



## New Diverse Books

Created by Top Grade on January 11, 2017

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TAGGED: Diversity, Young Adult, Children's

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A #wehavediversebooks selection for children and teens.



### **When the Rain Comes**

by Alma Fullerton, illustrated by Kim La Fave

EDITION: **Hardcover**

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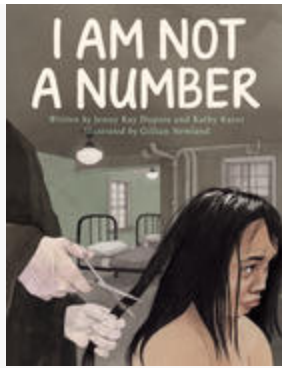
tagged : asia, farm & ranch life, self-esteem & self-reliance, girls & women

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It is time to plant the rice crop in Malini's Sri Lankan community, and the little girl is both excited and nervous to help for the first time. What if she does it wrong? Will she be responsible if the crop fails? When the oxcart rumbles in loaded with seedlings, she reluctantly agrees to watch the big, imposing animal while the driver takes a break. Suddenly, the skies go dark with monsoon rain. A flash flood pours down the road, separating Malini from the driver and her family. They are shou ...

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## I Am Not a Number

by Jenny Kay Dupuis & Kathy Kacer, illustrated by Gillian Newland

EDITION: Hardcover

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tagged : native canadian, post-confederation (1867-), prejudice & racism, native american

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When eight-year-old Irene is removed from her First Nations family to live in a residential school she is confused, frightened, and terribly homesick. She tries to remember who she is and where she came from, despite the efforts of the nuns who are in charge at the school and who tell her that she is not to use her own name but instead use the number they have assigned to her. When she goes home for summer holidays, Irene's parents decide never to send her and her brothers away again. But where ...

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## As a Boy

by Plan International

EDITION: Hardcover

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tagged : values & virtues, girls & women, boys & men

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Boys around the world are treated differently than girls just because of their gender. They are given an education and choices that girls are not, and their needs and success are often put above the needs of the girls and women in their families and communities. But boys are also given special burdens. They are expected to "be a man", to work, to fight, to be brave. Once again amazing photographs from Plan International are paired with simple text to convey a message: that boys want to see the s ...

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# The Way to School

by Rosemary McCarney, with Plan International

EDITION: Hardcover

ALSO AVAILABLE: eBook

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tagged : school & education, africa, asia

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Minimal text and stunning photographs from around the world describe the remarkable, and often dangerous, journeys children make every day on their way to and from school. No simple school bus picks them up each day, but rather children travel through disaster zones, cross rapids, climb mountains, and maneuver on ziplines daily to get to the classroom. Some of them even carry their desks!

In this beautiful picture book for young readers, every image and spread speaks to the desire for an educatio ...

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# Every Day is Malala Day

by Rosemary McCarney, with Plan International

EDITION: Hardcover

ALSO AVAILABLE: eBook

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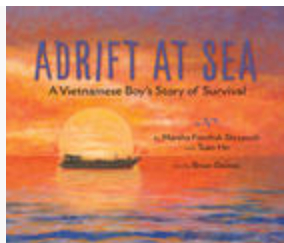
tagged : girls & women, self-esteem & self-reliance, homelessness & poverty

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This is a letter of sisterhood to Malala Yousafzai, written from the perspective of girls around the world who share her belief that every girl has the right to go to school, and who represent the many barriers a girl can face when trying to get an education. After being shot by the Taliban for the simple act of going to school in her native Pakistan, Malala has become an international girls' rights crusader and the youngest person ever to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Girls the world over recogn ...

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## Adrift at Sea

A Vietnamese Boy's Story of Survival

by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch, illustrated by Brian Deines, with Tuan Ho

EDITION: Hardcover

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tagged : emigration & immigration, historical, asia

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It is 1981. In the middle of the Pacific Ocean, a fishing boat overloaded with 60 Vietnamese refugees drifts. The motor has failed; the hull is leaking; the drinking water is nearly gone. This is the dramatic true story recounted by Tuan Ho, who was six years old when he, his mother, and two sisters dodged the bullets of Vietnam's military police for the perilous chance of boarding that boat. Told to multi-award-winning author Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch and illustrated by the celebrated Brian Dei ...

