

Saskatchewan Books

[2003](#) | [2002](#) | [2001](#) | [2000](#) | [1999](#)

2003 Books

Books For Older Readers

Silverthorne, Judith. *Dinosaur Hideout*. Regina: Coteau. 1-55050-226-3.

Daniel lives in southwestern Saskatchewan, land rich in fossils from the prehistoric past. Dinosaur country. Daniel loves nothing more than fossil hunting. He even dreams about dinosaurs. But his dad wants him to take more interest in his chores. The farm's in financial trouble, and he doesn't think a bunch of old bones is going to help. Then at his secret hideout, a hollowed-out cave in a hillside, Daniel makes an exciting find. A fossil never before seen in the area. But he has to watch out for Pederson, the scary old guy - crazy some say - on the neighbouring land. And for Pederson's enormous dog. What's Pederson hiding in his old shack? Why is he trying to scare Daniel away from the fossils?

Young Adult Books

Goobie, Beth. *Who Owns Kelly Paddik?*. Victoria: Orca. 1-55143-239-0.

Kelly Paddik is locked up. Sent to a secure facility because she is a "danger to herself," Kelly wants only to escape. But her painful past continues to haunt her until she is forced to face up to the most painful memory of all. A searing look at one girl's struggle for self-respect.

2002 Books

Picture Books

Bannatyne-Cugnet, Jo. *Heartland: a Prairie sampler*. Toronto: Tundra. 0-88776-567-X. Illustrated by Yvette Moore.

Turn the pages for a taste of life in the nation's heartland: the dramatic sweeps of the land and sky, and the grit of the people who call it home. *Heartland* is a bright and bold tribute to the author's "big sky" home, and is filled with artwork as beautiful as the Prairies themselves.

Lohans, Alison. *Waiting for the Sun*. Calgary: Red Deer Press. 0-88995-240-X. Illustrated by Marilyn Mets & Peter Ledwon.

For Mollie, waiting for the new baby is like waiting for the sun to come up in the morning - it takes its own sweet time. She plans all the things she'll share with the new baby - tadpoles in the stream, clucking chickens, books from the library - but when Benjamin finally arrives, he's not at all what Mollie expected.

Books For Older Readers

Begamudre, Ven. *The Phantom Queen*. Regina: Coteau. 1-55050-200-X.

In the court of the Phantom Queen, an ancient storyteller entralls the assembled company with a tale of love and battle and magical powers: In the kingdom of Mir, a medieval Slavic world surrounded by mountains, an orphaned youth named Nevsky emerges from a mysterious cave with wisdom and powers beyond his years. He raises a young girl abandoned by her village parents, and holds court with the monarch of Mir, Tsar Leo, and its religious leader, Bishop Tserkov. Assisted by a magical talking owl, Nevsky battles the devil himself, and tries in vain to keep the kingdom from being split between Leo's twin sons.

Clarke, Helen Perrin. *Elizabeth and the Grandmother*. Self-published. 0-9683201-2-0.

During the winter of 1944 when Elizabeth was twelve, her grandmother comes to live at the Drake farm in rural Saskatchewan. Daddy has never talked about his mother and an air of mystery surrounds the old woman.

Slade, Arthur. *Return of the Grudstone Ghosts: A Moose Jaw Mystery*. Regina: Coteau. 1-55050-212-3.

When her sixth-grade teacher, Miss Vindez, plummets from the belfry of St. Wolcott School, Daphne and her friends Nick and Peach are plunged into a mystery that includes a long-ago fire that left behind 12 dead schoolchildren, tiny ghosts with nowhere to go, and an ancient evil just dying to break through into modern-day Moose Jaw.

Warwaruk, Larry. *Andrei and the Snow Walker*. Regina: Coteau. 1-55050-213-1.

In search of a better life, twelve-year-old Andrei and his family move from Ukraine to a Canadian homestead near Batoche, Saskatchewan, in the spring of 1900. Andrei's grandfather brings with them an ancient Scythian bowl an old hermit gave him - a strange, glowing bowl which may have magical power. Near Christmas, Andrei is caught in a swirling blizzard while trying to use the strange bowl's magic to help his family. When he falls through river ice, he sees that not only can't the magic bowl save him, he must let it go to have a chance. Suddenly, someone strong pulls him from the river. In a cabin in the woods, Andrei at last meets Snow Walker and learns that this land has its own wisdom and power.

