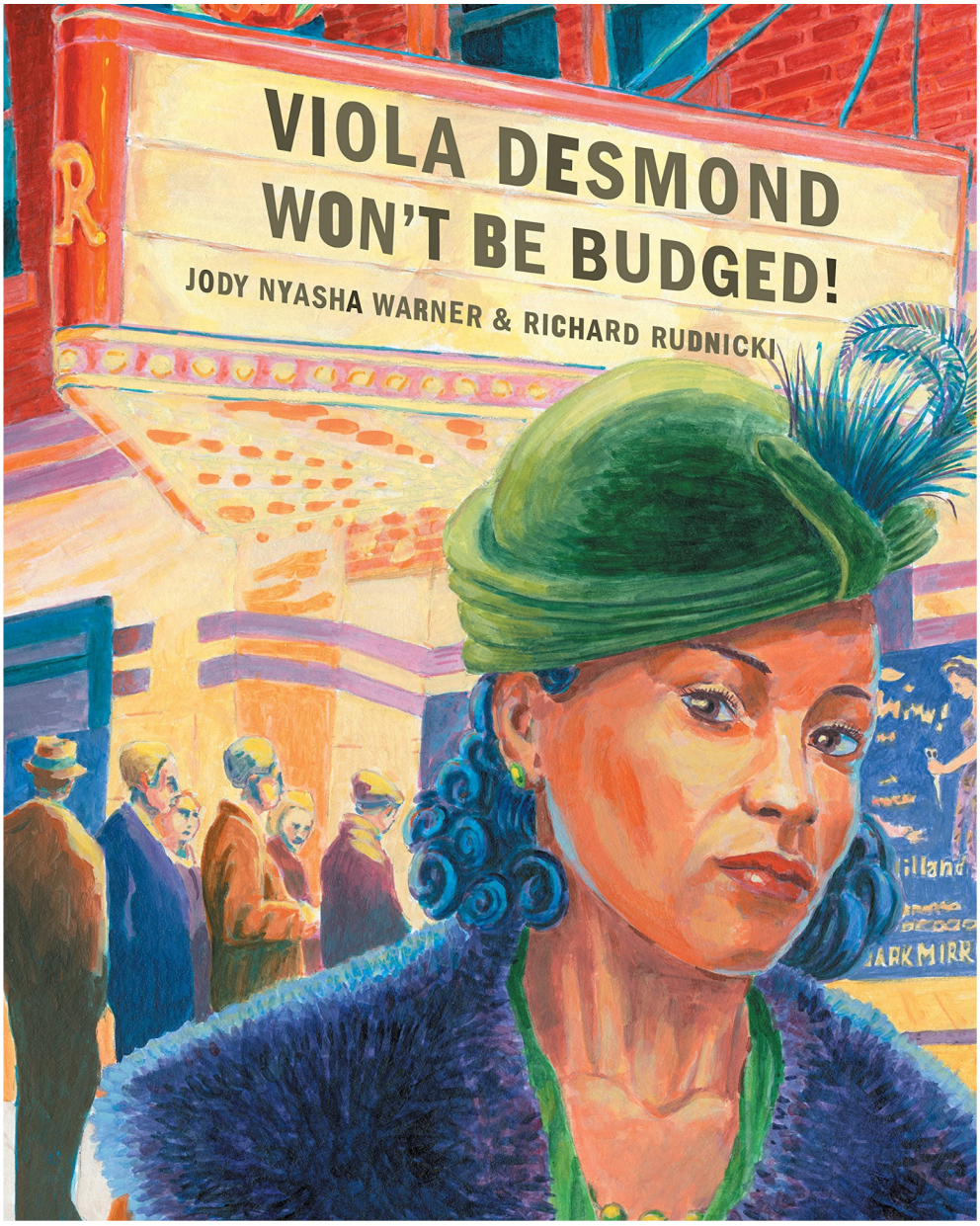


Shauntay Grant's socials:
Website Facebook Twitter Instagram

Shauntay Grant is a Canadian author, poet, playwright, and professor. Between 2009 and 2011, she served as the third poet laureate of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Her book, **'The City Speaks in Drums'** is about two boys from North End Halifax exploring their neighbourhood and the city and finding music everywhere.

If you'd like to purchase The City Speaks in Drums, you can find it at:

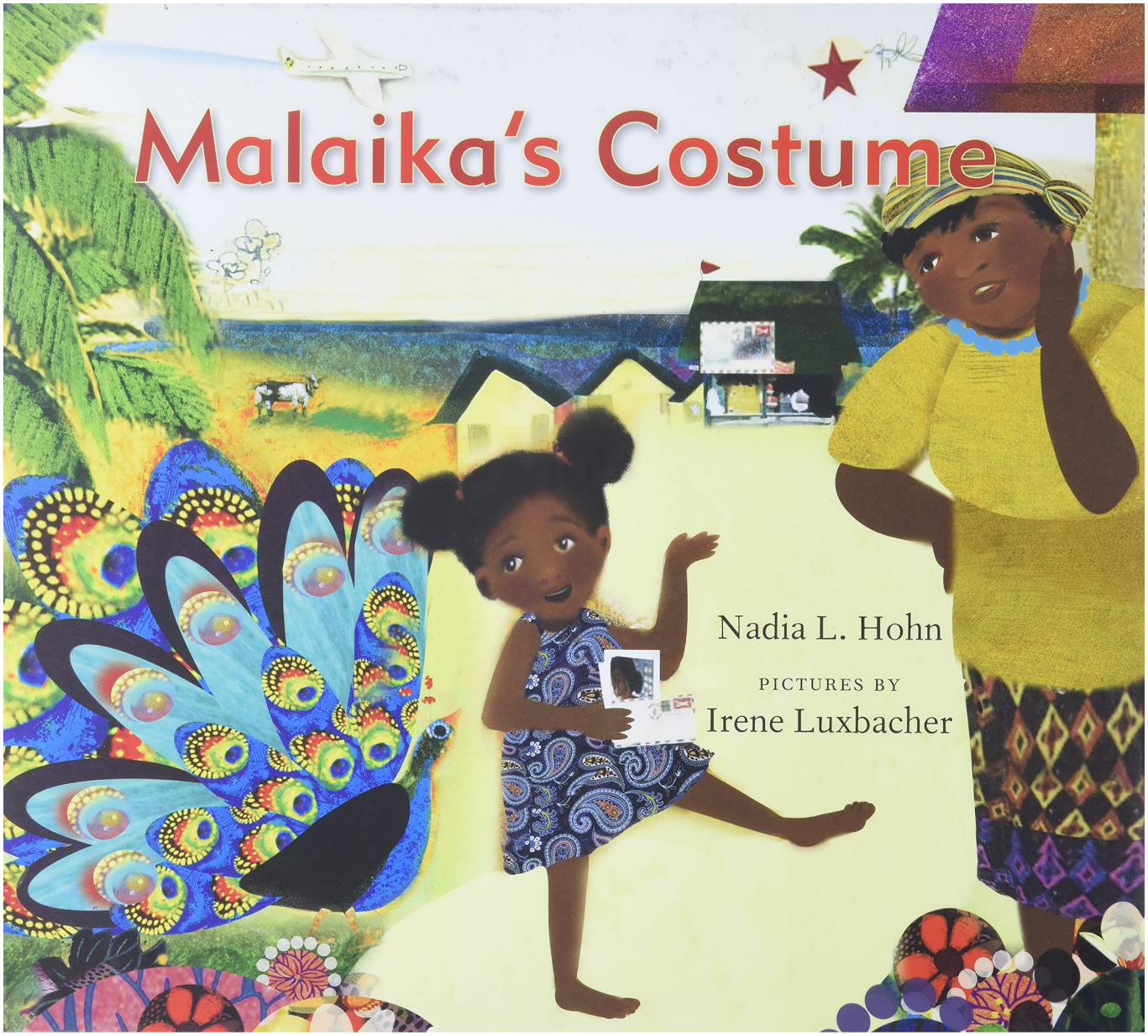
Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**



Jody Nyasha Warner is a writer, human rights advisor, and former librarian. She was inspired to write **'Viola Desmond Won't Be Budged'** because much of African Canadian history is either not well known or not documented. In Nova Scotia, in 1946, an usher in a movie theatre told Viola Desmond, an African Nova Scotian woman to move from her main floor seat up to the balcony. She refused to budge. Viola knew she was being asked to move because she was black.

If you'd like to purchase **Viola Desmond Won't Be Budged!**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**



Nadia L. Hohn's socials:
Website Facebook Twitter Instagram

Nadia L. Hohn is a Canadian educator and children's book author. She has earned critical acclaim for her books for young readers. Her book, **'Malaika's Costume'**, is about a young girl hoping to have a costume and dance in the Carnival parade.

If you'd like to purchase **Malaika's Costume**, you can find it at:

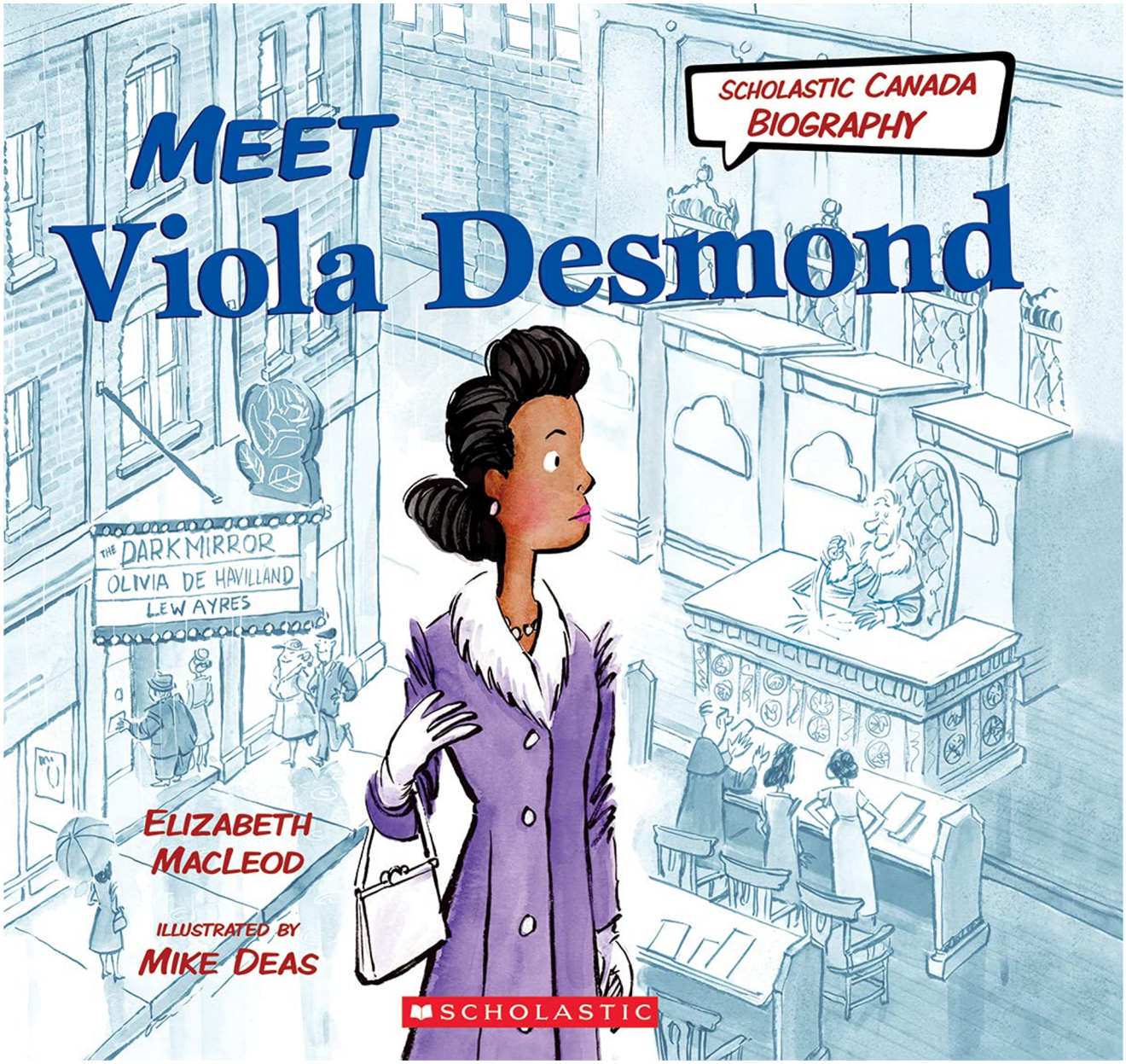
Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

Nadia L. Hohn's socials:
Website Facebook Twitter Instagram

Nadia L. Hohn is a Canadian educator and children's book author. She has earned critical acclaim for her books for young readers. She also wrote **'Malaika's Winter Carnival'**, where Malaika is happy to be reunited with her mother, but it means moving to Canada, where everything is different. It's cold in Québec City, no one understands when she talks and Carnival is nothing like the celebration Malaika knows from home!

If you'd like to purchase **Malaika's Winter Carnival**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**



Elizabeth Macleod is a Canadian author who writes biographies for elementary students, such as **'Meet Viola Desmond', 'Meet Tom Longboat', and 'Meet Terry Fox'. 'Meet Viola Desmond'** is about the night of November 8th, 1946, when Viola Desmond stood up for her right to be in the "unofficial" whites-only section of a New Glasgow movie theatre and was arrested for it.

If you'd like to purchase **Meet Viola Desmond**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

Guyleigh Johnson's socials:
Website Facebook Twitter Instagram

Guyleigh Johnson is an African Nova Scotian woman from North-End Dartmouth. **'Expect The Unexpected'** is a collection of poetry that follows inner-city youth and the challenges they face and overcome.

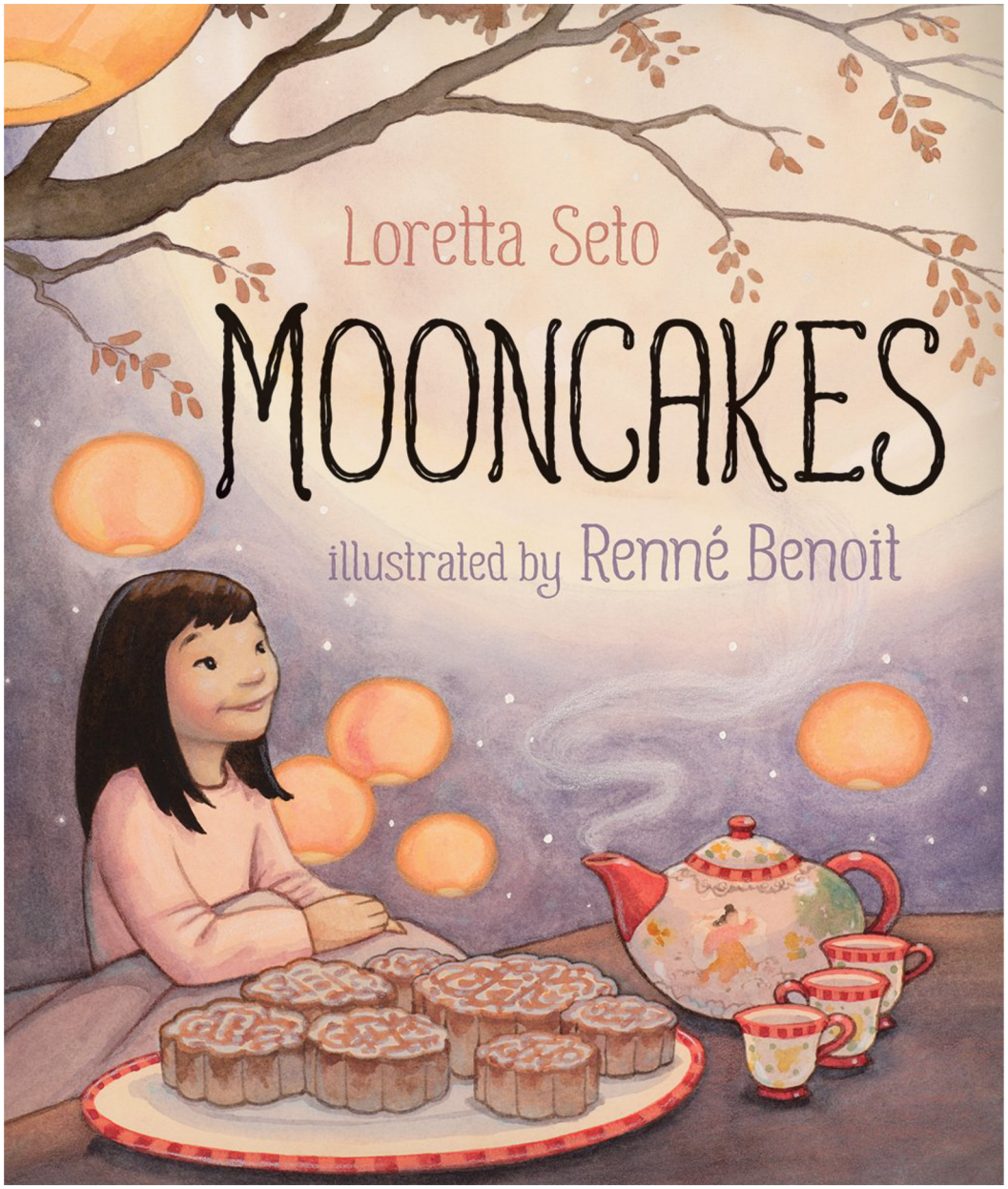
If you'd like to purchase **Expect the Unexpected**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

Asian Heritage Month Books

Halifax Learning

Results you can read.

