

Read In Week Book List for Division III (Grades 7-9): 2011

(* before a title denotes Canadian author)

Alice Kuipers ***Life on the Refrigerator Door** Harper Perennial (2007)
[novel]

The materials that we read can be a means of communication. Sometimes, the messages that we read can take the strangest forms; something as simple as the notes attached to the door of a refrigerator. This simple format is the means that fifteen year old Claire and her mother use to communicate much of the time. Their notes contain an interesting and at times complicated story. These notes not only reveal their story but also their relationship. We quickly discover that we need to be set for whatever life hands us.

Beryl Young ***Charlie: A Home Child's Life in Canada** Key Porter Books,
(2009) [biography]

Charlie's family is ill-prepared for the circumstances that occur when his father suddenly dies and is plunged into crisis. In the early 1900s, there are few options for poor families in England. Charlie is placed in an orphanage and then sent to Canada as one of "the home children" at the age of thirteen years. This book tells of the struggles he must face as a "home child". He faces the challenges with courage and determination. Gradually, Charlie learns to read his new environment and set out to chart a new life for himself there. His life is a life much different then the lives of comfort that many of the teenagers in Canada lead today. This chapter of Canadian history has been largely overlooked until this year which is recognized as "The Year of the Home Children".

Lou Brooks **Twimericks: The Book of Tongue-Twisting Limericks**
Workman Publishing (2009) [poetry]

Yes, poems are to be read silently, but more importantly they are to be read aloud and savored so that one's voice may develop and enrich the sounds the poems present. Poetic language can be used in enjoyable and playful ways such as in limericks and in tongue twisters. This book brings together these two forms in of poetry to produce verse that will test the most agile tongue when read aloud and which are indeed a most playful use of language. Confound your family and friends alike with these treacherous rhymes which employ language so playfully.

Paul Fleischman **Dateline Troy** Candlewick Press (1996)
[myth]

As they attempted to sell papers, newspaper carriers once yelled out, "Read all about it!" The newspaper has always carried the stories of the events that daily shape our world. They may open new worlds to the reader. The author has used the newspaper format to tell the story of the legendary events which took place during the Trojan War. In the book, the author attaches contemporary news stories which mirror each specific incident from that ancient war. He leaves it to the reader to make the connections between the past and the presents as they read all about it. Are the past and the present really that different?

National Geographic **Every Human Has Rights: A Photographic Declaration for Kids** National Geographic (?)
[photo essay]

What stories can we read in photos of our world? A photograph has the power to speak to us directly. In this book, the statements that form the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights are presented through photographs and words. The words are the ideas of young poets from around the world related to each section of the document. The photos and accompanying poems give us an insight into the problems that still face many of the people in the modern world. It rivets us to fact that we must act. This book also provides an internet link to enhance its effect and hopefully lead to future action. This book might be an excellent read before dealing with books such as **Charlie: A Home Child's Life in Canada** or any book dealing with issues of human rights in the past or in the present.

Mathew Skelton ***The Story of Cirrus Flux** Puffin Books (2009)
[novel]

This book begins with a potentially dangerous event at sea. Then the story jumps years to an orphanage in England. Throughout this book, the story will shift back and forth in time. Cirrus Flux has only known the orphanage as his home. Cirrus wants to discover, to “read” the hidden story of his past. He begins a search for his lost past, the years before the orphanage. A strange series of events begins to unfold, Cirrus is drawn into them. His personal safety as well as that of all those whom he knows and trusts are drawn into the eddy of these events. Will he find the answers he seeks as these events occur? If he does, what will the cost be?

