



it possible for the main characters continue their relationship?

Markus Zusak

**The Book Thief** Alfred A. Knopf (2005)  
[ novel / historical ]

Sometimes it is necessary to look out the window to see the world through the eyes of others and attempt to understand the events that unfold as they would if you are to understand these events more fully. This book is the story of Liesel a German girl who starts living with foster parents in her homeland during the Second World War. It takes the reader through the peaks and valleys of her life which changes in so many ways. A rather unique narrator of this novel is one who is always occupied in times of war, relates these events. Liesel and her foster family risk all when they hide a young Jewish man in the basement of their house. The book examines the people who are part of Liesel's everyday life, the good and the bad. It shows the reader life in a German town during the War. It is a story of uncertainty and survival in the face of overwhelming odds.

Janice Weaver  
Tundra Books

**\*Mirror with a Memory: a Nation's Story in Photographs**  
(2007) [ nonfiction / historical photographs]

Have there been special moments when you've wished that you could save a particular view that you've observed through your window on the world? Song writer and singer Jim Croce wondered of the possibilities "if I could save time in a bottle". In a sense, this is possible as the camera allows one to freeze and permanently record selected moments in time as photographs. This book is a collection of black and white and colour photographs taken over the roughly one hundred and fifty years of Canadian history that has unfolded. For the most part, these are not photos of the rich and famous but of ordinary Canadians including children doing those things that were part of the times in which they lived. The photos are accompanied by a rich narration which reveals the significance of the photos presented. The photos and text provide the readers with dual lenses through which they may come of a better understanding of bygone days and our history as a people.

Karen Hesse

**A Time of Angels** Hypernion (1997)  
[ novel / historical ]

Two factors that may play a part in the way a person sees his/her view of the world are separation from the people loves most and personal disaster. This novel is set in 1918 during World War I in the tenements of Boston. Hannah Gold, a teenaged girl of Jewish heritage, and her two younger sisters have been separated from their parent who are now in war-torn Russia. They are living with an elderly aunt and have not been in contact with their parents for what seems like an eternity. Life is hard, but life is good for them. However, Hannah's life is transformed when the influenza epidemic spreads its sinister shadow across the country. She is sent from her home, leaves it far behind, yet has no idea of how her family and neighbors fare as the grip of the disease tightens on Boston. Can the family survive this terrible foe and will they ever reunite as a family?

Bob Raczka

**More Than Meets the Eye: Seeing Art With the Five Senses**

Millbrook Press (2003)

[ nonfiction / art ]

Looking out the window focused on the world, you certainly use your sense of sight, but what you view may awaken one or more of your other senses. Bob Raczka, the author, has collected a series of paintings in this book in a wide range of styles. Each of these paintings when viewed deliberately and with care may cause you to recall other sensations related to the painting. When you are able to engage all senses fully, you will be better equipped to take in the wealth of information that the world offers you, and its absolutely free!

Naomi Shihab Nye and Paul B. Janeczko

**I Feel a Little Jumpy Around You** Simon Pulse

(1996)

[ poetry ]

When a boy and a girl look out a window and view some aspect of the world, do they see all things in exactly the same way and interpret them in the same way? This collection of poetry is grouped in pairs of poems on a variety of everyday subjects. One poem in each pair is written by a female poet and the other poem by a male poet. By reading each pair of poems together, you should be able to arrive at an answer to the questions at the start of this paragraph and determine what both the similarities and differences are in how members of each gender may see and interpret the world.

David Booth, compiled by  
Kids Can Press

**\*Images of Nature: Canadian Poets and the Group of Seven**

(1995) [ picture book / art / poetry ]

Our creative responses to the same view of the world may take a variety of different forms. Each experience when coupled with a person's unique gifts generates a wide range of projects related to the viewing. The Group of Seven, a group of artists, painted scenes from the Canadian wilderness in vibrant and unique styles which both captured the roughness of this landscape and the beauty of it. Famous Canadian poets including Leonard Cohen and Margaret Atwood likewise at times receive inspiration for their poems from the same landscape. This book brings together scenic paintings of members of the Group of Seven and the poetry of Canadian poets that complement each other. The result is an artistic feast for the senses.