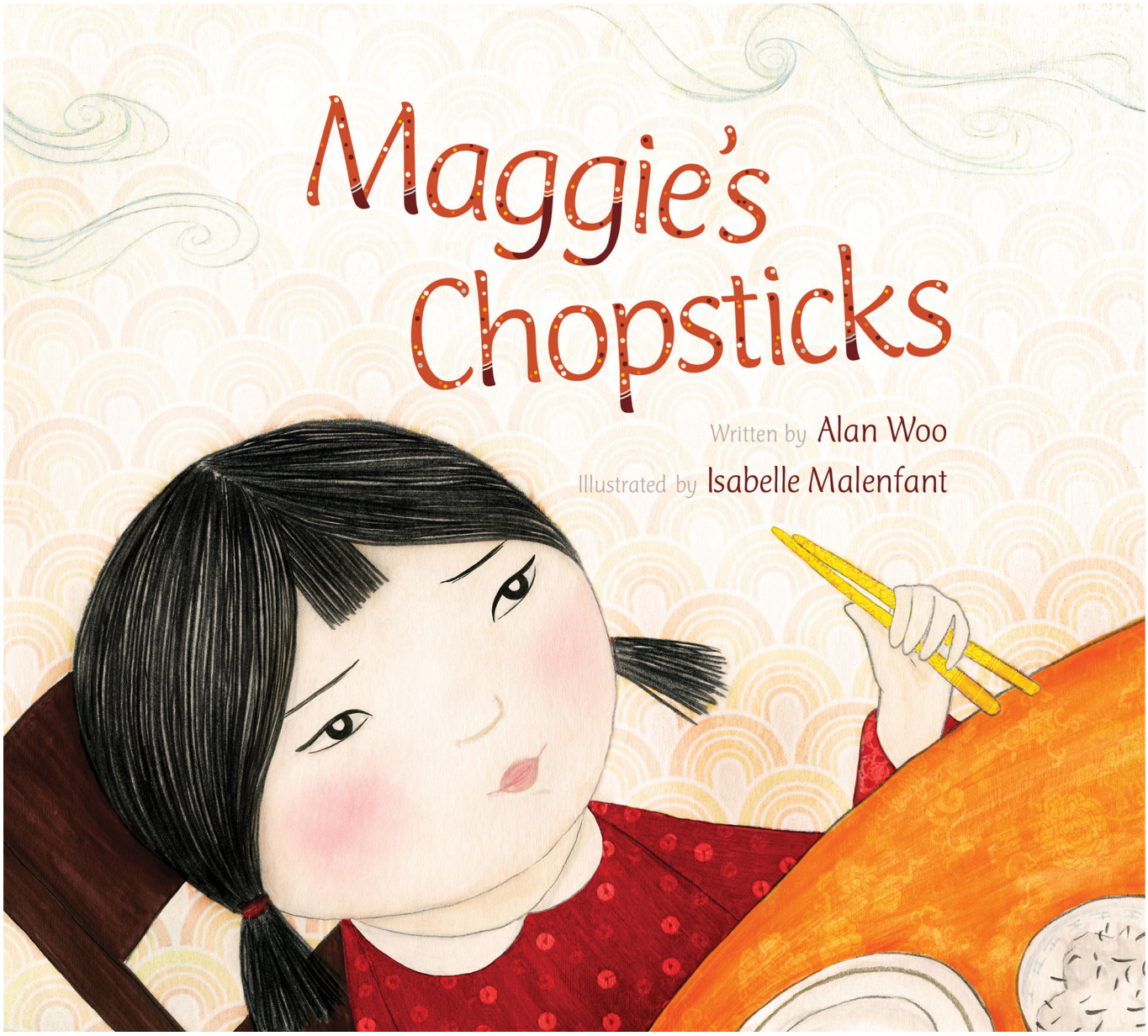


Loretta Seto's socials:
Website

Mooncakes is the lyrical story of a young girl who shares the special celebration of the Chinese Moon Festival with her parents.

If you'd like to purchase **Mooncakes**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

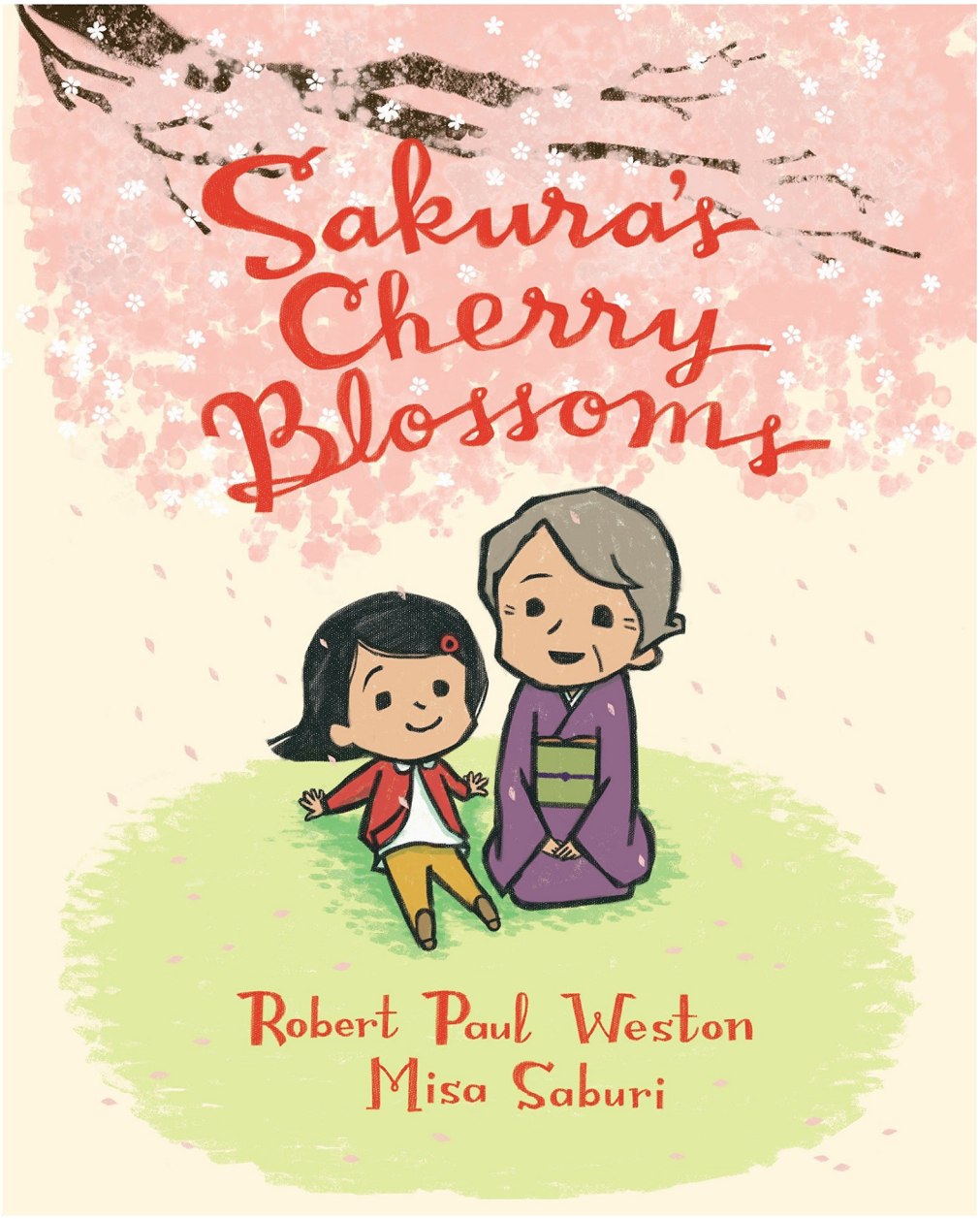


Alan Woo's socials:
Website Facebook

Poor **Maggie** struggles to master her **chopsticks** — it seems nearly everyone around the dinner table has something to say about the "right" way to hold them! But when Father reminds her not to worry about everyone else, Maggie finally gets a grip on an important lesson.

If you'd like to purchase **Maggie's Chopsticks**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark**

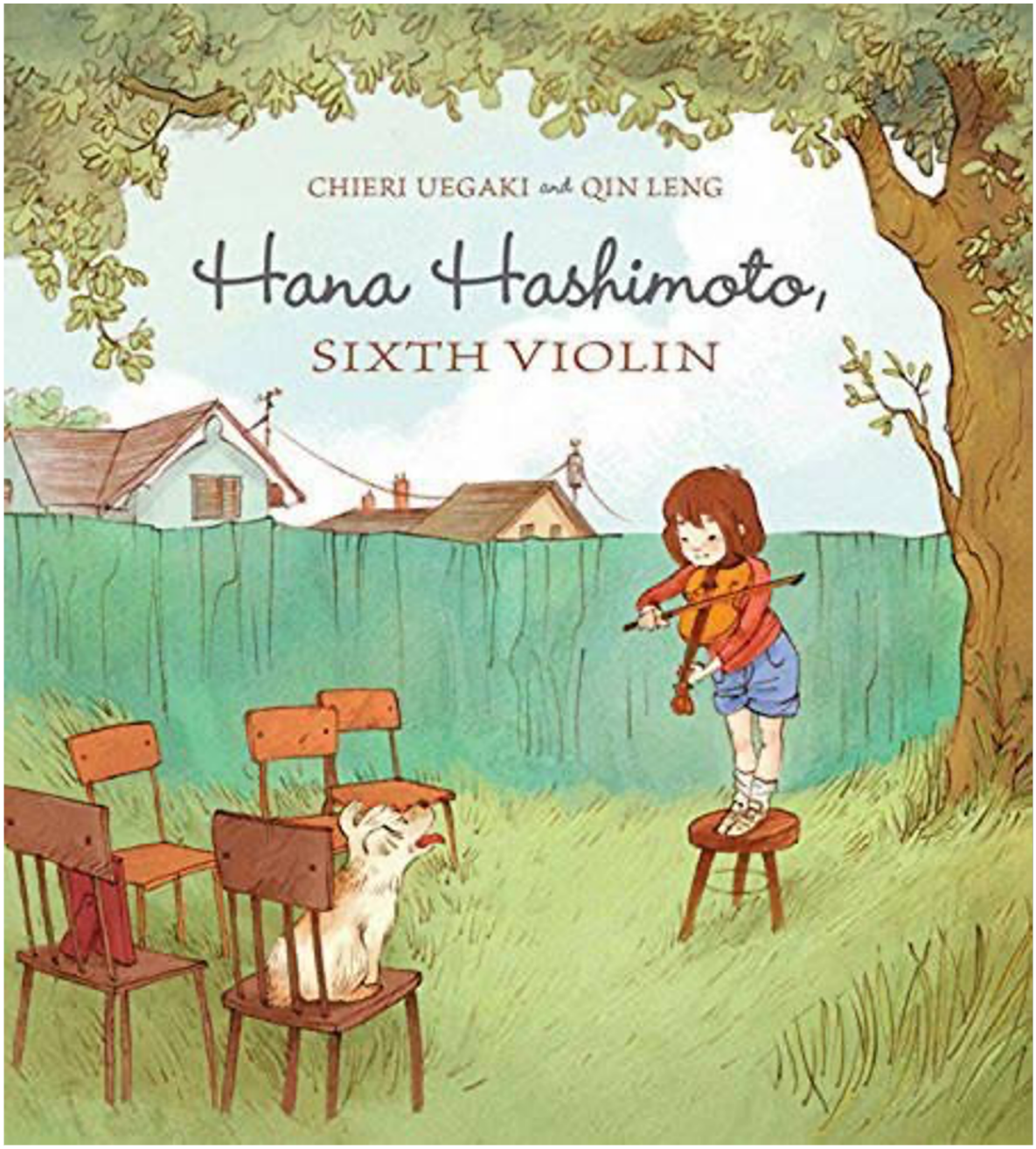


Robert Paul Weston's socials:
Website Twitter Instagram

'Sakura's Cherry Blossoms' is about a warm, gorgeous exploration of a little girl's experience immigrating to a new country and missing her home and her grandmother, who still lives far away.

If you'd like to purchase **Sakura's Cherry Blossoms**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**



In **‘Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin’,** Hana has signed up to play her violin at her school's talent show. The trouble is, she's only a beginner, and she's had only three lessons. But she’s determined to play her best and surprises everyone when she performs, including herself!

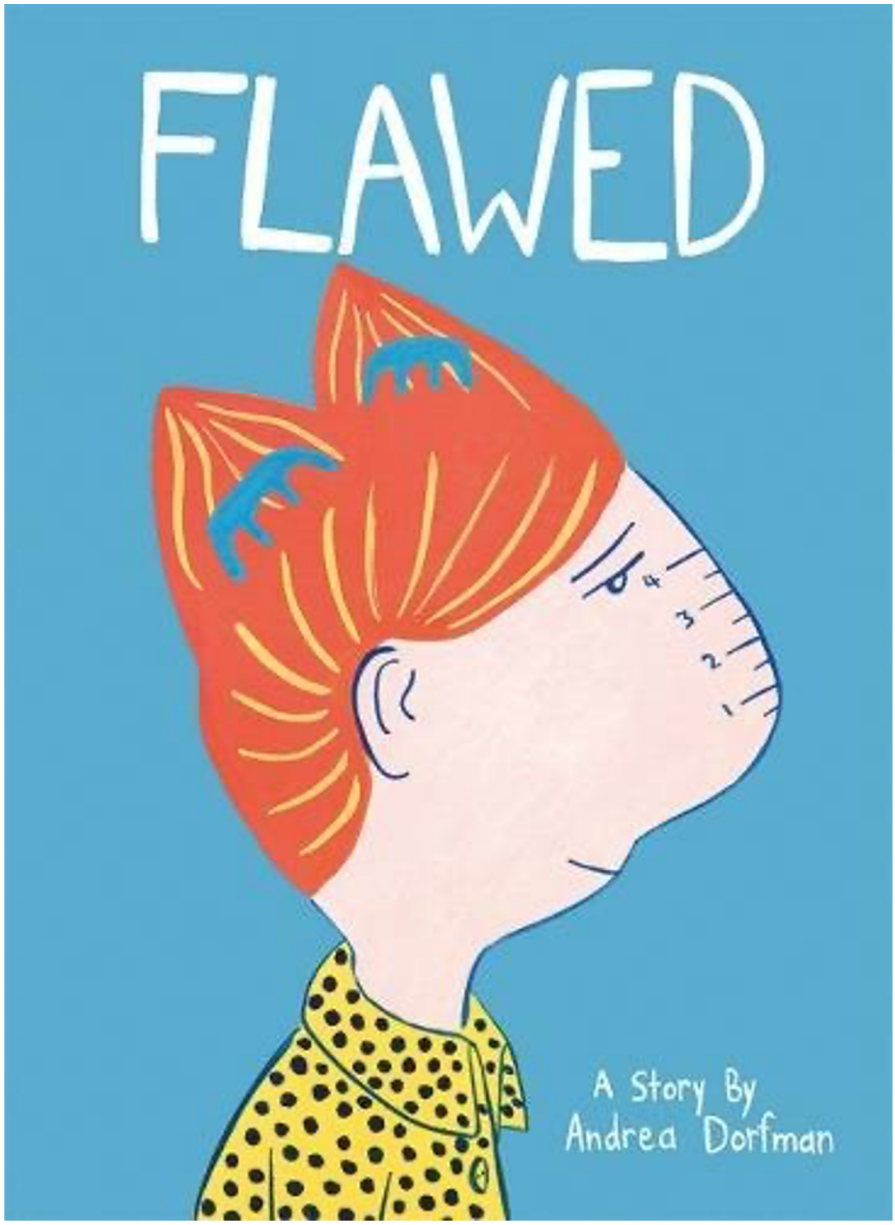
If you’d like to purchase **Viola Desmond Won’t Be Budged!**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

Jewish Heritage Month Books

Halifax Learning

Results you can read.

