



IODE CANADA EXPRESS NEWS

IODE Violet Downey Book Award 2019 Five Canadian Books on Short List

Through the generosity of IODE member, the late Mrs. Violet Downey, IODE established The National Chapter of Canada IODE Violet Downey Book Award in 1984. The first award was presented in 1985. This Award is offered annually for the best English language book containing at least 500 words of text (preferably with Canadian content) in a category suitable for children aged 13 and under. A ten-member panel of judges, including IODE members and specialists in the field of children's literature, annually select the award-winning book.

The short list for The National Chapter of Canada IODE Violet Downey Book Award, valued at \$5,000, has been selected from among submitted books published in Canada in 2018. The winner will be announced at IODE Canada's 119th National Annual Meeting, being held at the Delta Brunswick Hotel in Saint John, NB, on Friday, 31 May 2019.

The five Canadian books on the short list for the IODE Violet Downey Book Award are as follows:

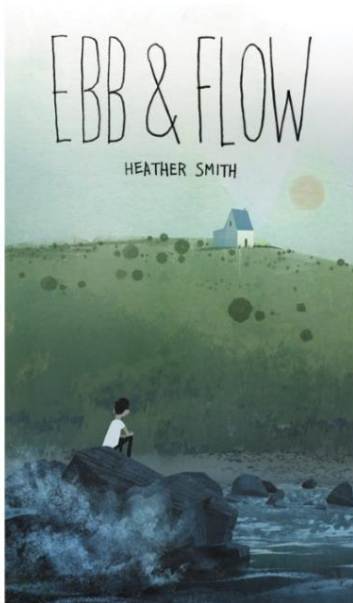
A World Below

Written by Wesley King

Published by Simon and Schuster Canada



When Mr. Baker's eighth-grade AP class travels to Carlsbad Caverns National Park on a field trip, Eric, the quietest in the class, believes having his mother along as chaperone will be a nightmare. Worried that his whole world might figuratively fall apart as his mom starts showing interest in his crush, Silvia, he's startled when it literally does: a sudden earthquake rips the ground from underneath him and drops him and Silvia into the Midnight Realm, a land completely untouched by sunlight, inhabited by the descendants of indigenous peoples who have lived in fear of surface-dwellers for generations. Eric, Silvia, and the Midnight King Carlos embark on journeys of self-discovery as they navigate the darkness of the caves and confront what lurks in the metaphorical shadows cast by their respective fathers.

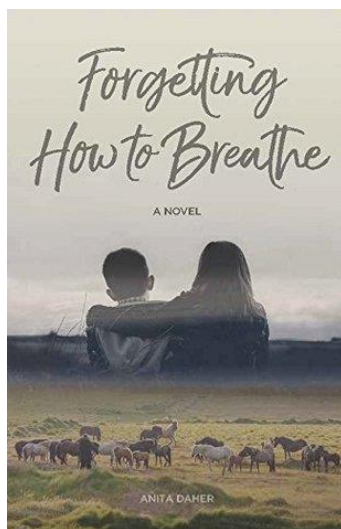


Ebb & Flow

Written by Heather Smith

Published by Kids Can Press

It's a quiet tale of a boy with a gentle soul who has experienced painful upheaval and in turn does some not-so-nice things to others – then feels crushing guilt and remorse. Jett flies to Newfoundland – where he used to live – to spend the summer with his Grandma Jo. A year ago, after Jett's father was sent to prison, he and his mother moved to the mainland to make a fresh start. Once settled, Jett fell in with the school bully, Junior, and did things the old Jett would never dream of. Small things at first – laughing when Junior hit someone, crashing a nice kid's birthday party – but Jett and Junior end up hurting someone badly enough that the police are brought in. After that, Jett's mother decides he needs a change of scenery. "I think she needed a change of scenery, too," says Jett. "One without me."



Forgetting How to Breathe

Written by Anita Daher

Published by Great Plains Publication

Thirteen-year-old Tia is angry. Her mother has disappeared and she and her eight-year-old brother, Tag, have been sent to yet another foster home. In the heart of lake country, Tia feel isolated and farther away from her mother than ever. She desperately tries to convince her brother to return to the city and find her family. But when a freak spring snowstorm and a herd of runaway horses lead her to a job at the Ice Pony Ranch and Animal Rescue Centre, Tia finds a way to deal with the hurt of the past and accept the love that surrounds her.



No Fixed Address

Written by Susin Nielsen

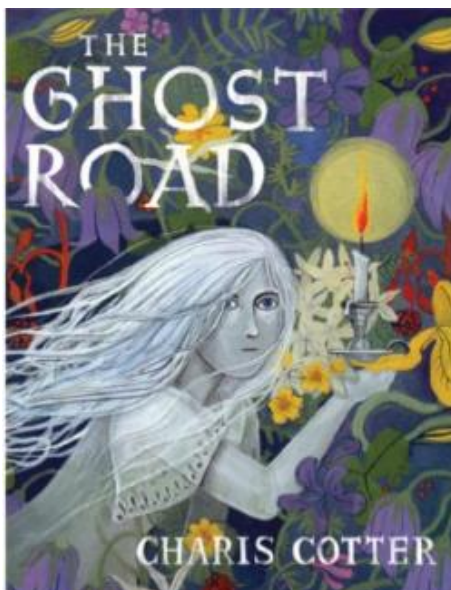
Published by Penguin Random House

It's never easy for a kid to start at a new school. It's especially difficult for Felix, the 12-year-old protagonist of *No Fixed Address*. Felix has a place in the prestigious French immersion program at Blenheim Public School in Vancouver's tony Kitsilano neighbourhood. On the first day of school he runs into Dylan Brinkerhoff, his "old best friend" from a previous school. And he's just met the high-octane Winnie, who quickly forms the third element in this tween triumvirate. Felix has got a head for trivia, and when a junior edition of the show *Who, What, Where, When* – is announced – complete with a cash prize – he sees his chance to change his life, save his mother, and pay back all the places she has stolen from (he maintains a ledger of her thefts). All he has to do is keep their living situation a secret, dodge the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and win the game.

The Ghost Road

Written by Charis Cotter

Published by Penguin Random House



When Ruth's father tells her she's going to be spending the summer with her Aunt Doll while he travels to Greece on a combined research trip and honeymoon (with Ruth's new stepmother, Awful Gwen), Ruth goes out of her way to avoid learning anything about the province. Ruth meets her cousin Ruby, who is also staying for the summer. She explores the hills and meadows, delighting in her new-found freedom. Beneath the wonder, though, is a hidden history of violence and death. What is Ruth to make of the mysterious figure who enters her room by night, carrying a candle? Or the secret room that she and Ruby discover? What is hidden in the library? And what does it mean that their mothers – who were sisters – died at exactly the same moment, thousands of miles apart, the latest in a generations-long line of twin sisters to meet early, unexplained ends? Is there a curse? Can Ruth and Ruby break it?