Young Adult Books

Aksomitis, Linda. *Snowmobile Challenge*. WEE. 1-920741-10-0.

Brad Klein is a 16 year-old with lots of problems. His family has just moved from a city to a small town, forcing him to change schools for the second semester of the school year, and it looks like he'll never make friends or fit in. And Dad--well living with him is a big pain! But the big thing always in the back of Brad's mind is the recent death of his best friend in a snowmobile accident, an accident Brad feels responsible for. *Snowmobile Challenge* is about coming to terms with who we are and understanding which things we have control over, and which ones we don't. It's about friendship. And it's about snowmobiling!

Goobie, Beth. *Kicked Out*. Victoria: Orca 1-55143 244-7.

Dime is fifteen and angry all the time. Her parents don't like the way she dresses, her boyfriend, her attitude. Her older brother Darren was paralyzed in an accident she walked away from, and Dime is sure her parents wish she were the one in the wheelchair. When the fights and accusations finally become too much, Dime moves in with her brother. At first she is overjoyed with the change of scenery and lack of parental control. But when her troubles follow her she finds that maybe it isn't everyone else who is the problem, and realizes that she has to start taking some responsibility for her actions.

Goobie, Beth. *The Lottery*. Victoria: Orca. 1-55143-238-2.

Every student at Saskatoon Collegiate knows about the lottery. The secret club, "The Shadow Council", hold a draw every fall to decide which "lucky" student will win. The student chosen is then shunned and humiliated for the school year, by the entire student population. This year's victim is fifteen-year-old Sally Hanson.

Goobie, Beth. *Sticks and Stones*. Victoria: Orca. 1-55143-213-7.

Jujube is thrilled when Brent asks her out. She is not so happy when the rumors start flying at school. Pretty soon her name is showing up on bathroom walls and everyone is snickering and sniping. When her mother gets involved, Jujube's reputation takes another hit. Deciding that someone has to take a stand, Jujube gathers all the other girls who are labelled sluts -- and worse -- and tries to impress on her fellow students the damage that can be done by assigning a label that reduces a person to an object.

MacIntyre, R.P. *Revved*. Saskatoon: Thistledown. 1-894345-46-0.

Once again R.P. MacIntyre ups the speed limit with a collection of stories that are journeys into the delight and terror of emerging self-consciousness. From a strange party in honour of a dying hamster to a young man's quest to find his missing sister, "Revved" resonates with the authentic experiences of today's youth and the reverberations of their extraordinary imaginations.

Savage, Candace. *Wizards: From Sorcery to Science*. Vancouver: Greystone. 1-55054-943-X.

A fascinating journey from the days of dried newts and powdered worms to the discoveries of modern physics, *Wizards* takes us back to the 1500s and 1600s, when real live sorcerers read the future in crystal balls, when villagers cast spells on their neighbours, when the magical arts were a normal part of everyday life and when real live boys studied to become wizards-including Sir Isaac Newton, the great mathematician and scientist.

Slade, Arthur. *Tribes*. Toronto: HarperCollins. 0-00639-170-2.

Percy's father, a famous anthropologist, died in Africa four years ago; and Percy has taken on his father's eyes to see the world as a brilliant Observer. He and his friend Elissa are fascinated by the ritualistic world called Grade Twelve: the Jock tribe; the Teacher tribe; the Born Again tribe; the Cool and Detached tribe; the Lipstick/Hairspray tribe, not to mention Mr. Verplaz, the Shaman. As graduation approaches, the looming ritual ratchets up Percy's deepest, hidden feelings and reveals the truth about his father's disappearance.

Willett, Ed. *Spirit Singer*. Awe-Struck. 1-58749-224-5.

Amarynth is a spirit singer, one who leads the spirits of the dead to the Light. When her grandfather is slain, she embarks on a hazardous quest to defeat the mysterious creature that killed him--and find her own destiny.

2001 Books

Picture Books

Aksomitit, Linda. *A Gopher Gulch Red Riding Hood*. Saxco. 0-9703370-5-1. Illustrated by Shaune Marchtaler.