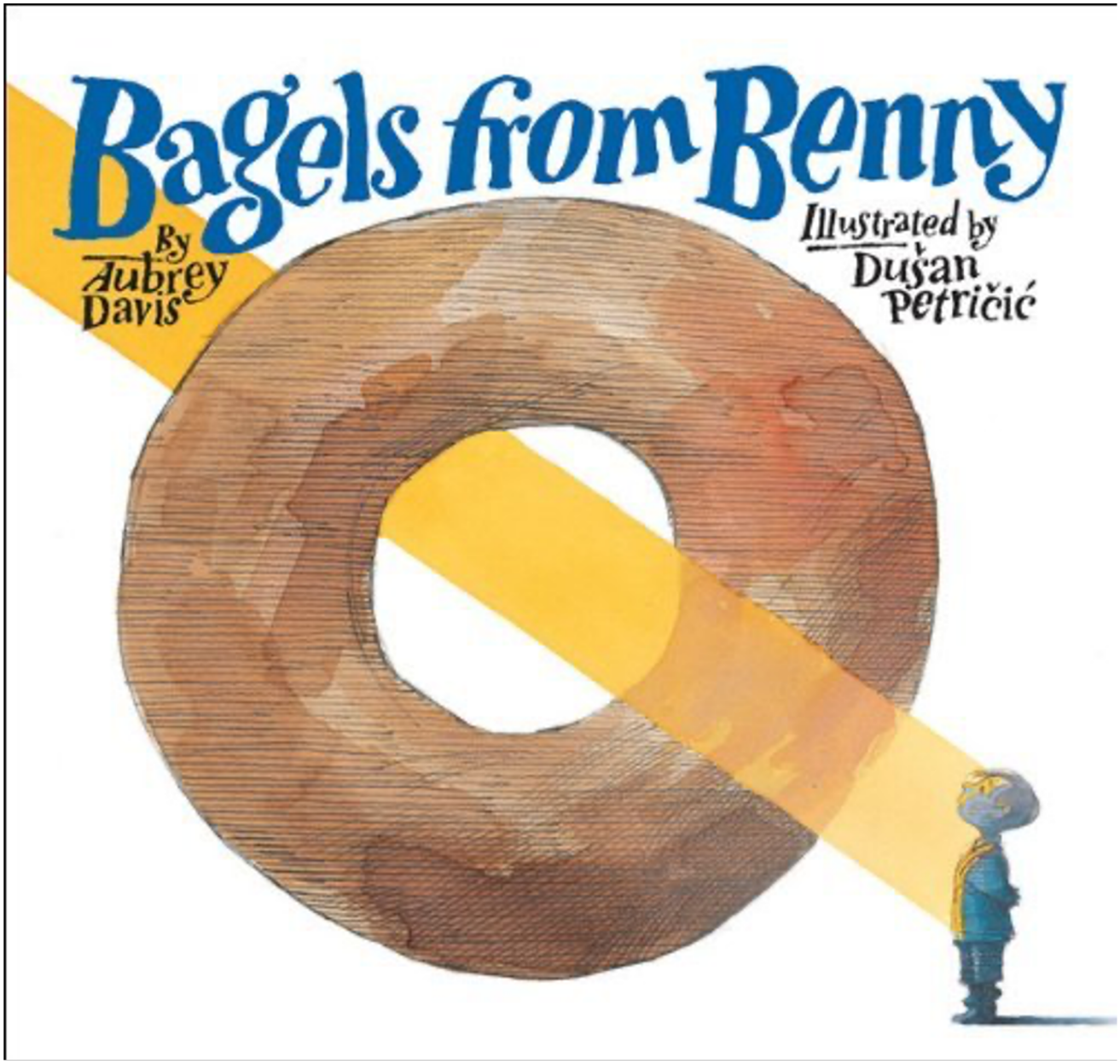


Andrea Dorfman's socials:
Website Instagram

In **'Flawed',** Andrea falls head over heels for Dave, "the nicest guy in the world." But she is conflicted about her feelings for her new love. He's a plastic surgeon; she hates plastic surgery and its power to make people feel flawed.

If you'd like to purchase **Flawed**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

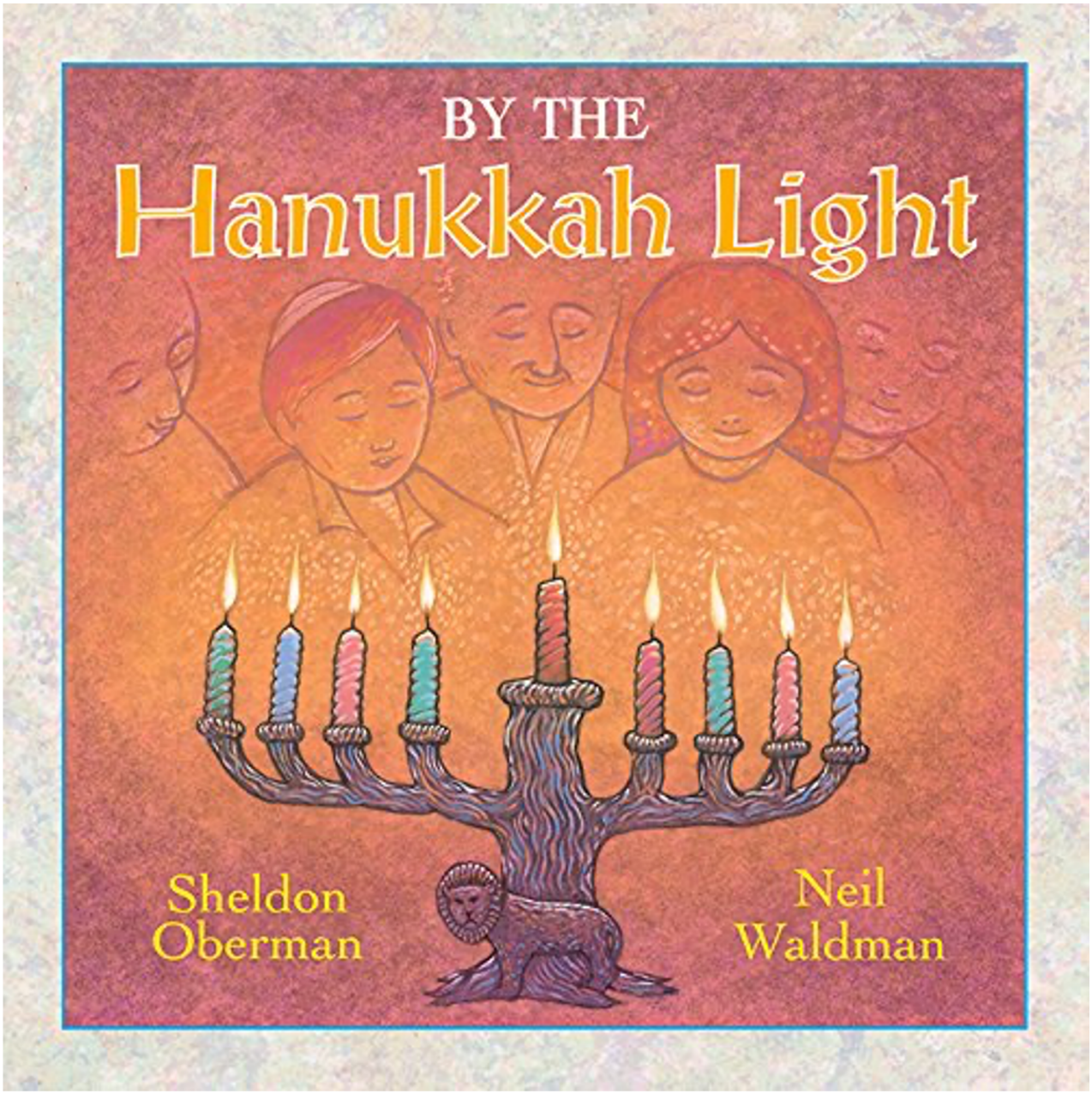


Aubrey Davis's socials:
Website Facebook Twitter Instagram

In **'Bagels from Benny',** Benny loves to help out at his grandpa's bakery and the customers love the crusty bagels with their soft insides. When Grandpa explains to Benny that God, not him, should be thanked for the wonderful bagels

If you'd like to purchase **Bagels from Benny**, you can find it at:

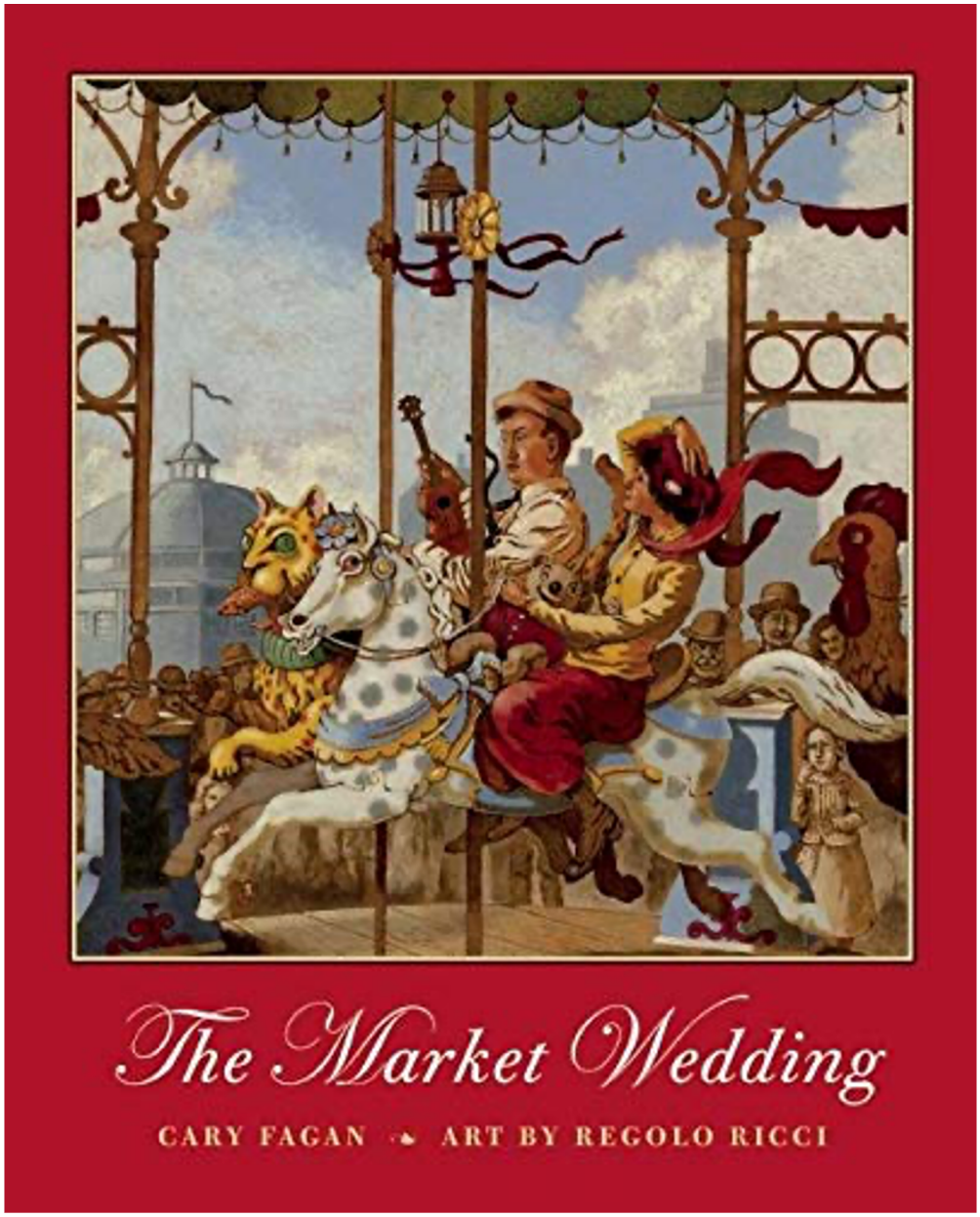
Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**



When Grandpa was a boy growing up in Europe, he celebrated Hanukkah in much the way children do today. He sang songs, played dreidel, and ate potato pancakes. Yet Hanukkah was very different. His family could not share the joy of Hanukkah with the world.

If you'd like to purchase **By the Hanukkah Light**, you can find it at:

Amazon



Cary Fagan's socials:
Website

In **'The Market Wedding',** Morris, the fishmonger, and Minnie, the hat seller, fall in love, and Morris comes up with a wedding plan designed to deliver the very best for his beloved bride-to-be… with unexpected consequences.

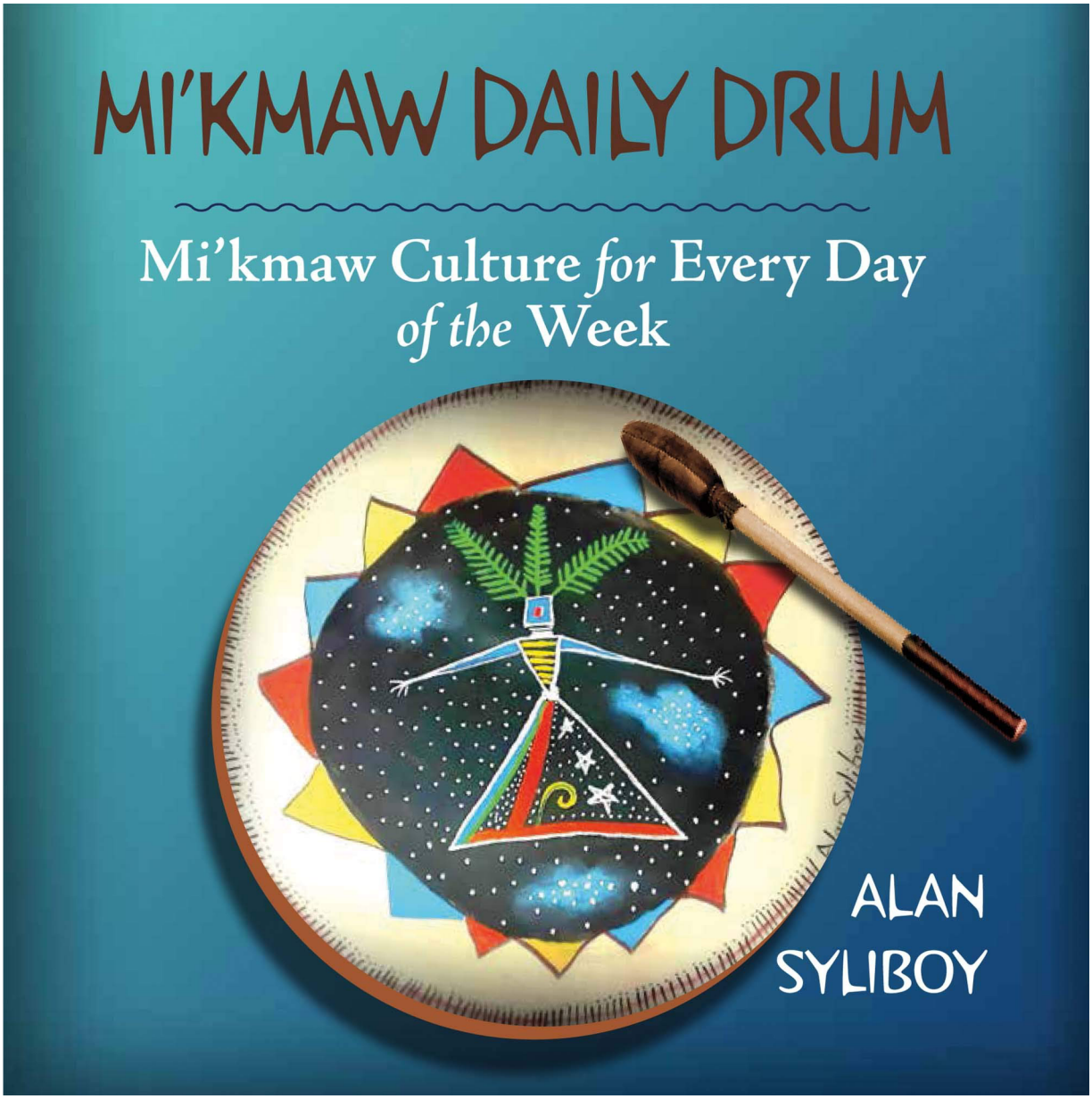
If you'd like to purchase **The Market Wedding**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

National Indigenous Month Books

Halifax Learning

Results you can read.