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## Maya

by Mahak Jain, illustrated by Elly Mackay

EDITION: Hardcover

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tagged : death & dying, emotions & feelings, imagination & play

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The electricity in Maya's house has gone out again. She is afraid of the dark — and her fear has been even worse since her father died. Now it feels as if the darkness will never go away.

Maya's mother distracts her with a legend about the banyan tree, which saved the world from the first monsoon by drinking up the floodwaters, and growing tall and strong. Later that night, unsettled by the noises around her, Maya revisits the story in her imagination. She ventures deep into the banyan tr ...

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## A Family Is a Family Is a Family

by Sara O'Leary, illustrated by Qin Leng

EDITION: Hardcover

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tagged : parents, orphans & foster homes

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When a teacher asks the children in her class to think about what makes their families special, the answers are all different in many ways — but the same in the one way that matters most of all.

One child is worried that her family is just too different to explain, but listens as her classmates talk about what makes their families special. One is raised by a grandmother, and another has two dads. One has many stepsiblings, and another has a new baby in the family.

As her classmates describe who ...

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## French Toast

by Kari-Lynn Winters, illustrated by Francois Thisdale

EDITION: Hardcover

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tagged : self-esteem & self-reliance, multigenerational, emigration & immigration

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Phoebe—half Jamaican, half French-Canadian—hates her school nickname of “French Toast.” So she is mortified when, out on a walk with her Jamaican grandmother, she hears a classmate shout it out at her. To make things worse, Nan-Ma, who is blind, wants an explanation of the name. How can Phoebe describe the color of her skin to someone who has never seen it? “Like tea, after you’ve added the milk,” she says. And her father? “Like warm banana bread.” And Nan-Ma herself? She is li ...

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## Elliot

by Julie Pearson, translated by Erin Woods, illustrated by Manon Gauthier

EDITION: Hardcover

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tagged : orphans & foster homes, adoption, emotions & feelings, rabbits

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Elliot's parents love him very much, but all is not well. When he cries, they do not understand why. When he yells, they do not know what to do. When he misbehaves, they do not know how to react. One day a social worker named Thomas comes to visit, and Elliot's world turns upside-down.

Manon Gauthier's soft collage illustrations feature approachable rabbit characters, while Julie Pearson's soothing, repetitive text guides Elliot gently through the foster child system. The new families that care f ...

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## The Hill

by Karen Bass

EDITION: Paperback

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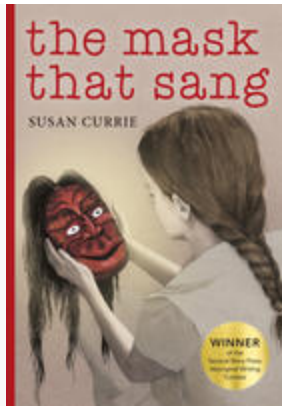
tagged : survival stories, native american, horror & ghost stories, thrillers & suspense

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Jared's plane has crashed in the Alberta wilderness, and Kyle is first on the scene. When Jared insists on hiking up the highest hill in search of cell phone reception, Kyle hesitates; his Cree grandmother has always forbidden him to go near it. There's no stopping Jared, though, so Kyle reluctantly follows. After a night spent on the hilltop—with no cell service—the teens discover something odd: the plane has disappeared. Nothing in the forest surrounding them seems right. In fact, thin ...

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## The Mask That Sang

by Susan Currie

EDITION: Paperback

ALSO AVAILABLE: eBook

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tagged : native canadian, multigenerational

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Cass and her mom have always stood on their own against the world. Then Cass learns she had a grandmother, one who was never part of her life, one who has just died and left her and her mother the first house they could call their own. But with it comes more questions than answers: Why is her Mom so determined not to live there? Why was this relative kept so secret? And what is the unusual mask, forgotten in a drawer, trying to tell her? Strange dreams, strange voices, and strange incidents all ...