William Shakespeare **Romeo and Juliet – The Graphic Novel** Classic Comics Ltd.
(2009) [graphic novel]

Charles Dickens **Great Expectations – The Graphic Novel** Classic Comics Ltd.
(2009) [graphic novel]

In reading, a person quickly discovers through reading that certain stories are timeless tales, as popular now as they were in the Elizabethan or Victorian times. The story of star-crossed teen lovers is as moving today as it was in the past. The story of a doomed love affair also holds as much meaning today as it did in bygone years. Many of the same themes and concerns have endured over the centuries. These common themes show the connections that exist between all people in all places and in all times. The stories that skillfully tell such stories have endured as “the classics”. Yet even such stories can be presented in new and exciting ways. These two tales have been presented in a contemporary graphic novel format to do this. Also, these particular graphic novels have been printed in two or three text versions ranging from original text to plain text, to quick text.

Patrice Vecchione, ed. **Truth and Lies: An Anthology of Poems** Henry Holt and Company (2001) [poetry]

In reading as in all life, it is essential to evaluate the experience to assess what is true and real as opposed to what is not. At times, truth can be obscured and even completely hidden at times while lies are openly presented as being true. A person must be able to distinguish between truth and lie whenever he encounters a dilemma. This anthology of poetry examines the questions of what is truth and what is not as presented through the poems of an array of poets. Their poems allow us to assess each poet's view on his or her selected topic and at the same time to scan it through the screen of our personal values and beliefs in a quest to establish the essence of truth. We must be set to distinguish between truth and fiction as we read the often conflicting information that constantly flows around us each day.

Bob Raczka **Artful Reading** Millbrook Press (2008) [art]

Art has a voice that extends beyond the power of words alone. A theme is a series of artworks sharing a common element or subject. This book is the author's examination of such a theme, "reading". All of the artworks in this book are the artists' treatments of people in the act of reading. The paintings presented in this collection are drawn from a wide-range of styles and from a great span of time. It provides an excellent start for examining theme, style, classification, or categorization. It begs us to ask "how can artists see such a simple act in such unique ways?" To what degree are art and reading personal experiences? Become ready to answer these using the pictures as well as written words.

H.P. Newquist **The Great Brain Book: An Inside Look at the Inside of Your Head** Scholastic Reference (2004) [nonfiction]

New imaging techniques now allow scientists to scan the human brain and read it in more detail than ever. It allows them to study this most complex object. This book looks at the findings of these scientists over time and allows the reader to share in their knowledge of this truly remarkable organ. It looks at the brain through many perspectives, looking at many aspects of the human brain including its structure, its operation, its care among those topics. We are just beginning to understand that some teen behaviours may have their origins in the way that the teen brain works. By reading the human brain, scientists are discovering why we often behave the way that we do.

Robert Burleigh and Raul Colon **Pandora** Harcourt Inc. (2002) [picture book/myth]
One needs to always read a situation in the correct way to interpret messages. The Ancient Greek myth of Pandora is skillfully told in an engaging and entertaining manner through words and pictures in this book. In the story, Pandora fails to "read" the warnings which she is given. Both curiosity and personal desire lead her to make a choice. In such cases, the outcome can be either rewarding or tragic. What type of result will await Pandora? Will the outcome be rewarding or tragic? Her curiosity drives her to an object which has been forbidden to her. Is there a lesson lurking near the end of this tale? This myth might be particularly appropriate as a companion piece to the novel ***The Story of Cirrus Flux**. See if you can discover a connection between the two books.

Bill Amend

Math, Science, and Unix Underpants Andrew McMeel
Publishing (2009) [cartoon]

Jason Fox is a boy genius complete with his own set of truly unique habits. This book of cartoons from the popular “Foxtrot” comic strip examines his efforts to navigate through all aspects of daily life including his school classes. Throughout the pages of the book, his major mission appear to be to show his intelligence in the most bizarre ways in the course of doing so to occasionally “torment” his sister Paige. Whether it is science, math, or computers, Jason appears to have his own unique angle on the situation.