Katherine Holubitsky

**\*Last Summer in Agatha** Orca Book Publishers (2001)

[ novel / contemporary ]

Sometimes, how we respond to what we experience through the windows of life, may be shaped by our prior experiences. Our experiences determine if our view of the life will be that of the glass half empty or the glass half full. Rachel is not happy when she is exiled from Vancouver to stay with her uncle and her aunt in a small town in Southern Alberta. However, her attitude quickly changes as she makes a number of friends there. She begins to experience many of the aspects of small town life. One of Rachel's new friends is a sixteen year old boy named Michael whose world has been spinning out of control since the death of his older brother. Can Rachel achieve a positive relationship with Michael, or will his rush toward self-destruction end up destroying her as well? Who is the mysterious hermit known by the locals as Rib Bone Squire? Is he a murderer as many in the town including Rachel's friends suspect?

Gennifer Choldenko      **Al Capone Does My Shirts** Doubleday (2006)  
[ novel / historical ]

As you spend time gazing from your window looking at the world outside, your view of the object that you are concerned with may evolve and change as your experience with it increases. When Moose first comes to "The Rock", Alcatraz with his whole family in the Great Depression of the 1930s when his Dad is hired to work there. He sees his new home as, well, a prison. He is unhappy because he has had to leave behind much of what he values including his best friends. Yet, he still must spend much of his time caring for his older sister who is autistic and regards this as a burden. He wants to break out of this life. He is told that the nation's most notorious criminal, Al Capone is a prisoner at Alcatraz. Will Moose get back to the life he desires? Will he develop positive relationships with the other young people who live on the Rock? Will he be in contact with the island's most famous resident, Al Capone?

Catherine Gilbert Murdock      **Dairy Queen** Houghton Mifflin Company (2006)  
[ novel / contemporary ]

When one looks through any window, the window may block a true view of the world outside. D.J. Schwenk is a young girl who lives on a Wisconsin dairy farm and has severe confidence issues. She lives in the shadows of two famous older brothers, a silent younger brother, a workaholic mother, and an injured father. She has taken on the duties connected with milking the cows and running the family farm. While she continues to attend school, she has little time for it or much of a social life. Then, a friend of the family who is coach of the high school football team in the next town asks her to act as a personal trainer for his quarterback. She agrees to this, and her life begins to move in many new and surprising directions. She begins seeing the world in an entirely different way. As D.J. begins to engage the world, she gradually awakens to who she is and what her place in the world may be. If you enjoy a good coming of age novel, this may just be the read that you've been awaiting.

Greg Evans

**Luann 4 Seriously...**

Andrews McMeel Publishing (2008)

[ comic strip collection ]

When you look out your window on the world which it frames with a positive sense of humour, you may see ordinary events even those often considered negative in an entirely different way. The images that you see may even remind you of your friends or even of yourself. The life of a typical teen is filled with emotional peaks and valleys full of hurdles and crises. The teen is up one moment and down the next. Luann is a typical teen whose life flows just that way. Greg Evans in his cleverly written comic strips, portrays these events with understanding and care but still brings out the humour related to these events. Perhaps, despite the title of this book, it is often a good idea to look for the humour or joy in a situation rather than taking it too “seriously”!

Paul Sloane and Des McHale **Colorful Lateral Thinking Puzzles**

Sterling Publishing Company (2003)

[ puzzles ]

Sometimes what you see through the window is a problem which requires a solution. In life, a person must be a skilled problem solver. To solve problems, a person needs to be logical. This book contains a number of unique and interesting logic puzzles which will call upon the reader to effectively use his/her mind. The book is organized in three sections: Puzzles, Clues, and Answers. By working through the first two sections, you should be able to use your mind to determine the answers to puzzles about a variety of topics such as “Rolling Stone”, “Stranded”, or “The Kangaroo and the Emu”. Periodically throughout the book, there are a number of “WALLY Tests” ( i.e. “World Association for Laughter, Learning and Youth” ). By using your mind, you may be able to solve the mysteries which dwell in this book.