A Gopher Gulch Red Riding Hood is a classic tale of Little Red Riding Hood in days of yon. This bewitching little book has everything a child could want, a cute and interesting story about Red Riding Hood, the town errand girl who takes flowers to Aunt Lou and is

sent to Grandma's house. The path to Grandma's house is quite untraveled by children and Red Riding Hood must watch out for the wolf of course.

Aksomitit, Linda. *A Gopher Gulch Cinderella*. Saxco. 0-9703370-7-8. Illustrated by Shaune Marchtaler. The sweet & lovely (Cinder) Ella is left working hard taking care of the ranch while her father, stepmother and selfish step sisters go to the Wild-West Show and to visit relatives. When Ella finds out that for the first time she'll miss the exciting Wild-West Show, she won't take it sitting down! Find out how Ella handles it in this exciting tale and follow the links within the story to find out how life really was living in the wild-west in the 1800's!

Eisenstein, Marilyn. *Kate Can't Wait*. Toronto: Tundra.. 0-88776-518-1. Illustrated by Miranda Jones. Kate hates to wait. But sometimes the very best things - scrumptious strawberries, for instance - are worth waiting for.

Simmie, Lois. *Mister Got To Go and Arnie*. Vancouver: Raincoast. 1-55192-494-3. Illustrated by Cynthia Nugent.

A large grey cat, Got To Go, has his pleasant life at the Sylvia Hotel turned upside-down when Arnie, a noisy little dog, arrives. It is soon evident that Arnie does not fit in.

Books For Older Readers

Bishop, Mary Harelkin. *Tunnels of Terror*. Regina: Coteau 1-55050-193-3.

Andrea's not looking for more adventures in Moose Jaw's terrifying tunnels. Once was enough! But now she's back in the city with her little brother Tony. And soon he's got them stuck in the perilous past again, in big trouble with a gang of thieves. How can Andrea and Tony outsmart the dangerous denizens of this mysterious underworld? And how can they ever get safely back to the present?

Dorion, Betty Fitzpatrick. *Whose Side Are You On?*. Regina: Coteau. 1-55050-179-8.

No doubt about it, Ron's life is in an uproar. His father has been on Ron's case even worse than usual lately. Is it because of the bitter strike on at the fluorspar mine, where his dad and nearly everybody else in town works? Or is it because his dad needs to make a special trip to see a doctor? And things are tough at school, so the last thing Ron needs is to start falling for girls on both sides of the strike. Ron's trying to stay cool, when he really feels anything but.

Young, Dianne. *Honey Trouble*. Montreal: Roussan. 1-896184-01-4.

No note needed! Six-year-old Josie promises her mother she'll have "no trouble" remembering what she's to buy at the store. Friends and neighbors along the way help her recall her list with word associations. Confusion reigns as Josie's perplexed helpers ponder her purchase.

Young Adult Books

Kerr, Don. *Candy on the Edge*. Regina: Coteau. 1-55050-189-5.

Straight-laced Candy McFarlane encounters life on the edge when she starts hanging out with some cool older kids and finds herself in over her head.

MacIntyre, R.P. (editor). *Up All Night*. Saskatoon: Thistledown. 1-894345-27-4.

The finest established and emerging writers for young adults in the country are represented in the fourteen short fictions in *Up All Night...* [with] a range and depth of theme and style that ensures there is something for all readers to enjoy.

Savage, Candace. *Witch: The Wild Ride From Wicked to Wicca*. Vancouver: Greystone. 1-55054-801-8. 1-55054-878-6.

Witches have always been figures electric with possibility, feared as menacing hags, but also standing as towering images of female rebellion. Trace their wild ride across the centuries, flying on brooms, turning into animals, making spirit journeys, visiting the dead, casting spells, and causing or healing illnesses. Every age has fashioned this legendary shapeshifter to fulfill its dreams and nightmares, and she has transformed from Renaissance devil worshipper to fairy-tale character to New Age priestess. A brilliant study going far beyond the witchhunts of the 1600s.

Slade, Arthur. *Dust*. Toronto: HarperCollins. 0-00-648593-6.