C. Kielberger, M. Kielberger, and D. Shankaran ***Take More Action! How to Change the World** Me to We Books (2008) [self-help]

We have all likely read accounts of horrible situations which may have each of us state, “I want to make the world a better place.” This certainly is a great and noble idea, but where does one actually begin to work on such a goal? How does one move from being a “couch potato” to a person of action who champions one or more important social causes? Here, these well-known child rights advocates provide teens with a well-written guide for such action. The book is colourfully formatted and provides both ideas and numerous tools for those interested in taking up and pursuing a project to help others. This book can assist those with an interest to turn their intentions and will into positive action that one step at a time which may indeed help the world become more the place that we would like it to be.

C. Pignat ***Greener Grass** Red Deer Press (2008) [historic fiction]

Kit Byrne could read the pain in the faces of the people around her. The people that she had known had always been poor, but now the potato blight had struck and famine stalked the land. These people including Kate’s very own family were engaged in a constant battle simply to survive on their meager plots of land in Ireland. Under these dire circumstances, Kate as the eldest child of the Byrne Family must make tough choices and resort to dire measures simply to insure that the family will survive in such bleak times. Will Kate be rewarded for her efforts or will she fail? What will her actions cost her in the end?

G. Korman ***Pop** Scholastic Canada Ltd (2009) [novel]

Marcus has just move to a new town. The town is “football crazy”, and Marcus has planned to be tryout for quarterback of the high school team there. As a quarterback, Marcus will be called upon to read defenses and plays, but he also will need to know how to read people. There were, however, obstacles that stood in his way. So, he begins to practice in order to achieve his goal. One day as he practices in the park, he meets a man who knows football and who begins to help Marcus move toward his goal. At first, Marcus did not read the signs, but slowly as events unfolded, Marcus began to read the man and see that something wasn’t quite right. As if Marcus didn’t have enough problems simply by being the new kid in town, his association with the man seemed to result in constant brushes with the law. Will Marcus become the star quarterback of the team or will he simply become another juvenile delinquent?

Eric Walter ***Wounded** Puffin Canada (2009) [novel]

As the son of a soldier in an elite unit of the Canadian Army, Marcus has become familiar with the ins and outs on the numerous military bases on which he has lived. He is able to read the base and how it operates each day as easily as he can read a book. His experience living on military bases allows him to understand the signs he sees there. Now, his father is away in the last weeks of his tour of duty in Afghanistan. His absence has been the source of great tension for the members of the family. To heighten the apprehension, Marc's father has not been in contact with the family for an unusually long period of time. One day when a news bulletin about another death in the war is broadcast over the television, the family members hold their breath hoping that they will not hear the news they dread. Who will it be? Will it be Marcus's dad?

Kevin Crossley-Holland **Arthur The Seeing Stone** Orion Children's Books (2000)
[novel]

Arthur Caldicot lives a privileged life on a small estate in Medieval Britain. It is a world much different from our modern world. However, it is a world filled with interesting and sometimes unusual people. Arthur has been given a large piece of obsidian, a shiny black rock which allows him to see events at different times and in different places. Yet, Arthur can not read what he sees within the images which appear on this rock and not at all certain of the meaning of what he sees and how it impact his life. Will Arthur learn to read the images that he sees? Where will these images lead him? What will be the result?

Val Ross ***The Road to There: Mapmakers and Their Stories** Tundra
Press (2003) [biography]

In life, it is necessary to be able to do many types of specialized reading. To get to where one is going especially when it is in a distant and unknown place, one needs to be able to read a map skillfully. "Oh, the places we'll go" if we are able to read symbols and to use maps. Maps have had the power enlarge and change the world through the years. This is the story of those who created some of the important maps of all times. This book shows how others used maps to chart the course of their lives. What will our maps be?