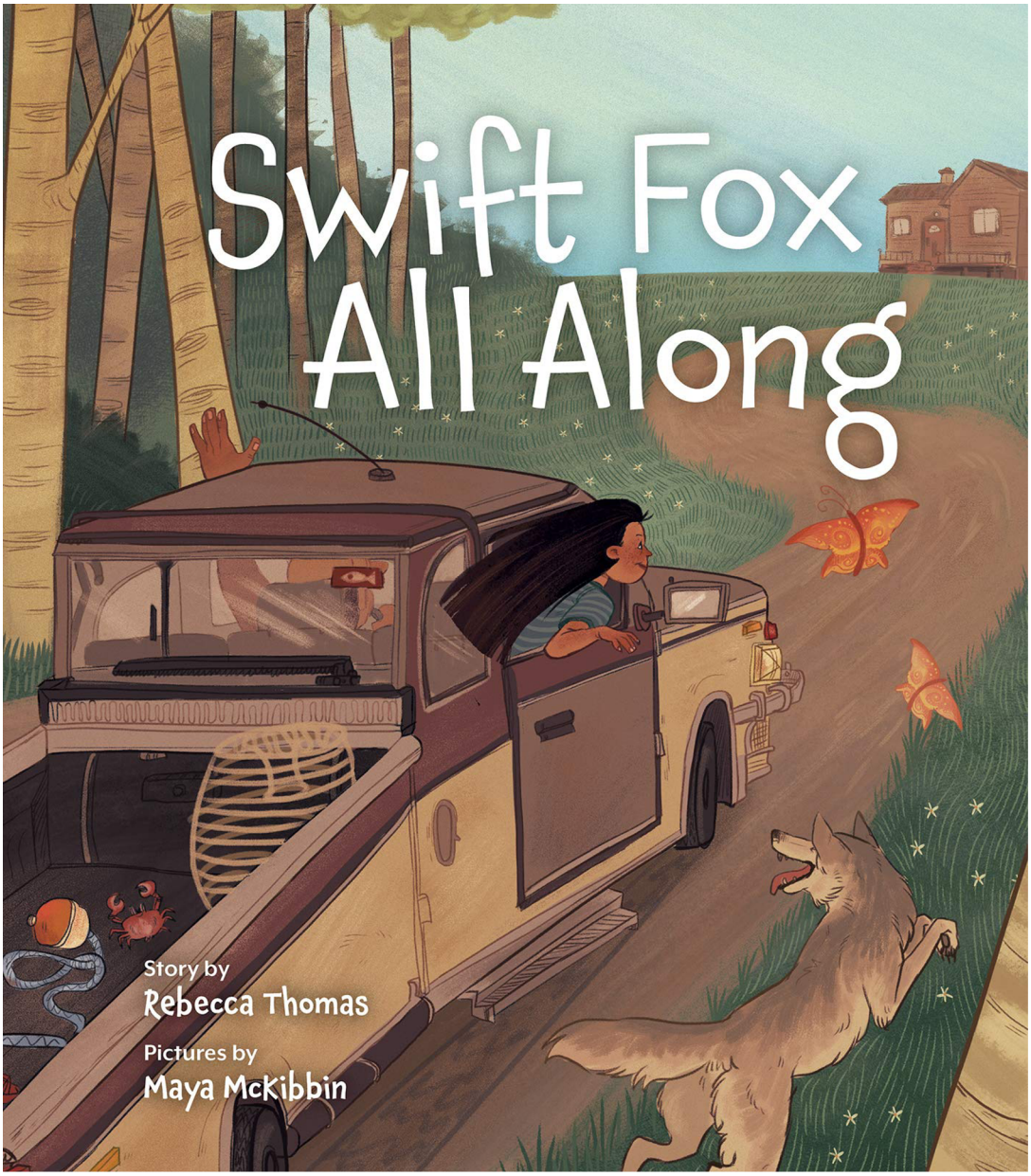


Alan Syliboy's socials:
Website Facebook Twitter

From celebrated artist **Alan Syliboy**, this vital book for the youngest readers showcases seven of Syliboy's popular **Daily Drum** artworks, each paired with a different day of the week. From Spirit Woman to Caribou to Round Dance, Mi'kmaw culture and teachings are offered up to newborns and toddlers in a vibrant and accessible book.

If you'd like to purchase **Mi'kmaw Daily Drum**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

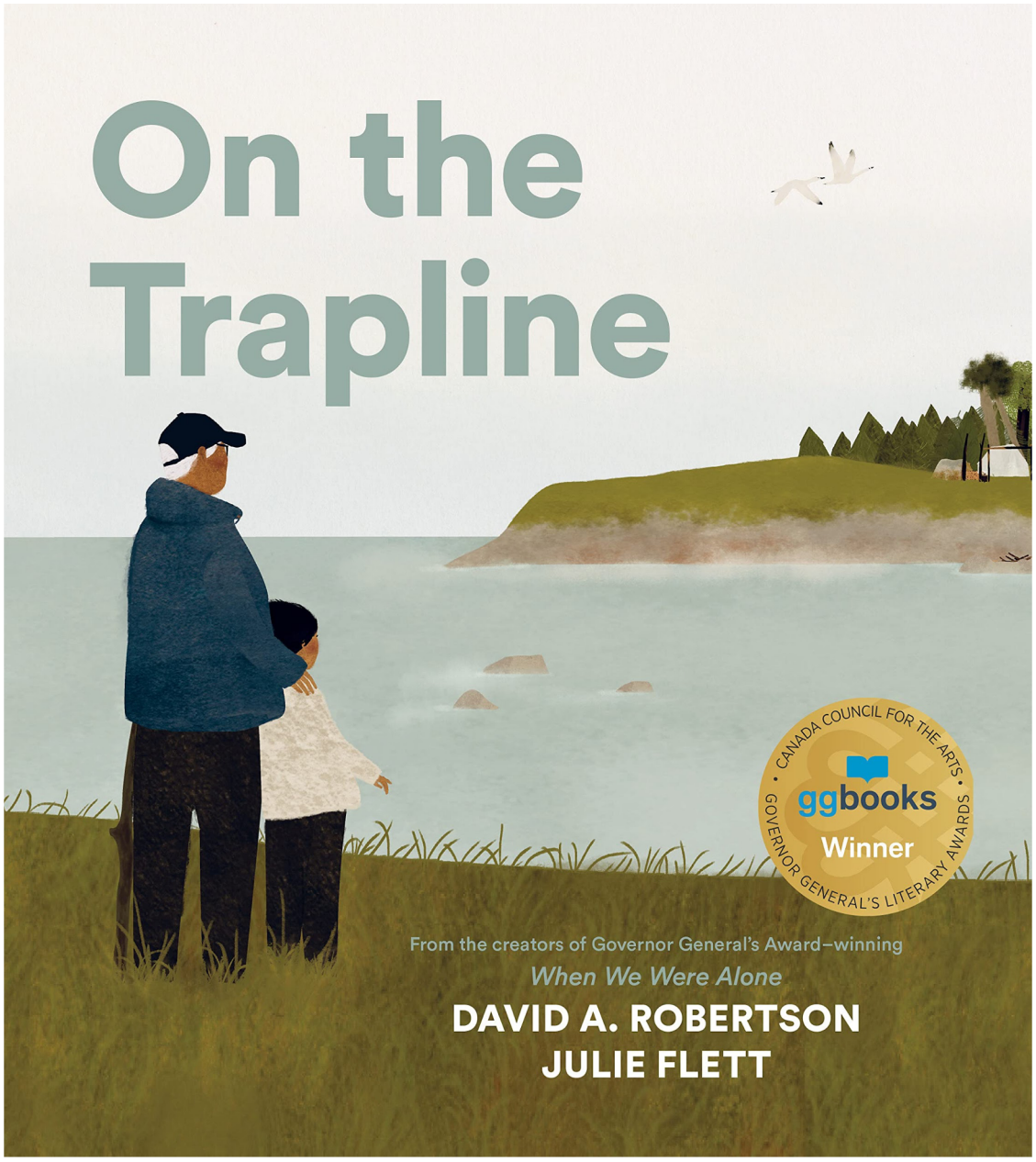


Rebecca Thomas's socials:
Twitter

When **Swift Fox'**s father picks her up to go visit her aunties, uncles, and cousins, her belly is already full of butterflies. And when he tells her that today is the day that she'll learn how to be Mi'kmaq, the butterflies grow even bigger. Though her father reassures her that Mi'kmaq is who she is from her eyes to her toes, Swift Fox doesn't understand what that means.

If you'd like to purchase **Swift Fox All Along**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

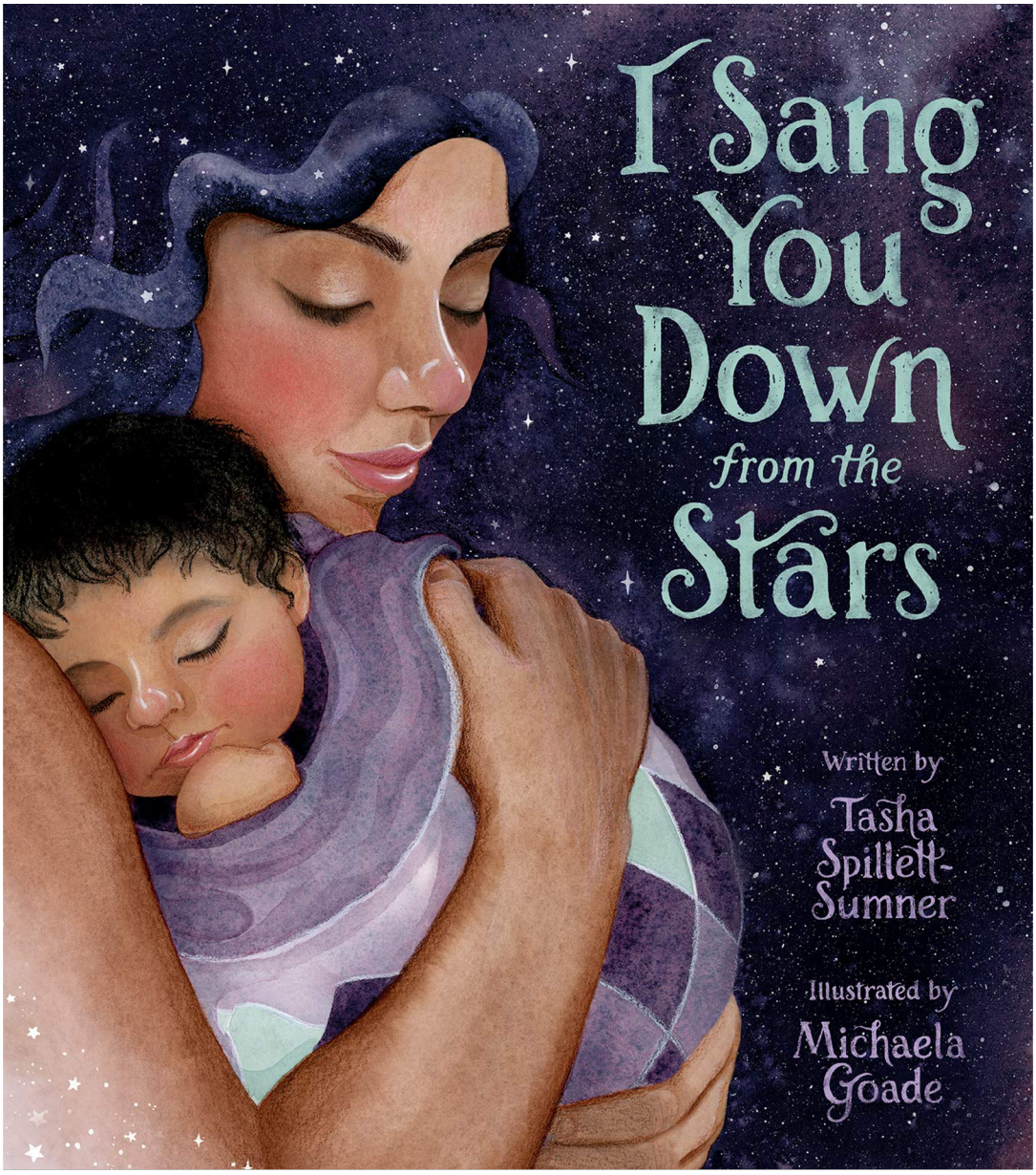


David A. Robertson's socials:
Website Twitter Instagram

'On the trapline' is a heartfelt story about memory, imagination and intergenerational connection that perfectly captures the experience of a young child's wonder as he is introduced to places and stories that hold meaning for his family.

If you'd like to purchase **On The Trapline**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**



Tasha Spillett-Summer's socials:
Website Facebook Twitter Instagram

In **'I Sang You Down from the Stars',** the narrator gathers gifts for a medicine bundle in anticipation of her baby's birth; a fluffy white eagle plume, bunches of cedar and sage, a quilted star blanket, and a small stone from the river. When the baby arrives, the mother shares the bundle with her child and reveals the importance of each item inside.

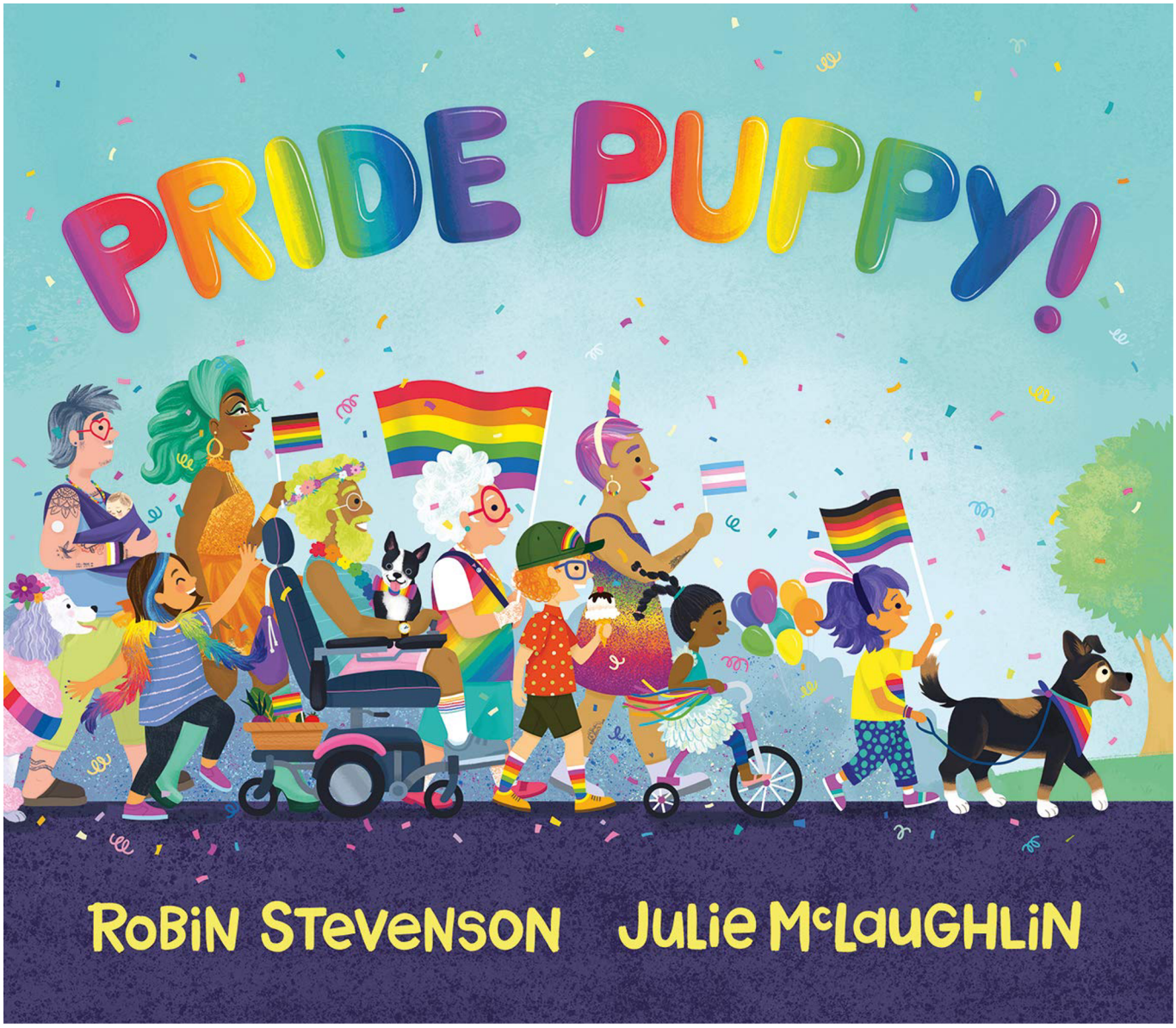
If you'd like to purchase **I Sang You Down from the Stars**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

Pride Month Books

Halifax Learning

Results you can read.