Strange things are happening in Horshoe. Matthew, Robert's seven-year-old brother, has vanished on a walk into town to buy some gum... He vanished and Robert knows that it's his fault. That he has to find Matthew. That he has to figure out why the hens are frightened and their eggs full of blood. Why a broken jar he finds out in the grass echoes with the sad sound of a little girl's voice. Why, most frighteningly of all, his parents seem lost in a comforting dream, Matthew forgotten, his memory abandoned... [It all] lead[s] him inexorably to Abram Harsich... the ominous stranger who promises the parched town a rainmaking machine.

Slade, Arthur. *John Diefenbaker: An Appointment With Destiny*. Montreal: XYZ. 0-9688166-0-6.

This book recreates the tensions of the Diefenbaker era - the time of the Cold War, the Gerda Munsinger spy scandal, and the Cuban Missile Crisis - when the world seemed on the brink of nuclear war. The scrapping of the Avro Arrow, the intense rivalry between Diefenbaker and Liberal leader Lester Pearson, and President Kennedy's strong personal dislike for Diefenbaker all have become part of the legend of "Dief the Chief."

2000 Books

Picture Books

Bannatyne-Cugnet, Jo. *From Far and Wide: A Canadian Citizenship Scrapbook*. Toronto: Tundra. 0-88776-443-6. Illustrated by Song Nan Zhang.

Join little Xiao Ling Li on a very special day. She and her family are about to become Canadian citizens. *From Far and Wide: A Canadian Citizenship Scrapbook* is her way of preserving all the moments of the day, and a way of sharing them with readers everywhere.

Harrison, Troon. *The Floating Orchard*. Toronto: Tundra. 0-88776-43-98. Illustrated by Miranda Jones.

Damson lives in the house her great-grandfather built. In the orchard stands the Orchard Queen, a beautiful plum tree, grown from a plum stone her great-grandmother had carried across the ocean to her new home. Then comes the time of the great flood. Everything that Damson cares about - the flowers, the animals, the orchard she loves - is about to be carried away by the rising, swirling waters. With help from her friend, Bartlett, Damson realizes that survival may depend on the plum tree she has always known as the Orchard Queen. They must cut it down to make a mast for the boat that will carry them to dry land. The

decision is dreadful, but Damson learns that it takes a special kind of heart to begin again when all seems lost.

Weseen, James & Wendy. *Hello Sky!*. Saskatoon: Wendy Weseen Publishing. Illustrated by Wendy Weseen.

A three-year-old child goes for a walk with her mother, father, grandma and grandpa. The sky is blue, the sun shines, the trail beckons. Birds and animals are everywhere. The world is exciting and full of wonder. In this first nature book, simple words, rhymes and rhythms go hand-in-hand with an artist's impression of the world through a child's eyes. *Hello Sky* will appeal to anyone, child or adult, who has gone for a walk and felt the joy of the natural world.

Books For Older Readers

Bishop, Mary Harelkin. *Tunnels of Time*. Regina: Coteau. 1-55050-164-X.

Thirteen-year-old Andrea Talbot doesn't want to go to Moose Jaw for her cousin's wedding, and she certainly doesn't want to hear about some dumb tunnels from the old days. But then she winds up in those mysterious tunnels and discovers she's travelled back to the dangerous past. How can Andrea outwit the gangsters who rule this underworld full of secrets? And how can she ever find her way back to the present?

Slade, Arthur. *The Loki Wolf*. Victoria: Orca. 1-55143-145-9.

On the third night the worst nightmare - the very worst - invaded my dreams. Loping behind me was a gigantic wolf, its jaws snapping together and tearing off bits of my flesh. There was no blood. No pain. But bit by bit he swallowed chunks of my body until nothing of Angela Laxness remained. While on vacation in Iceland with her grandfather and two cousins, Angie begins to wonder if her dream wasn't a warning. First there are strange scratches outside her window. Then she discovers that sheep have been disappearing from her uncle's farm. But it isn't until she and her cousins go to the old croft house that they discover the horrifying truth.

Young Adult Books

Campagna, Phil. *The Liberty Circle*. North York: Napoleon. 0-929141-69-5.

Life at home isn't easy for sixteen-year-old Corey. When he sees an ad for a retreat called Camp Liberty, he can't wait to get away. But Corey has no idea of what he's in for, as he and his fellow campers are brainwashed into joining a racist Aryan cult. In the end, he not only hurts his family and friends but is also forced to confront some uncomfortable truths about himself. And there's another price to be paid; the Liberty Circle knows he's betrayed them, and they're coming after him...