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## Don't Tell, Don't Tell, Don't Tell

by Liane Shaw

EDITION: Paperback

ALSO AVAILABLE: eBook

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tagged : disabilities & special needs, loners & outcasts, friendship

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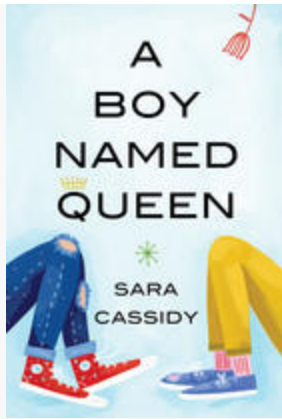
Sixteen-year-old Frederick has a lot of rules for himself. Like if someone calls him Freddy he doesn't have to respond; he only wears shirts with buttons and he hates getting dirty. His odd behavior makes him an easy target for the "Despisers" at school, but he's gotten used to eating lunch alone in the Reject Room.

Angel, in tenth grade but already at her sixth school, has always had a hard time making friends because her family moves around so much. Frederick is different from the other ...

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## A Boy Named Queen

by Sara Cassidy

EDITION: Hardcover

ALSO AVAILABLE: eBook

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tagged : friendship, self-esteem & self-reliance, peer pressure

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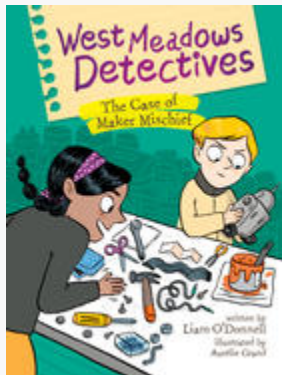
Evelyn is both aghast and fascinated when a new boy comes to grade five and tells everyone his name is Queen. Queen wears shiny gym shorts and wants to organize a chess/environment club. His father plays weird loud music and has tattoos.

How will the class react? How will Evelyn?

Evelyn is an only child with a strict routine and an even stricter mother. And yet in her quiet way she notices things. She takes particular notice of this boy named Queen. The way the bullies don't seem to faze him. Th ...

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## West Meadows Detectives: The Case of Maker Mischief

by Liam O'Donnell, illustrated by Aurélie Grand

EDITION: Hardcover

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tagged : mysteries & detective stories, robots, school & education, special needs

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Myron, the third-grade detective who loves logic, facts, and solving mysteries, gets the chance to crack another case when he finds out his classmate Jordan's robot has been stolen. Jordan and tech-savvy Danielle, known as "Glitch," had been working on it for weeks for the upcoming Maker Faire Robot Maze Challenge.

Together with his detective partner, the hyper-energetic Hajrah, Myron pins down two suspects: Sarah "Smasher" McGintley, the school bully, and Lionel Amar, another robot b ...

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## Moon at Nine

by Deborah Ellis

EDITION: Hardcover

ALSO AVAILABLE: Paperback Paperback

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tagged : middle east, self-esteem & self-reliance, homosexuality

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Based on interviews with a young woman forced to flee Iran because of her sexual orientation, *Moon at Nine* is a tense and riveting novel that shines a light on an issue of social injustice that continues to this day. Fifteen-year-old Farrin has grown up with secrets: ten years after the overthrow of the Shah, her aristocratic mother is still working against Iran's conservative revolutionary government. But when Farrin befriends Sadira, the intriguing and outgoing new student at her school for gi ...

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## Root Beer Candy and Other Miracles

by Shari Green

EDITION: Paperback

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tagged : multigenerational, marriage & divorce, friendship

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Eleven-year-old Bailey believes in miracles. She has to; it will take a miracle to keep her warring parents together. This summer they are at a Marriage Counselling camp, leaving Bailey and her little brother Kevin with their estranged grandmother in the island town of Felicity Bay. There, an eccentric deposed minister makes a prophecy that a stranger from the sea will change everything. When Bailey discovers a mermaid-shaped piece of driftwood, she begins to believe that the mermaid is this str ...

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## Freedom's Just Another Word

by Caroline Stellings

EDITION: Paperback

ALSO AVAILABLE: eBook

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tagged : car & road trips, diversity & multicultural, music

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The year Louisiana – Easy for short – meets Janis Joplin is the year everything changes. Easy is a car mechanic in her dad’s shop, but she can sing the blues like someone twice her age. So when she hears that Janis Joplin is passing through her small town of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Easy is there with her heart - and her voice - in hand. It’s 1970 and Janis Joplin is an electrifying blues-rock singer at the height of her fame – and of her addictions. Yet she recognizes Easy’s talent ...

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