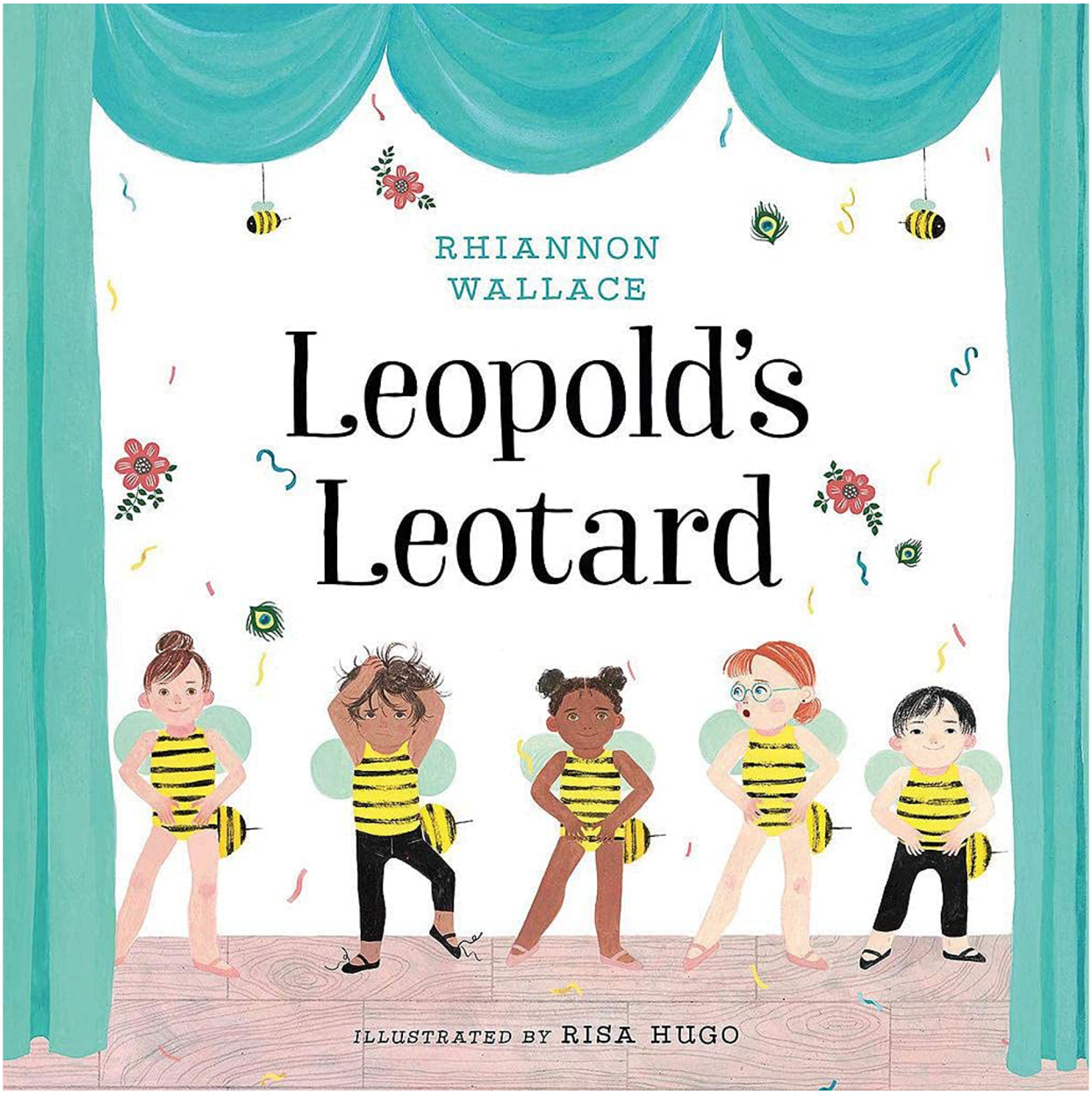


Robin Stevenson's socials:
Website Facebook Twitter Instagram

A young child and their family are having a wonderful time together celebrating Pride Day—meeting up with Grandma, making new friends and eating ice cream. But then something terrible happens: their dog gets lost in the parade! Luckily, there are lots of people around to help reunite the pup with his family.

If you'd like to purchase **Pride Puppy**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

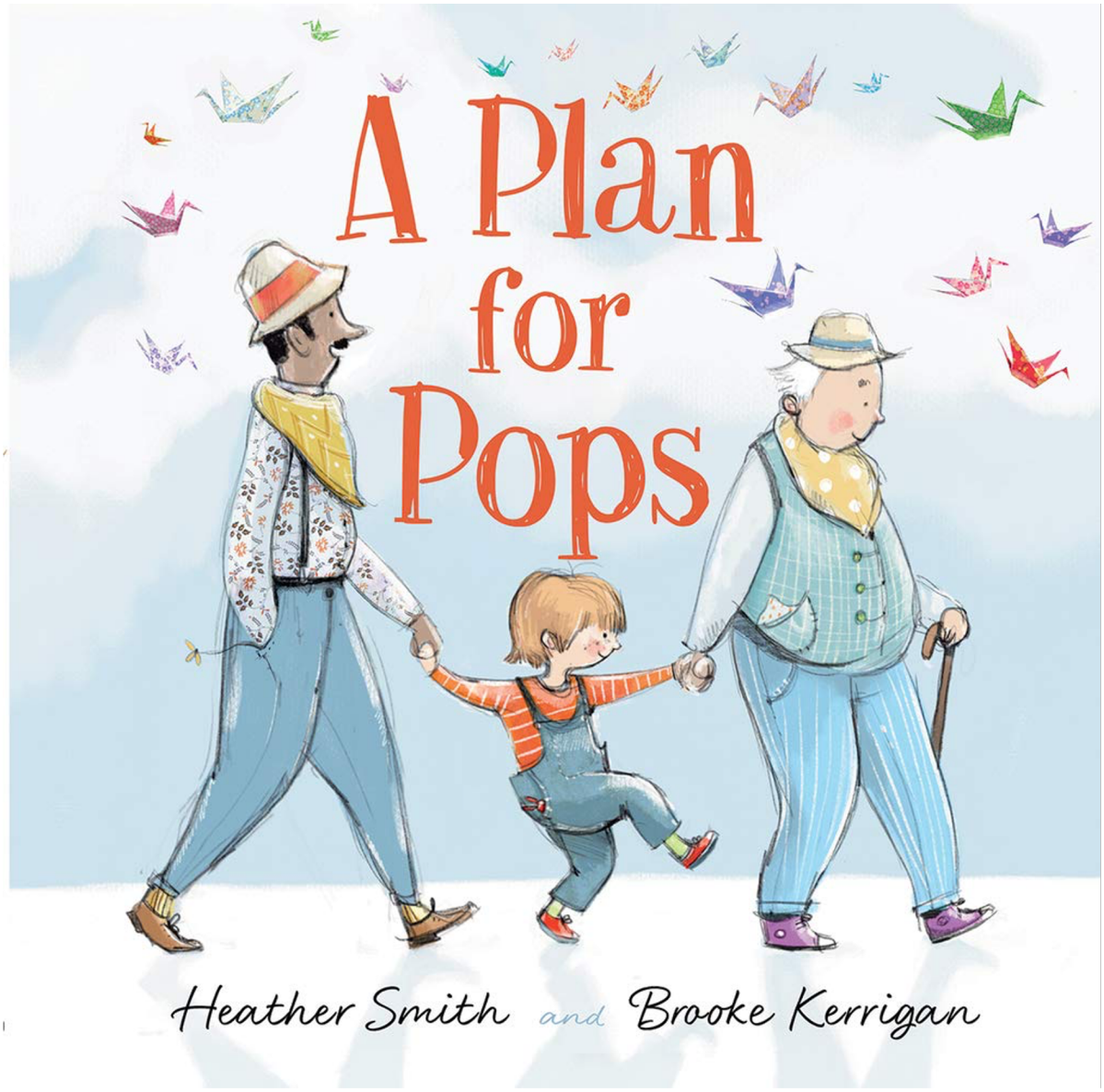


Rhiannon Wallace's socials:
Website Facebook Twitter

Leopold loves to dance. He dances everywhere he goes. When his dance teacher announces the year-end recital, Leopold hopes he will get to be a graceful bird. Alas, no such luck. Miss Linda says the dancers are going to be bees. But Leopold doesn't want to be a buzzing little bee. He wants to be tall and elegant like an ostrich!

If you'd like to purchase **Leopold's Leotard**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

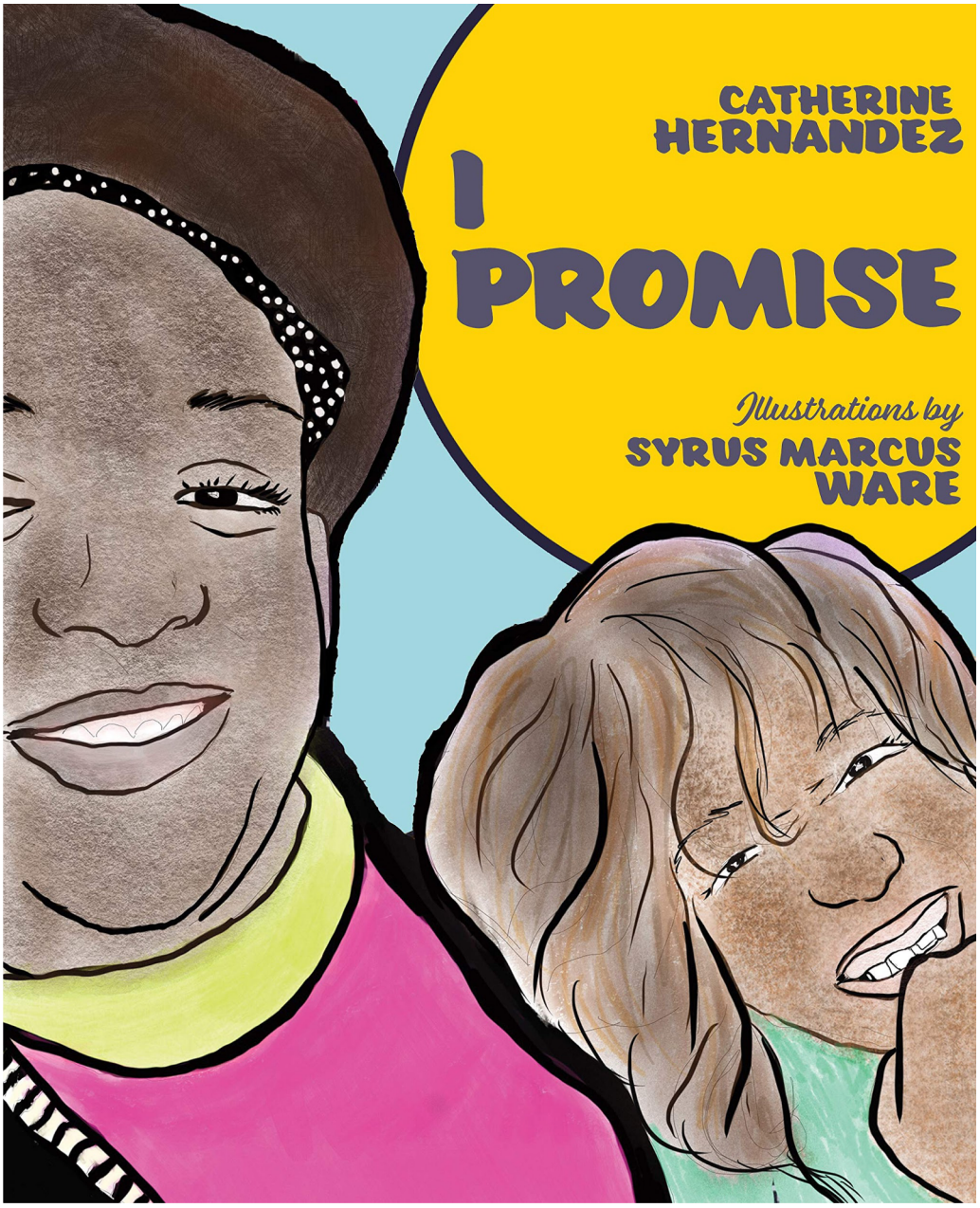


Heather Smith's socials:
Website Facebook Twitter

Pops will need to use a wheelchair, not just for now, but for always. Unable to cope with his new circumstances, he becomes withdrawn and shuts himself in his room. Hearing Grandad trying to cheer up Pops inspires Lou to make **a plan**. Using skills learned from Grandad, and with a little help from their neighbors, Lou comes up with a plan for Pops.

If you'd like to purchase **A Plan for Pops**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**



Catherine Hernandez's socials:
Website Facebook Twitter Instagram

I Promise captures with love and honesty the intimate moments of parenting in all their messy glory - from dealing with a kid who doesn't want to brush their teeth to looking under the bed for monsters to cuddling after a long day.

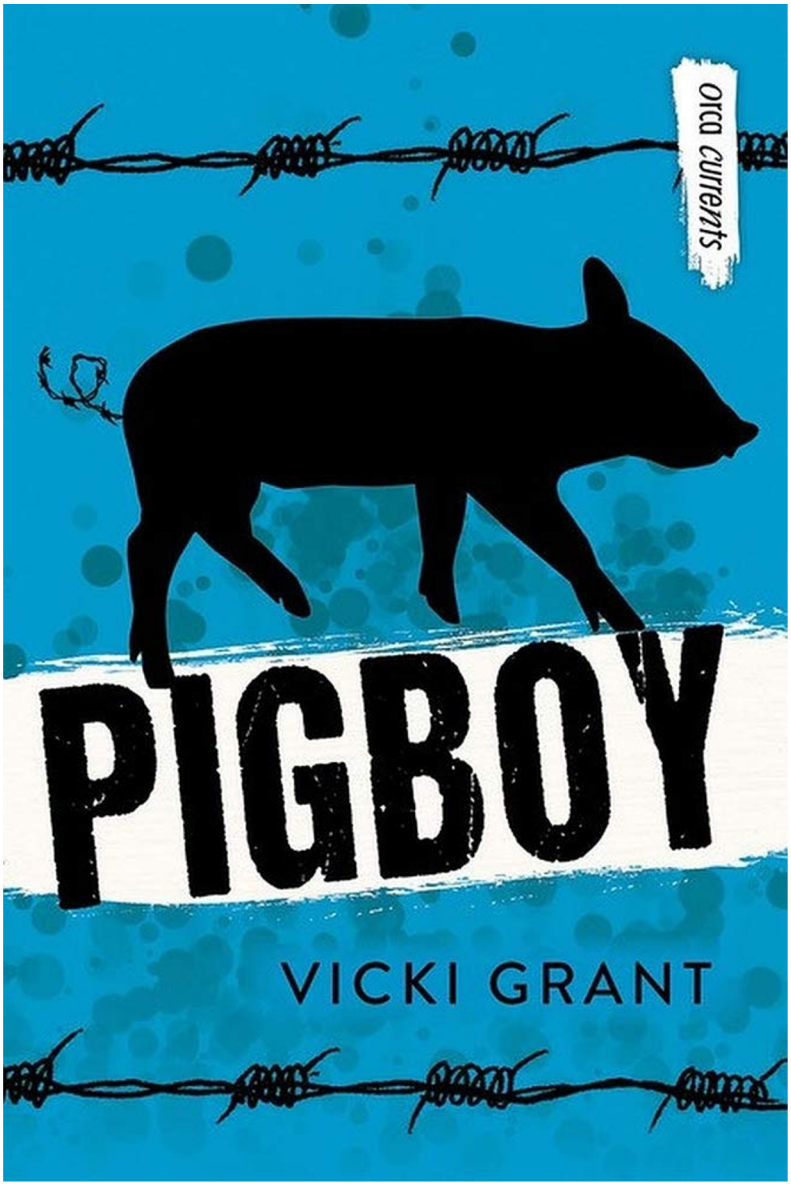
If you'd like to purchase **I Promise**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

Women's History Month Books

Halifax Learning

Results you can read.