Goobie, Beth. *Before Wings*. Victoria: Orca. 1-55143-161-0. 1-55143-163-7.

15-year-old Adrien struggles with the aftermath of a brain aneurysm. Numb with fear of "the Big One" that doctors predict will finish her off, she entombs herself in a mausoleum of negativity, impregnable to everyone. Her defenses start to crumble after her aunt, director of a summer camp, sets Adrien to work in her tuck shop. The story seamlessly shifts from Adrien's power struggles with the camp bully, Connor, and her growing bonds with Paul and Darcie to her window onto the past, through which she watches five girls her own age experiencing camp in the 1970s. These vivid, girlish spirits combine with Paul's attentions and Darcie's friendship to rekindle Adrien's lust for life. "The greatest tragedy wasn't how you died, but how you lived your life."

1999 Books

Picture Books

Bouchard, David. *The Dragon New Year*. Vancouver: Raincoast. 1-55192-200-2. Illustrated by Zhong-Yang Huang.

Every spring, a clash of cymbals, a splash of colorful fireworks and the Dragon Dance herald the coming of the Chinese New Year. But how, in the mists of time, did these celebrations begin? Charming and masterfully illustrated, this enticing tale involves a monstrous sea dragon, a mother's sorrow and a magical Buddha. Set in the words of a wise grandmother passing on her traditions to her adored granddaughter, this story of courage and kindness, love and revenge will delight both children and adults alike.

Eyvindson, Peter. *Soni's Mended Wings*. Clavet: Broken Wings Missions. 0-9684918-0-4. Illustrated by R.L. Wiebe.

Soni, a physically and mentally challenged child in Haiti spent years confined to his crib until one day some street children took over the operation of the orphanage. These teenagers offered Soni the same hope that they received from living in St. Joseph's Home, a mission designed to rescue boys from the harsh reality of the streets of Port au Prince. All profits received [from the sale of this book] will be used for projects such as building and furnishing a physiotherapy unit at Wings of Hope, a home for the physically and mentally challenged [in Haiti].

Leedahl, Shelley. *The Bone Talker*. Red Deer: Red Deer Press 0-88995-214-0. Illustrated by Bill Slavin.

Grandmother Bones has wound down like a clock. Gone are the tick and tock of her youth. Gone are the days when she laughed with family and friends. Now she creaks when she hobbles, and she spends her time talking to her tired old bones as if they were her children. Not even her husband can wind her up again. The people in Grandmother Bones's village stop by often to check on her. They bring her rich berry pies to tickle her tongue. They make merry music to wake her sleeping feet. They carry stones like jewels to set in her windows and catch the afternoon sun. But always she is the same - no tick or tock. Grandmother Bones seems lost to everyone. What more can her husband and the villagers do?

Lohans, Alison. *Sundog Rescue*. Toronto: Annick. Hardcover-1-55037-571-7; paper-1-55037-570-9. Illustrated by Vladyana Langer Krykorka.

"Sometimes Melissa saw things that nobody else did." So begins this remarkable story of a young girl whose imaginative fantasies lead to great adventure -- and a bold rescue of her grandmother.

Reddekopp, Sharon. *A New Baby for Paige*. Yellowknife: Raven Rock. 1-894303-07-5. Illustrated by Terry Pamplin.

Paige is about to become a big sister for the first time. She is unsure if she wants to share her toys and her mom with someone else. Once she gets to hold her new baby brother, though, she is enthralled.

Young, Dianne. *A World of Difference*. Vancouver: Whitecap. 1-55110-955-7. Photographs.

Who can *spot* the difference between a jaguar and a leopard? Who *nose* how to tell a dolphin from a porpoise? There's a world of difference between these animals, but they look

almost the same. Luckily for us, there are ways to tell them apart. This book offers tips and tricks to discover *Which is Which?*.

Books For Older Readers

Benson, Judith. *Butterfly Gardens*. Edmonton: Hodgepog. 1-895836-71-9. Illustrated by Lori McGregor McCrae.