Charles Dickens

**A Tale of Two Cities: Graphic Classics**

Retold by Jacqueline Morley The Salariya Book Company Limited (2008)

Illustrated by Romano Felmang [ graphic novel ]

One person can look out a window and interpret a situation in a positive way, and yet at the same time, see the limitations which also accompany with the situation. No phrase ever written states this better than the opening lines of A Tale of Two Cities “It was the best of times, it was a worst of times....” This story is set during the turbulent days of the French Revolution. The corrupt, cruel, and uncaring monarchy raising the hopes of the people. However, other evils began to arise during this age of reform. The story involves Charles Darnay, a Frenchman, and Sydney Carton, an Englishman, who are both in love with the same woman. Where will their rivalry and the uncertainty of the times take them? Here, this memorable story is presented in a colourful graphic novel format which should appeal to the teenaged reader.

Joanne Stranbridge

**\*Famous Dead Canadians 2**

Scholastic Canada Ltd (2006)

[ humor / history / biography ]

Often, we have developed ideas that effect how we see a particular part of our world. Many teens believe that history can't possibly be of any interest to them since it is stories about old dead people. Yet, the author does not let this view stop her; in fact, she uses the stories of such people as the basis for this book. She reveals the stories of famous Canadians of the past in a way designed to engage the reader. She tells relates the facts of their lives and their claims to fame, but more importantly tells the stories about each of them that are often left untold. In doing so, she reveals the interesting, often unbelievable aspects of each which are not commonly known. If you've ever believed that Canadian history is boring, and Canadians are rather uninteresting, this book may help you see things in an entirely different way.

Sean Covey

**The 6 Most Important Decisions You'll Ever Make**

Fireside Books (2006)

[ nonfiction /self-help ]

At times when we look at the world, we can simple sit back and enjoy the view. However, we are also called upon to act, to make decisions. Covey looks at what he considers to be the six most important decisions which a teen will be called upon to make. These decisions relate to school, friends, parents, dating and sex, addictions, and self-worth. He begins the book with a review of the seven habits of highly effective teens which he developed in an earlier book and uses this structure as the basis for what he relates in this book. He presents the material in a format designed to engage teen readers including a large number of visuals that support the material in each chapter. If you are concerned about your future, this book may be just the book for you.

Ursula K. LeGuin

**Powers** ( third of "The Annals of the West Shore" trilogy)

Harcourt Inc. (2007)

[ novel /fantasy ]

Have you ever looked out a window and had your imagination triggered by what you viewed?. Our imaginations have the power to take us to new and amazing worlds, the stuff of which fantasy novels are made. Gavir has lived in a large household as a slave. While he and the other slaves are well provided for there, they are still slaves. He attends school and has powers of memory and foresight which has emerged but has not fully developed. When a tragedy strikes, Gavir flees the city in search of his long lost home and his place in the world. LeGuin skillfully tells the reader of Gavir's journey and struggle for survival as he travels through fantastic lands in search for those things which will give his life meaning. Will he manage his gift wisely? Will his journey take him home? With the completion of his journey, will Gavir find all that he desires?

Susan Beth Pfeffer

**Life As We Knew It**

Harcourt Inc. (2006)

[ novel / science fiction ]

Events which bring about change, suffering, and even tragedy can effect our view of the world. Miranda is sixteen years old. Her life is comfortable and generally satisfying although she is unhappy with some aspects of it. She wants to take in all the world . In fact, she even goes outside to view the asteroid hit the moon through her brother's telescope. However, this cosmic event does not go as expected, and life on Earth is changed forever. Miranda and her family become engaged in a struggle for their very lives. There is no certainty about the future, not only theirs but the survival of everyone on the planet. Miranda loses even the simplest pleasures that she once took for granted. All the members of her family sacrifice and come together in an effort to survive. Will their skills, personalities, and sacrifice be enough for Miranda and her family survive? In such an uncertain world, will Miranda be have the opportunity or the skills to successfully come of age?