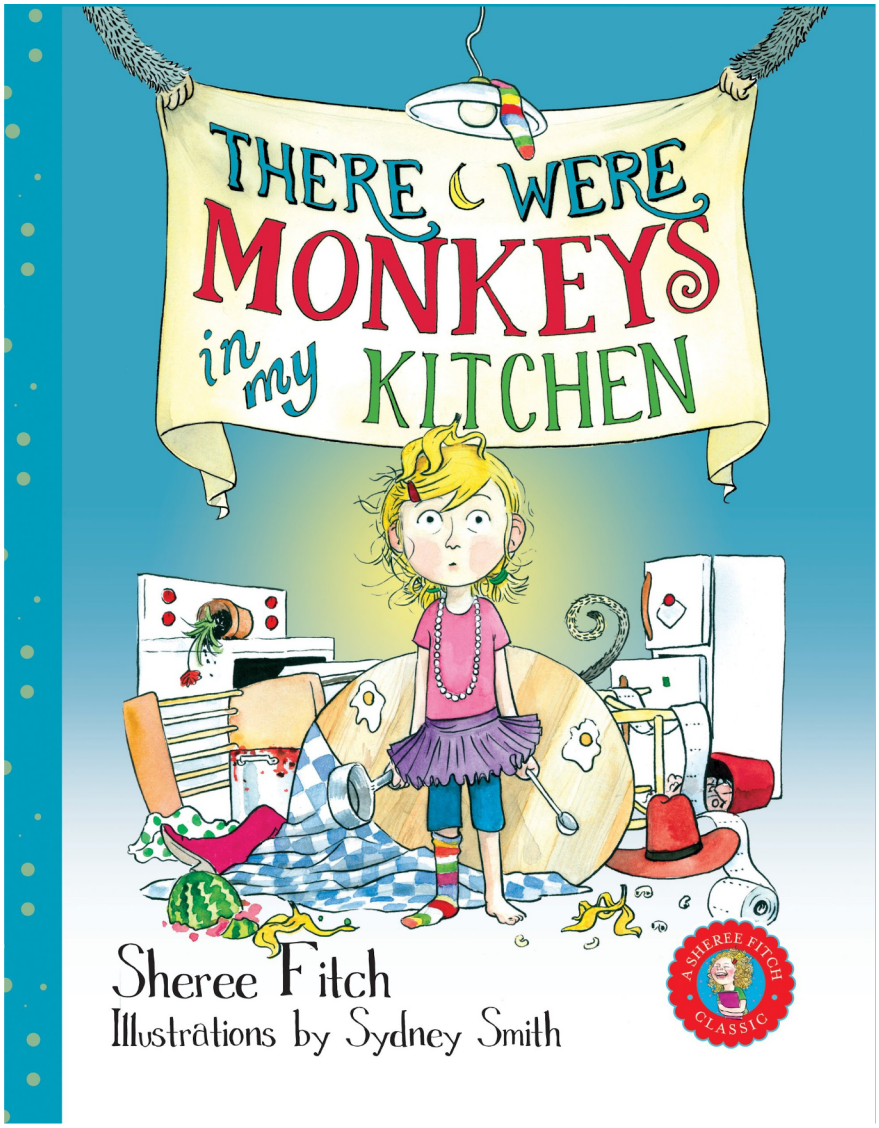


Vicki Grant's socials:
Website Facebook Twitter Instagram

How could a place with no running water, telephone or electricity be anything but dull? The farmer knows nothing about farming and seems angry about having to conduct the tour. And what's with his tattoo? The teacher requests a private word with the farmer and then mysteriously disappears. Dan decides to investigate and uncovers a deadly plan. But will he be able to get help in time to save his teacher and the rest of his class?

If you'd like to purchase **Pigboy**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

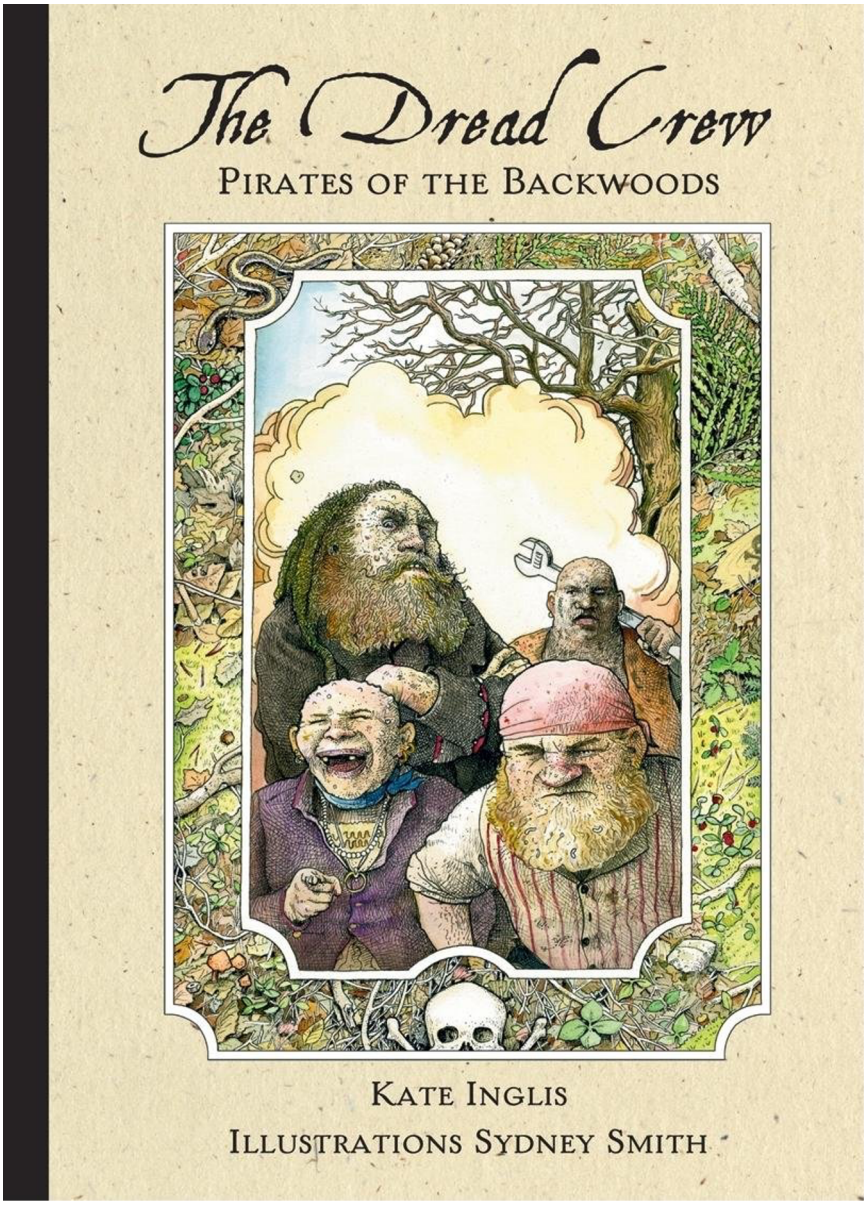


Sheree Fitch's socials:
Website Facebook Twitter Instagram

Willa Wellowby's house has been overrun by monkeys. They're ballet dancing, playing the bagpipes, listening to the Beatles, and causing mayhem and destruction all over the house and yard. And the more Willa asks them to leave, the more havoc they wreak. She calls the police, the RCMP, the FBI, and Scotland Yard to get rid of these **monkeys**… but when the Mounties finally show up, it's Willa who's in trouble!

If you'd like to purchase **There Were Monkeys in my Kitchen**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

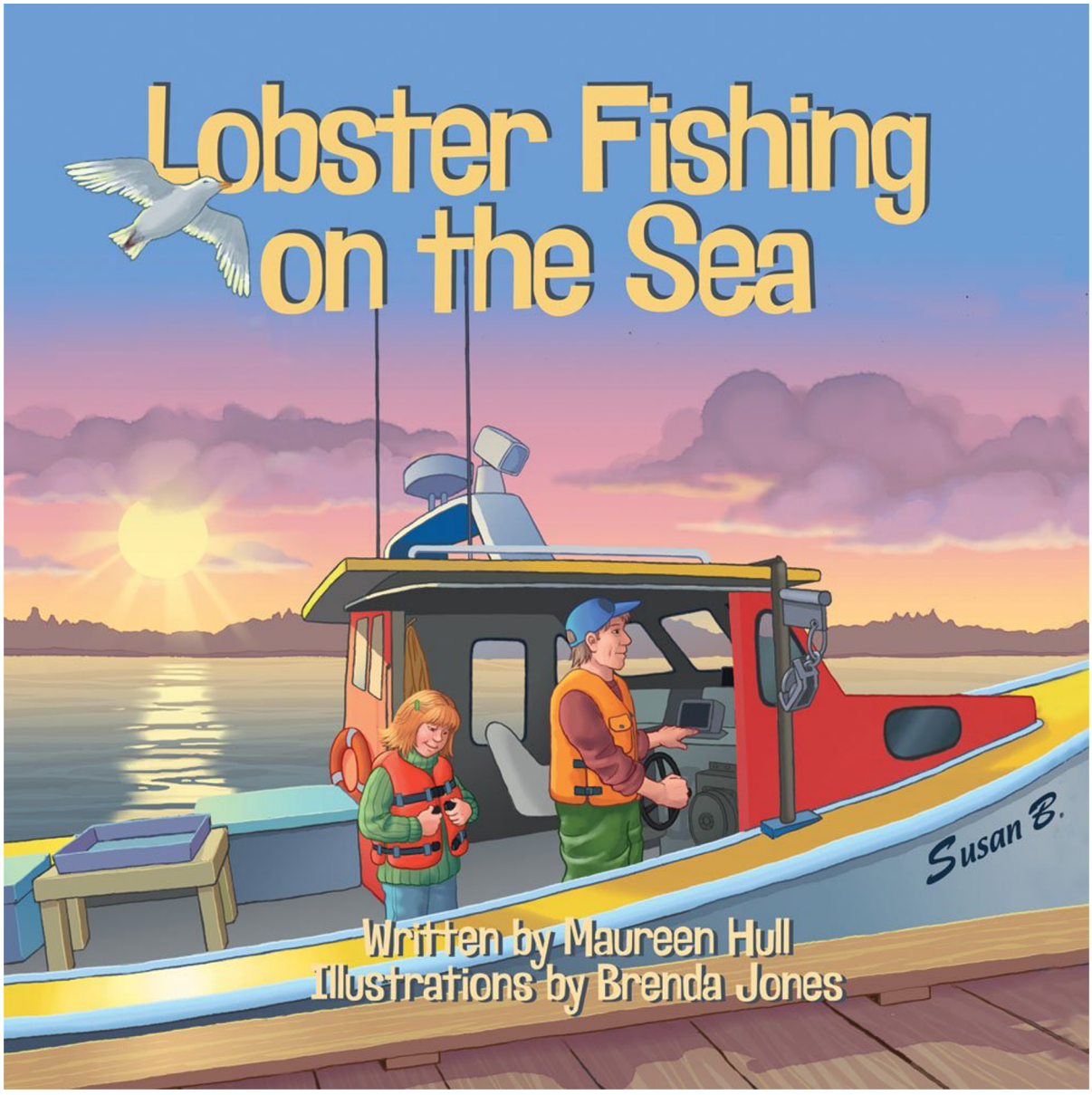


Kate Inglis's socials:
Website Facebook Twitter Instagram

The pirates of the **Dread Crew**, ruthless junk hunters, are on the rampage through the Maritime woods. On their trail is a boy pirate tracker Eric Stewart, who gathers mounting evidence of their hooliganism until one day their clue-laden path of destruction completely disappears. Little does Eric know that the rumbling, stinking pirates are much, much closer than he thinks.

If you'd like to purchase **The Dread Crew**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**



Susan's father is a **lobster** fisherman in the Northumberland Strait, and one Saturday morning he lets Susan come on the boat with him. They empty their traps together and Susan sees all different sea creatures- rock crabs, sculpins, and more. Wonderfully illustrated in vibrant colours by **Brenda Jones**, **Lobster Fishing on the Sea** has a simple storyline and incorporates information about lobster fishing and marine life.

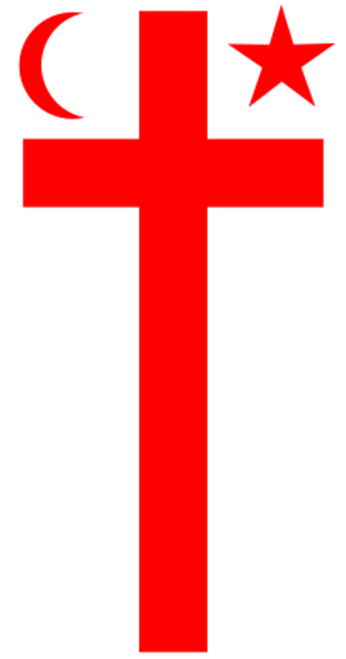
If you'd like to purchase **Lobster Fishing on the Sea**, you can find it at:

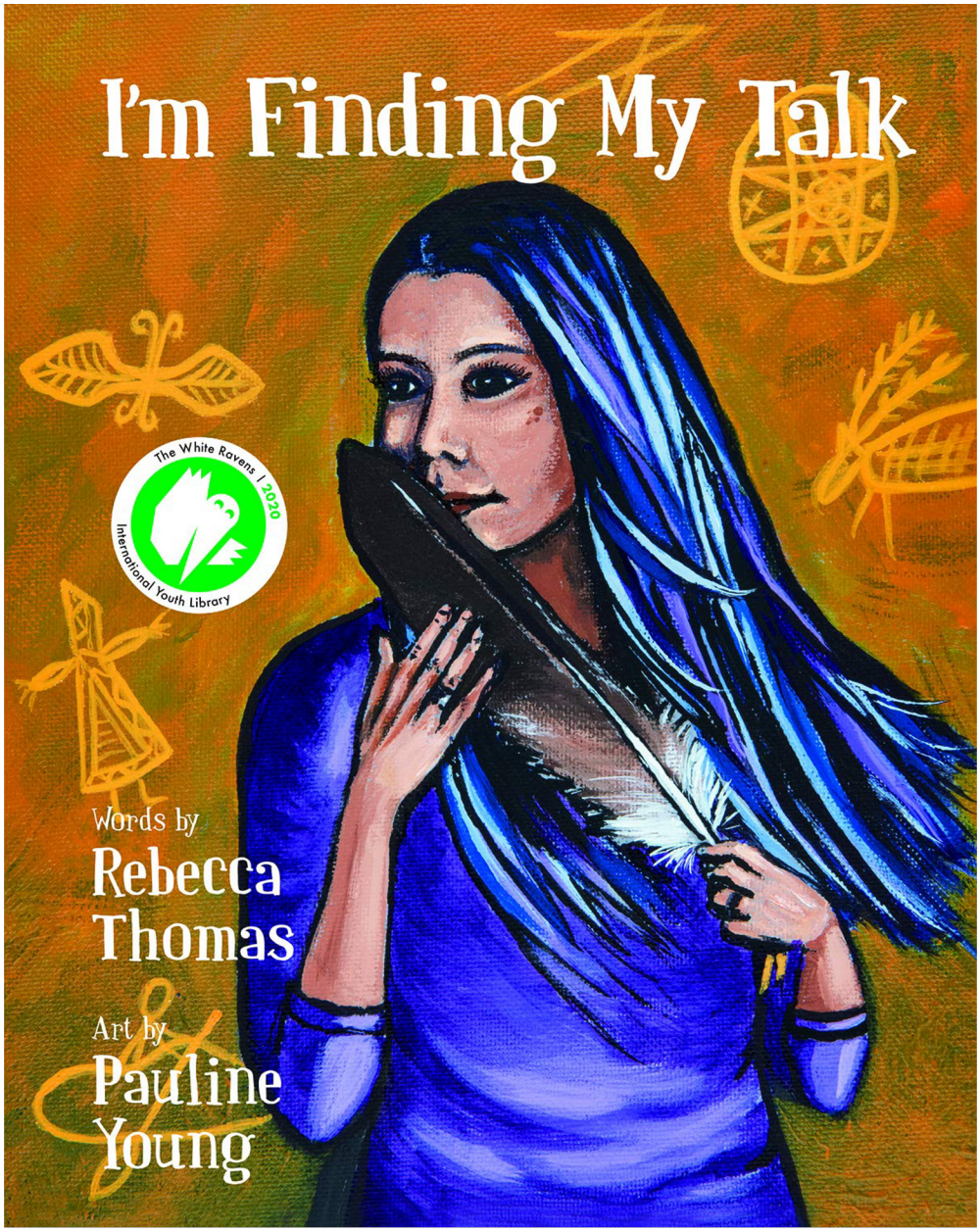
Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

Mi'kmaq History Month Books

Halifax Learning

Results you can read.