Marina Michaelides ***Bathroom Book of Alberta Trivia Weird, Wacky, and Wild**
Blue Bike Books (2006) [trivia/factoids]

Marina Michaelides ***Bathroom Book of Alberta History Intriguing and
Entertaining Facts about our Province** Blue Bike Books (2006)
[trivia/factoids]

Glenda MacFarlane ***Bathroom Book of Saskatchewan Trivia Weird, Wacky, and
Wild** Blue Bike Books (2006) [trivia/factoids]

Reading allows a person to access a wealth of information, both important and trivial. Trivia while as its name suggests lacks importance, it is the stuff through which interest may be awakened. Read all about trivial matters –facts that will amaze; facts that will bewilder! These three books contain little know facts about two of the Canadian Prairie Provinces. These books can provide readers with a collection of quick information that can be used to wow your friends and family in many situations. They tell us brief stories of those things that make these two provinces both unique and noteworthy.

Vance Neudorf ***The Hammer** Novel Concept Books (2008) [fantasy/novel]
Corvan is a small boy and a daydreamer who is bullied at school. His daydreams are constantly getting him into trouble with all around him. However, there is a certain reality to these fantastic dreams. As Corvan approaches his fifteenth birthday, he begins to read the signs around him. He begins to discover that there may be truth, perhaps even his destiny wrapped up in these daydreams. As he begins to discover their meanings, his destiny begins to unfold as he is drawn on a journey through a new and often dangerous world in an attempt to save his one true friend Kate. Will they be able to survive the perils that await them?

Joseph Bruchac **The Way** Darby Creek Publishing (2007) [novel]
Cody LeBeau imagines that he is a ninja who saves all in his school. This school is the eighth one that Cody has attended in the past six years. Cody, a Native boy, has read much about the cultures of the East especially material related to the martial arts, but has not put this knowledge into positive action. He has not made much of an impression there yet and does not show any confidence. This all begins to change when an uncle that Cody did know he had arrives and teaches him skills and thought that change him. He slowly begins to learn “the Way”. But will this alone be enough when Cody discovers that forces are working to create havoc in the school? Will he be able to act and save the day?

Catherine Gilbert Murdock **Front and Center** Houghton Mifflin (2009) [novel]
An injury has forced D.J. to give up her quest to become a star at football and has returned home, ready to once again compete on the basketball court. D.J. does not want to stand out aside from on the court. She simply wants to blend into the school crowd. She begins to learn that this later hope may not be possible if she is to impress her special boy friend and register in the college where she can achieve her goals. In fact while she is a very skilled athlete who can read the action on the floor, her athletic career is imperiled because she simply won't talk on the court, won't assume a leadership role. She is unable to act upon the signs that she sees that indicate the path she needs to follow. These signs begin to create confusion about just how she should proceed. Will D.J. be able to call up the courage to lead her team, enter college, and to carry on a relationship with the young man of her dreams? (This is the third book following D.J. which began with Dairy Queen).

Randa Abdel-Fattah **Does My Head Look Big In This?** Scholastic Inc. (2005) [novel]
Amal has spent time studying her faith and its sacred readings. They have led her to make a vital decision. Now, Amal has decided that it is time for her to begin to wear the hijab an outward expression of her faith. How will others handle her decision? Is she brave enough to follow it through? The book follows Amal following her decision. It is a book that deals with the dilemmas that many teenagers face. Amal must find a way of reconciling traditional values within the modern world in which she lives. As Amal's story unfolds, it breaks down many stereotypes held by those outside her culture and

shows us that there are many similarities between people, and, perhaps, these similarities are what people should be focusing upon rather than their differences. It is a story not so much of a teen from a particular culture as it is a novel of those factors facing teens of any tradition and teens in general. The story is told with great understanding and the occasional dash of humour. It looks at the struggle of teenager versus parents, the secular world versus religious values, the pull of peers versus the pull of family, and bias and ignorance versus knowledge and understanding. Amal must deal with all these pressures while attempting to live her own life.

(N.B.: The last two novels make an interesting pair. In the first, D.J., the heroine, chooses to not stand out, to be part of the background. In the second book, its heroine, Amal does exactly the opposite. She acts consciously doing something that draws to herself. Each of these strategies produces unforeseen results.)