"I've been talking with some of the other principals whose schools have done gardening projects, and they warned me that there may be vandalism..." Who would want to destroy a garden, wonders Zoie. It was the promise of having her own garden that somehow got Zoie through the move from the West Coast, where she had friends, to Saskatoon, where she didn't know anyone except Gran. When her class decided they wanted to help, and make the garden a special school project, Zoie couldn't believe how quickly she had friends without even thinking about it. But with the planting completed, everybody's worst fears are realized. What can Zoie do to help catch the culprits who are vandalizing her dream garden?

Brenna, Beverley. *The Keeper of the Trees*. Vancouver: Ronsdale. 0-921870-63-9.

Lonely and homesick for Canada, twelve-year-old Elizabeth finds herself plunged into a modern fantasy when she meets Maud--one of London's homeless people. Maud befriends her and teaches her the magic of the great chestnut trees which are vital to life in polluted London. But friendship works two ways and soon Elizabeth must shoulder Maud's job as Keeper of the Trees, facing dangers this entails in a surprising encounter with the enchanted Otherworld.

Clarke, Helen Perrin. *Elizabeth and the City Girl*. Self-published. 0-9683201-1-2.

Twelve-year-old Elizabeth Drake lives on a remote Saskatchewan farm during World War II. Her life turns topsy-turvy when a red-haired girl and her family arrive from Winnipeg.

Lohans, Alison. *Skateboard Kids*. Montreal: Roussan. 1-896184-64-2.

Justin and his friends Luke and Tracy practise endlessly for the Canada Day "Slick Wheels Contest," determined to win the nine-and-under competition. Then their chances are destroyed when Justin's new Devastator skateboard is stolen. Will they find it in time to compete?

Lohans, Alison. *No Place For Kids*. Montreal: Roussan. 1-896184-50-2.

Sisters Jennifer and Sarah are on the run. Their unemployed dad has turned to alcohol and bad company to deaden the pain of their mother's death. Scared and hungry, yet convinced social services will separate them, the two girls decide to search for their aunt, halfway across the country in Vancouver. Along the way they enter the sometimes terrifying, sometimes oddly comforting world of the urban homeless. Will they complete their journey?

Nickel, Barbara. *From the Top of a Grain Elevator*. Vancouver: Beach Holme. 0-88878-397-3. Illustrated by Kathy Thiessen.

...celebrate the sights and sounds of home: a chorus of ornery bullfrogs in the slough, a secret fort beneath the caragana, the bustle of the Town & Country fair, a toqueless trek to the local rink, the taste of bitter crabapples and sweet saskatoons, the endless waves of golden wheat, a gopher chase, a brilliant quilt of northern lights, the rumbling echo of June thunderstorms, a distant train's whistle, a velvet-backed crocus.

Richards, David. *The Lady at Batoche*. Saskatoon: Thistledown. 1-895449-87-1.

The Lady at Batoche is a story of three young people who are changed forever by the brutal simplicities of battle. It shares the same meticulous research and vivid recreation of history as Richards' much-praised first novel, *Soldier Boys* but it also answers some of the more puzzling riddles of the Metis rebellion: why did Gabriel Dumont, the brilliant soldier and hard-nosed entrepreneur, put such faith in the unworldly visions of Louis Riel? Why were the implacable enemies, Dakota and Cree warriors, both on the Metis side? And how did the Metis get outflanked by General Middleton's forces?

Young Adult Books

Goobie, Beth. *The Dream Where the Losers Go*. Montreal: Roussan. 1-896184-62-6.

No one knows why she hurt herself, not even Skey. After five long months in treatment for self-destructive behaviour, Skey continues to dream of dark tunnels with mysterious designs carved into their stone walls, a place where she is safe and alone. Then she encounters another dreamer, a boy her own age, dreaming the same dream. A boy with secrets much like her own.

Willett, Edward. *Andy Nebula: Interstellar Rock Star*. Montreal: Roussan. 1-896184-52-9.

Kit is a tough streetkid from a backwater planet, living hand-to-mouth as a musician, playing in alleys and tube stations and sleeping wherever he can find shelter. Then he meets two people who change his life: Rain, a bright-orange-tentacled alien, and Qualls, a talent scout who promises to make him a star. Overnight, it seems, Kit becomes Andy Nebula, interstellar rock sensation. But stars don't last forever, and as Kit's starts to fade, Qualls introduces him to another alien named The Dealer. Then Kit and a young female fan find themselves caught up in something a lot less glamorous than the music business--and a lot more deadly.