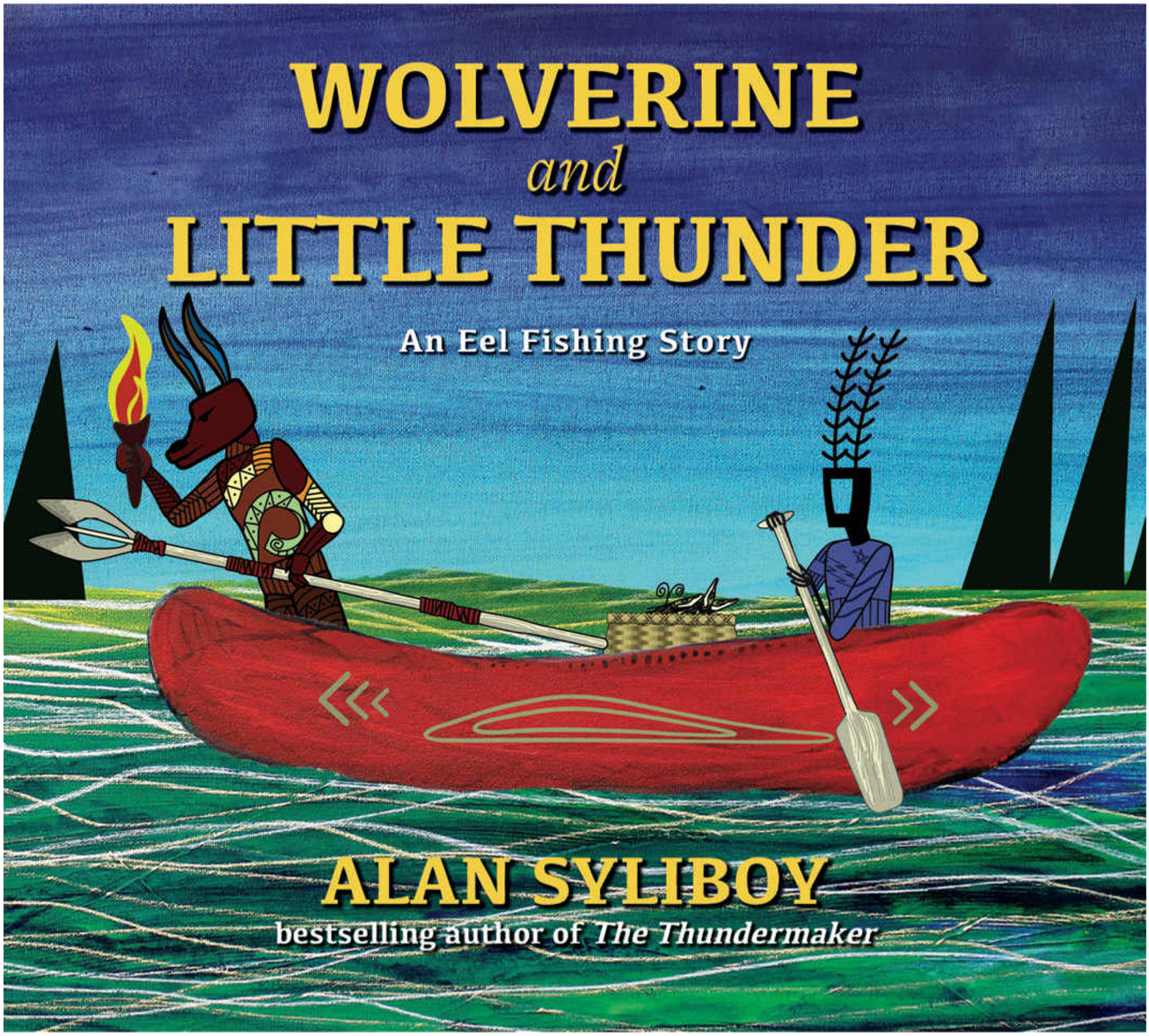


Rebecca Thomas's socials:
Twitter

From sewing regalia to dancing at powwow to learning traditional language, **I'm Finding My Talk** is about rediscovering her community, and finding culture. Features stunning, vibrant illustrations by Mi'kmaw artist Pauline Young.

If you'd like to purchase **I'm Finding My Talk**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**



Alan Syliboy's socials:
Website Facebook Twitter

Little Thunder and Wolverine—a trickster, who is strong and fierce and loyal. The two are best of friends, even though Wolverine can sometimes get them into trouble. Their favourite pastime is eel fishing, whether it's cutting through winter ice with a stone axe or catching eels in traditional stone weirs in the summer. But that all changes one night, when they encounter the giant river eel—the eel that is too big to catch.

If you'd like to purchase **Wolverine and Little Thunder**, you can find it at:

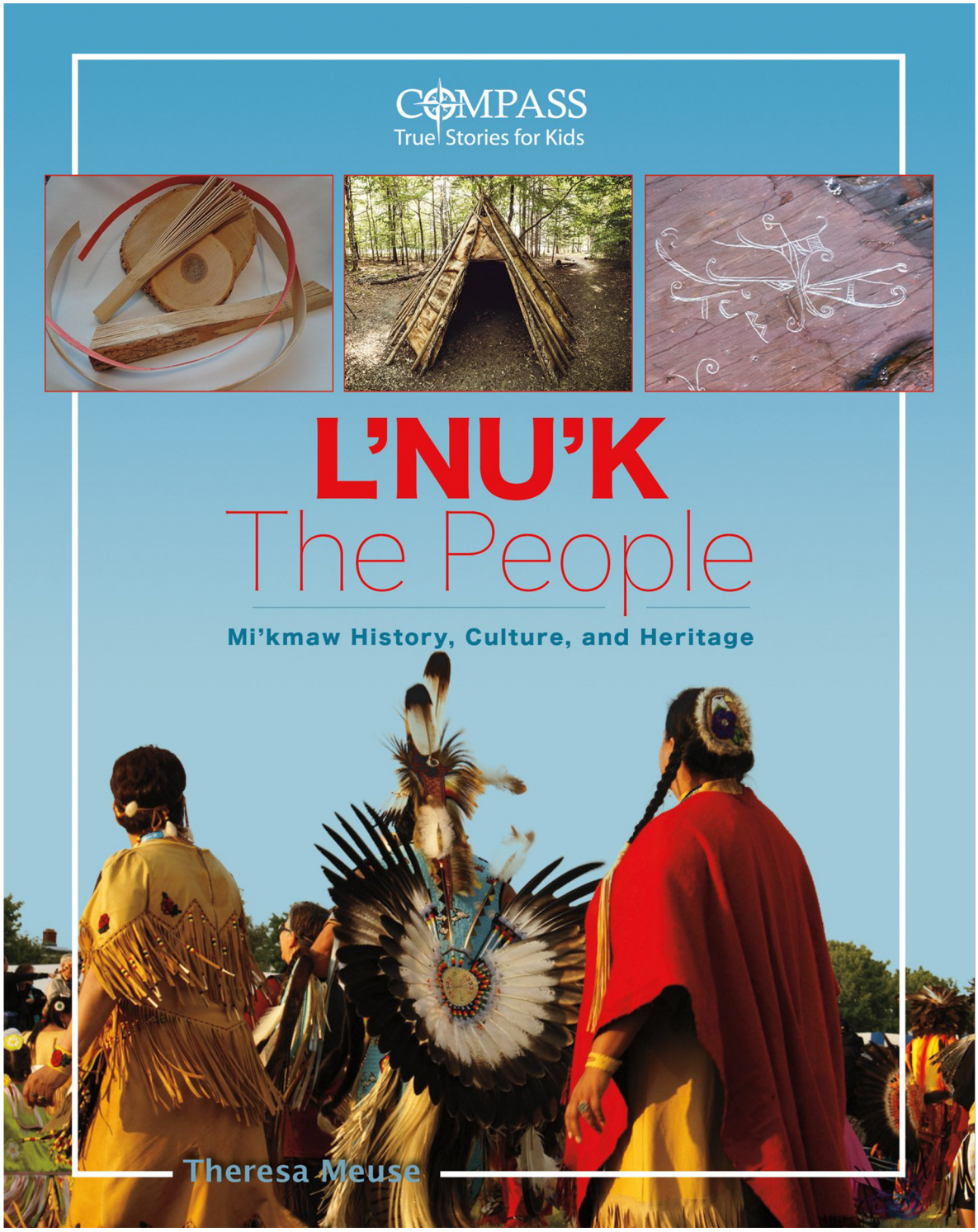
Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

Loretta Gould's socials:
Website Facebook

One is Ne'wt, for one bear. Two is Ta'pu, for two women making offerings. **Counting** from one to ten in English and **Mi'kmaw**, baby is introduced to both the ancestral language of Mi'kmaki and to Mi'kmaw culture and legend, through beautifully rendered illustrations of important animals, like turtle, bear, and beaver, to concepts integral to the Mi'kmaw world view, like the Four (Ne'w) Directions, and the Seven (L'luiknek) Mi'kmaw teachings.

If you'd like to purchase **Counting In Mi'kmaw**, you can find it at:

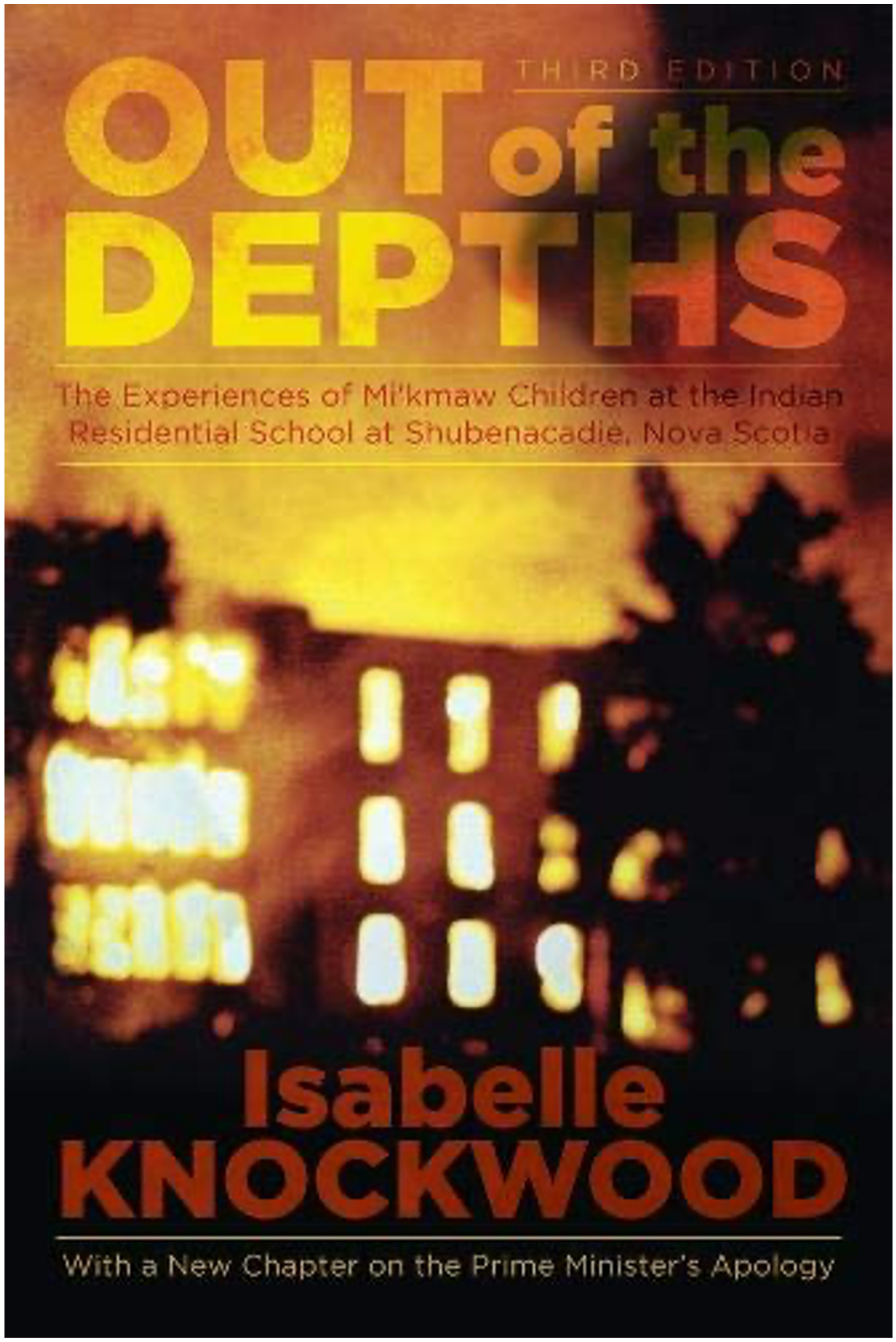
Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**



In **L'nuk**: the Mi'kmaq of Atlantic Canada, First Nations educator Theresa Meuse traces the incredible lineage of today's Mi'kmaq people, sharing the fascinating details behind their customs, traditions, and history.

If you'd like to purchase **L'nu'k - The People**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**



Daring to break the code of silence imposed on Aboriginal students, residential school survivor **Isabelle Knockwood** offers the firsthand experiences of forty-two survivors of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School. In their own words, these former students remember their first day of residential schooling, when they were outwardly transformed through hair cuts and striped uniforms marked with numbers.

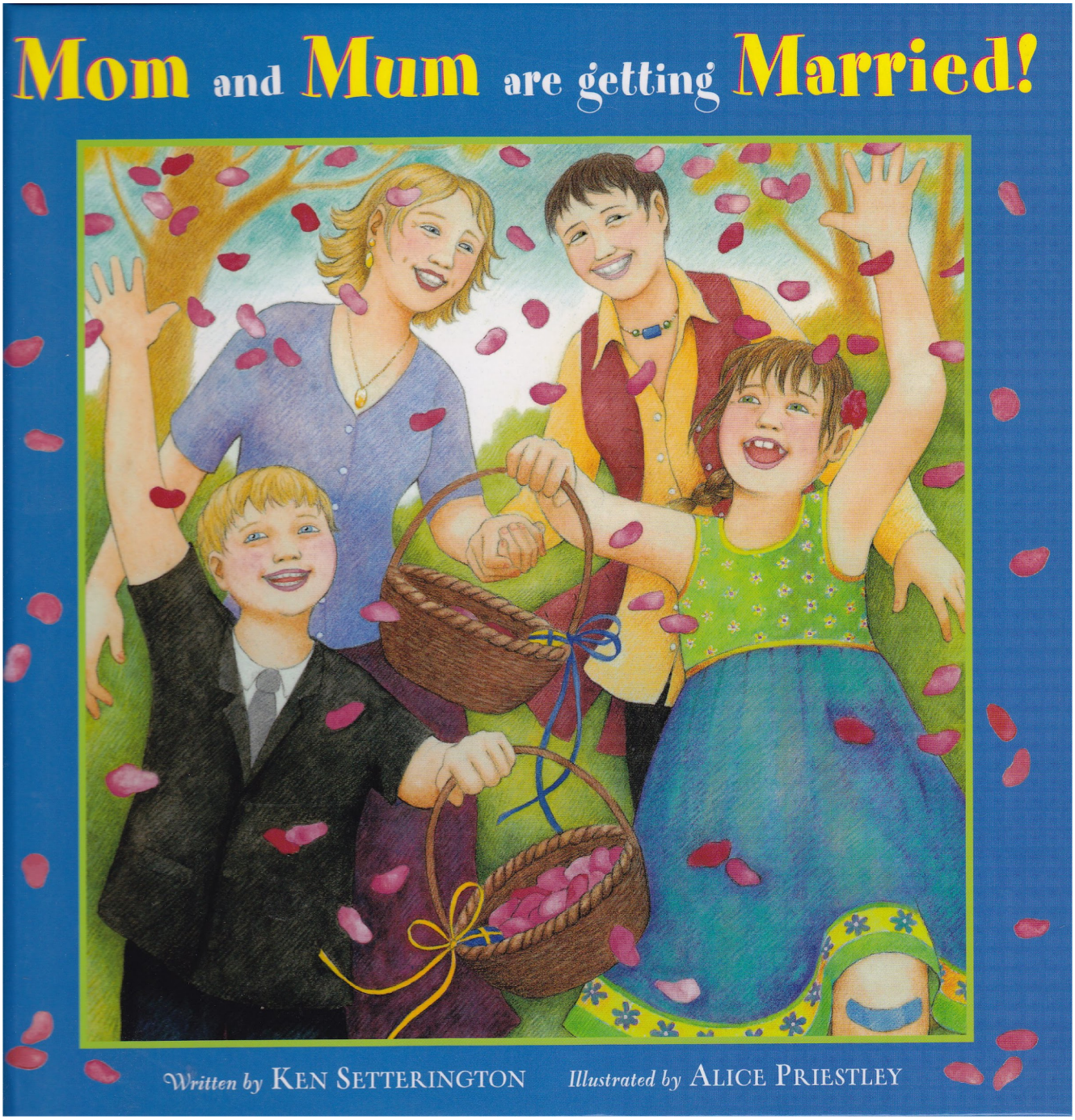
If you'd like to purchase **Out of the Depths**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