Gordon Korman

**\*The Juvie Three**

Scholastic Canada Limited (2008)

[ novel / contemporary )

When we look out the window to view the world, we may not see things as we expect them to be. In other words, life is full of irony. In this novel, three young men Gecko, Arjay, and Terence are given second chances when they are taken from the prisons to which they've been sentenced and assigned to a halfway house in the city run by a man named Douglas Healy who has asked specifically for each of them to be assigned there. All goes along fairly smoothly until one night when Healy is injured when he intervenes in a fight between two of the boys and falls from the fire escape. Healy is taken to the hospital where it is determined that he has amnesia. He does not know who he is, nor does anyone at the hospital. This provides a perfect opportunity for the boys to flee and start new lives at some distant location. Strangely enough, they don't! Instead, they decide to stay just where they are and live their lives just as if Healy was there, breaking none of the rules, even doing homework, and pretending that he is momentarily away from the apartment when others ask. By doing this, they hope that they will not be sent back to prison. Gecko returns to the hospital daily to see how Healy is progressing. Here, he meet Roxanne and falls for her. Will the boys be able to carry out their plan? Will they be able to escape returning to prison? What will happen if someone discovers their plan or if Healy suddenly remembers everything?

Neil Waldeman

**The Starry Night**

Boyd Mills Press (1999)

[ picture book / art ]

Some people have the special gift of being able to look out the window and see the world in unique and creative ways. In this book, a young boy named Bernard is entranced by the canvas

of a painter in Central Park. Bernard takes the painter named Vincent on a tour of the wonders of New York City. The boy begins to see his home city as he has never seen it before through the paintings of his artist friend. Who is this painter? How will he influence Bernard's future?

Don Trembath

**\*The Popsicle Journal**

Orca Book Publishers (2001)

[ novel / contemporary ]

Before we look out a window, we may have an idea of what we would like to see. Harper Winslow wants to be a reporter, and now he has a job writing for the newspaper as a student intern. He has a position which could lead to what he considers to be the perfect job. Harper quickly learns that to achieve what he wants, he may have to sacrifice what he has come to value. Things become complicated when Harper's older sister unexpectedly arrives home, and his father becomes a candidate in the local election for mayor. He also encounters a rival who works for the other town newspaper. Things start to become more complicated than Harper ever expected. How much is Harper willing to sacrifice? How much will Harper give up to achieve his dream? Will his efforts to succeed as a reporter destroy his own family?

Susin Nielsen

**\*Word Nerd**

Tundra Books (2008)

[ novel / contemporary ]

Sometimes when we look through a window, we do not see the world as it really is. Twelve year old Ambrose has moved often with his rather unconventional and seemingly uptight mother. He has trouble fitting in and making friends. He is a loner who lives in his own world and is prone to say the wrong thing. In addition, he severely allergic to peanuts. After he almost dies from a prank carried out by some of his new classmates, his life slowly begins to change. He meets an ex-convict and discovers that he does have a talent. More importantly Ambrose begins to discover who he is and even begins to stand up to others. However, during this transformation, Ambrose has bend the rules under which he has lived during his life to this point. Will Ambrose be able to move successfully from childhood to his teens and achieve all that he wants? If he does, will their be a high cost to pay in order to reach his goals?

Susan Hughes

**\*Coming to Canada: Building a Life in a New Land**

Maple Tree Press (2005)

[ nonfiction ]

A window is a portal. A portal allows a person to enter new worlds which offer the promise of excitement. The people who enter portals are travelers, immigrants. Canada is a land largely populated by immigrants. People have come to this land throughout its prehistory and history. This book tells the stories of the various peoples who have come to call Canada home. It is the story of many people of many origins coming here at a variety of times. Some found what they came here for and even more, some found heartbreak. These are the stories of these people, some of whom may be your ancestors. The story is presented in a colourful manner making use of art

and many historical photographs. Nothing ever happens in isolation. So, this book also provides an understanding of world events to provide us with a partial understanding which may have brought each immigrant group to Canada.

Glen Huser

**\*Skinnybones and the Wrinkle Queen**

Groundwood Books (2006)

[ novel / contemporary ]

A younger person and an elder look out a window at the same instant. Do they view what is before them in the same way or differently? Tamara is a street-wise teenaged girl in a new foster home who has her heart set on a modeling career. The first step to this career is a summer modeling course in Vancouver. Through a school project, she meets Miss Barclay, an elderly ex-teacher who lives in a seniors' home. Miss Barclay's desire is to escape the home and to see Wagner's famous operas in Seattle just one more time. They become involved in a scheme designed to achieve both of their desires. To do it, they need to pool all of their seemingly different resources. Are these resources enough to insure the success of their scheme? Will their plans bring each what she desires or something quite unexpected?