Universal Human Rights Month Books

Halifax Learning

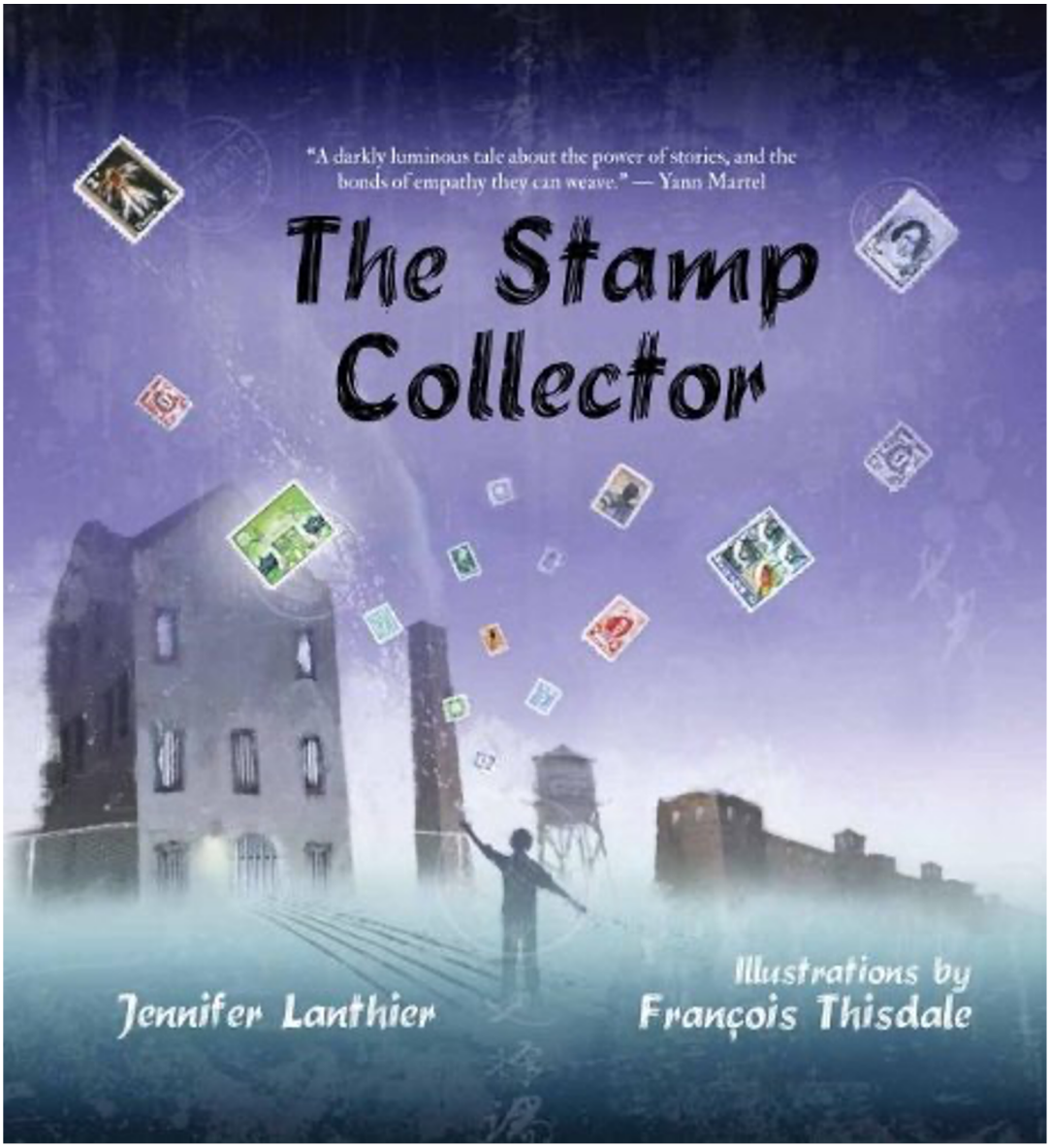
Results you can read.



Rosie is surprised to find her Mom dancing alone in the living room, but when Mom announces, "Your **Mum and I are getting married!**" they can't wait to start planning the big day. Friends and family come together for a celebration of love.

If you'd like to purchase **Mom and Mum are getting Married!**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

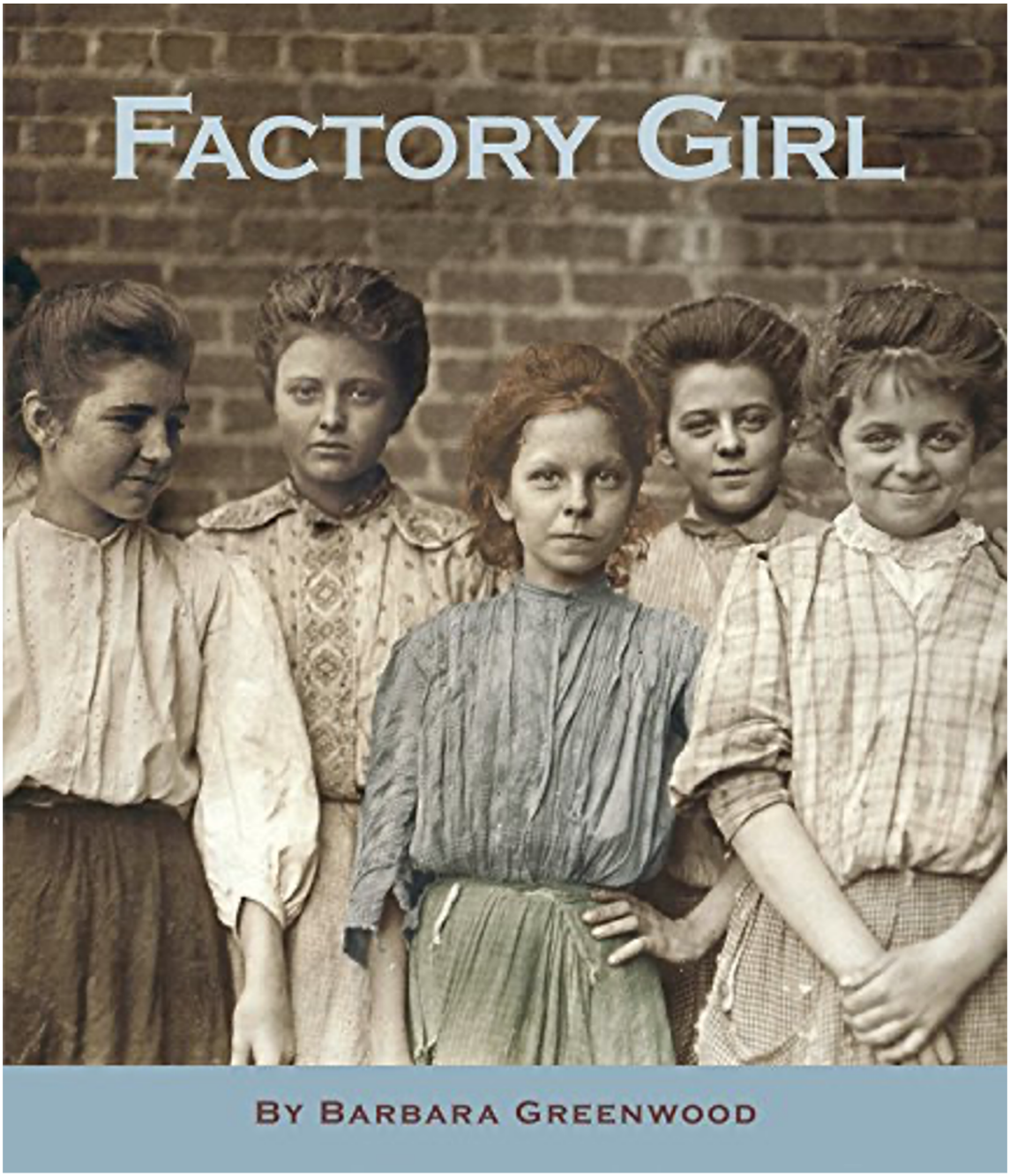


Jennifer Lanthier's socials:
Website Facebook Twitter

A city boy finds a **stamp** that unlocks his imagination; a country boy is captivated by stories. When they grow up, the two boys take different paths—one becomes a prison guard, the other works in a factory—but their early childhood passions remain. When the country boy's stories of hope land him in prison, the letters and stamps sent to him from faraway places intrigue the prison guard and a unique friendship begins.

If you'd like to purchase **The Stamp Collector**, you can find it at:

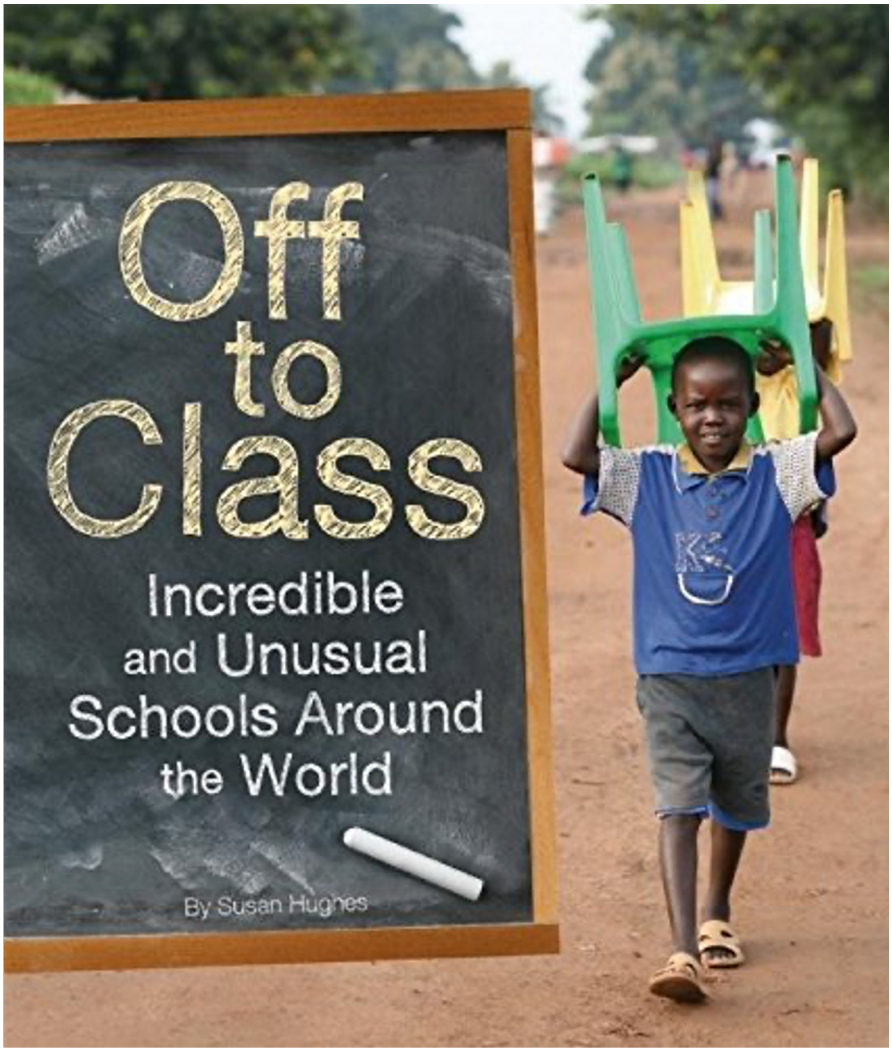
Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**



At the dingy, overcrowded Acme Garment **Factory**, Emily Watson stands for eleven hours a day clipping threads from blouses. Every time the boss passes, he shouts at her to snip faster. But if Emily snips too fast, she could ruin the garment and be docked pay. If she works too slowly, she will be fired. She desperately needs this job. Without the four dollars a week it brings, her family will starve.

If you'd like to purchase **Factory Girl**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark**



Susan Hughes's socials:
Website Twitter Instagram

There are schools in caves, and on boats and on train platforms. There are green schools, mobile schools, and even treehouse schools. There's a **whole world of unusual schools** out there! But the most amazing thing about these schools isn't their location or what they look like. It's that they provide a place for students who face some of the toughest environmental and cultural challenges, and live some of the most unique lifestyles, to learn.

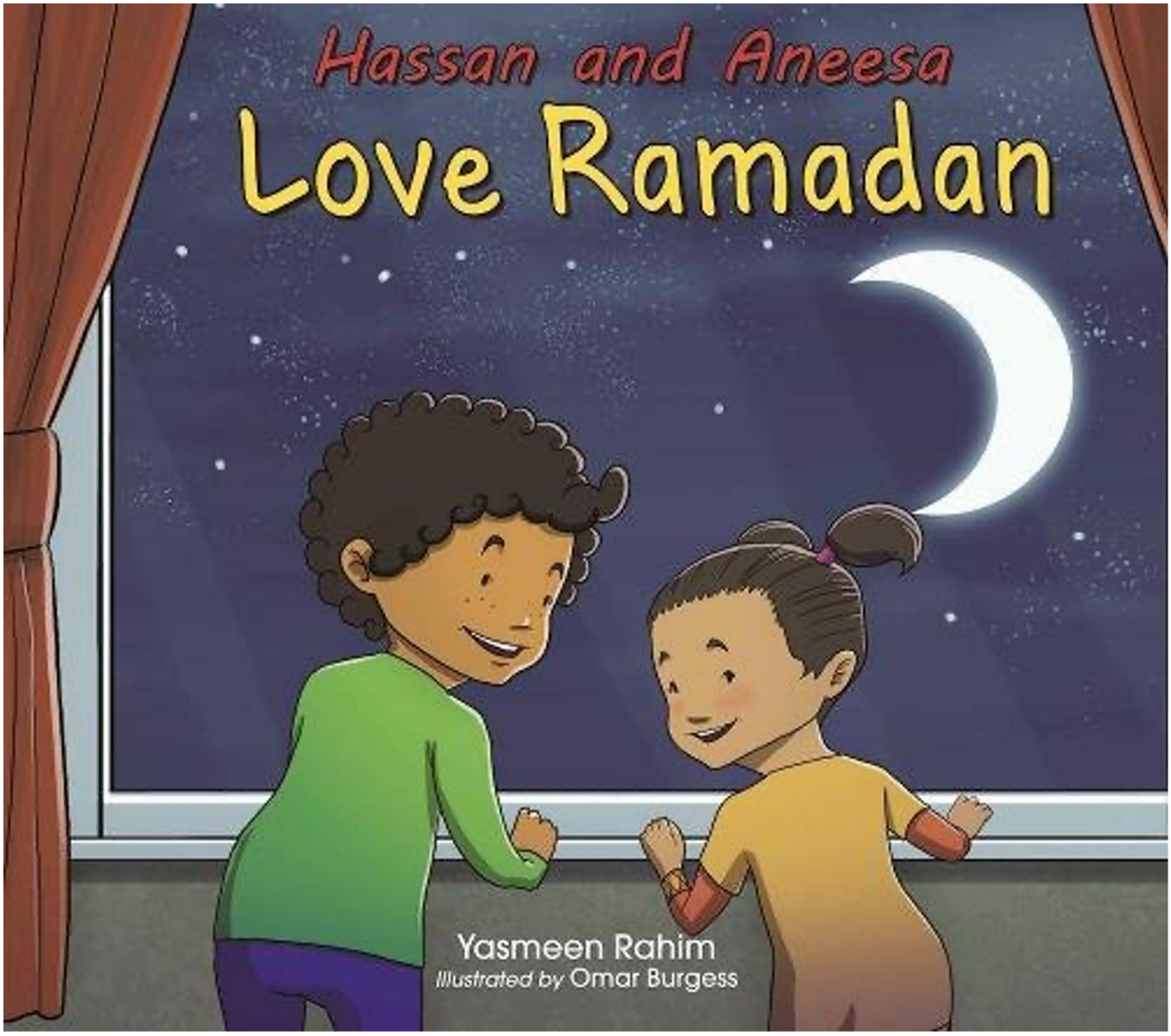
If you'd like to purchase **Off to Class: Incredible and Unusual Schools Around the World**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

Here are other great reads!

Halifax Learning

Results you can read.



Yasmeen Rahim's socials:
Twitter

It is the night before **Ramadan and Hassan and Aneesa are excited** for it to begin. In Ramadan they will read the Qur'an, give charity, share food with neighbours and try to fast. Follow them on the first day of Ramadan and find out why Hassan and Aneesa love it when the Muslim holy month arrives.

If you'd like to purchase **Hassan and Aneesa Love Ramadan**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**

An unexpected visitor arrives in town! But who is he? What is he? Where did he come from? Readers will learn the answers to all these questions as they watch the mysterious visitor travel through places they know and love in **Nova Scotia**! Come along and celebrate an unforgettable **Halloween night!**

If you'd like to purchase **Trick or Treat in Nova Scotia**, you can find it at:

Chapters **Bookmark** **Woozles**