

SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 65 ■ SUMMER 2020 ■ \$2.00



- SOCIETY PAGES POETRY CONTEST
- CRP GOES ONLINE
- BOOK QUEST 2020

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QUÉBECOR

SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 65 ■ SUMMER 2020

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LIBRARY BOOK PICK-UP HOURS

Wednesday-Sunday: Noon - 4:00 PM

Email your book orders to library@morrin.org

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The mission of the **Morrin Centre** is to share and foster English-language culture in the Quebec City region. The Morrin Centre is administered by the Literary & Historical Society of Quebec. ISSN 1913-0732

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members, Partners, and Friends,

Since writing my letter for the previous issue of *Society Pages*, the Morrin Centre has had to close its doors to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After the initial shock had passed, citizens began to adapt to the

unprecedented situation and the Morrin Centre was no exception.

I would like to thank staff members who quickly adapted and delivered alternate programming, which kept our members, partners, and their families in touch and involved with the Centre. And now as we are planning to gradually reopen the Centre for some activities, staff has worked diligently to make sure we can welcome you in a safe way. Please follow our social media accounts and look for information on our website regarding the availability of services.

We are also grateful for financial support from all three levels of government, which will be paramount in helping the Literary and Historical Society navigate these difficult times. It will be a challenging year, and council and staff are working closely to make sure that we come through this time in a sound way.

Furthermore, given the special situation, all Board members have agreed to continue their mandate until we can hold our Annual General Meeting. I thank them all for their ongoing support throughout these months of uncertainty.

Like you, I am eager to get back to a new normal. In the meantime, I hope that all members and their families remain safe and healthy, and I look forward to seeing everyone again soon.

Sincerely,

Barry Holleman
President

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

For the Morrin Centre, the spring of 2020 has been focused on adapting to a new reality due to the pandemic. The Centre had to close its doors in mid-March, but staff members have stayed busy working from home. In my

case, it's been difficult trying to work with a three-year-old hanging from my neck as I try to type, but we have all managed to find new routines.

Cancelling the Imagination Writers' Festival just two weeks before the start of the event was extremely disappointing. Fortunately, several of the authors agreed to film talks related to the book they would have presented. These videos were posted on our YouTube channel. We have also been looking at creative ways to bring our members more literary content in the coming months.

Additionally, we created a YouTube channel for our children's programming, MorrinCentreKids. It features online Storytimes, craft ideas, and "Ask an Expert" videos on a variety of topics. The videos were created by staff members and volunteers, under the guidance of our Education Coordinator.

The digital shift continues with our 2020 Arts Alive! Festival. We will be announcing the line-up in the coming weeks, and we are excited to reveal the various musical events that we will bring to you virtually this year.

I would like to thank our members for their ongoing support throughout the pandemic, and I wish you all good health and a warm, sunny summer.

Sincerely,

Barry McCullough
Executive Director

SOCIETY PAGES POETRY CONTEST

In honour of National Poetry Month, the Morrin Centre held its first *Society Pages Poetry Contest* from April 5th to April 30th. The contest generated an immense amount of interest from our community members and beyond. We were thrilled with the number of submissions that we received and impressed with the quality of the poems. Selecting a winner was a difficult task! Congratulations to Marie *Lawinonkie* White, who won the contest with her beautiful and moving poem “I am a Braid.” We also selected two honourable mentions, “The Sunken Cathedral” by Luis Lázaro Tijerina and “Time Tarnished” by Monique Laforce, as well as an honourable mention for a youth submission, “The Containment 2020” by Marie-Jeanne Benoit. Thank you to everyone for your submissions. We hope that you enjoy reading these poems as much as we did!

WINNING POEM I AM A BRAID

By Marie *Lawinonkie* White

I am not
just white
despite
my surname.
No,
I am a braid.

I am the wonderful weave
of three strong strands,
each unique, each beautiful
that united, blend the three bloods
of the founding solitudes
of my ancestry.

To the left is my first name-strand,
my *prénom français*, *Marie*,
which I received from the first
French settlers and their Faith.
A bold blue strand swirls on in Québec
Bearing its fleur de lys.

To the far right is *White*, my last name-strand
That voyaged over from my English blood in Ireland,
Bringing royal red and regal reverence through
my great great grandfather whose people gifted me
with the legacy of the language I love
that spans the globe.

Between the two is *Lawinonkie*, my central name-strand,
the soft deerskin strand,
a time immemorial core
of me, and of this land.
It is softly sung in the Wendat tongue
And honours my multi-great Mi'kmaq grandmother.

She was tanned my Mi'kmaq ancestor, and earthy;
She was not red.
She was gentle hands braiding baskets;
She was the calm voice singing her people's songs
To the circle drumbeat of her heart and soul.
She was part of the grass, the wind, the moon
Flowing and ebbing with the tides.
She was the keeper and teacher of her ways,
Gently laughing to lighten her people's woes,
Then transmitting that life-giving laughter
into my children's chuckles.

She founded our first family
with her French man
Who sailed into
Nova Scotia in the 1640s.

That she lived many moons ago
Makes no difference;
For she lives on in me,
In my steps
In my voice
In my pen.

Like a soft fancy shawl on my tanned shoulders, where
A blue cloth comforts me from the left, and
A red cloth comforts me from the right,
I stand, peaceful and proud,
realizing, reminding, and living my reality,
I am a braid.

TRANSACTIONS

HONOURABLE MENTION
THE SUNKEN CATHEDRALAfter Debussy's *Préludes-La Cathédrale engloutie*
(For R.L.)

By Luis Lázaro Tijerina

In these last days of February, the night spills
into the streets like black ink,
I hear piano keys move like swift tides,
Undulating waters of the deep Saint Lawrence,
A conquered city still breathing with resistance
before a mouth to the Atlantic...
Quebec City, that engulfed city of light
and ancient cannon.
Quebec City, that cathedral which emerges
not from the sea but from a great river,
The high cliff, where her people and bells sing
to old and new deaths,
Amid her stone walls, I hear harmonies—
an ancient Breton myth swelling against boulders,
not an Aegean song,
Sung by Oysseus Elytis with Greek mourning,
But a sunken boat of chimes emerging slowly,

The fog moving up from the banks
into deserted streets, sailors' cut-glass tearing the sky,
Near that field where men died,
The tenants, in the rooming house I live in,
Scuttled like shipwrecks.

I, an old man, driven by dry vanities,
The crimes we keep, you and I,
I hoard under the elm tree in late winter,
On the island, Île d'Orléans, there I meditate
in what I can
and cannot believe in.



**La Cathédrale engloutie, Cap Diamant — The Sunken Cathedral
Inspired by Debussy's *Préludes*. Painting by Luis Lázaro Tijerina**

TRANSACTIONS

HONOURABLE MENTION TIME TARNISHED

By Monique Laforce

It was time spent
time flayed
time sold
that of autumn roses

It was the tarnished shine of the world
which sank in the mirrors
and we did not see anything
nothing recognized successive abandonments
and bankruptcies of the moment

It was the fragile lights
that precede erasure
the soul became a dream
and the awakening forgetful

It was the time in excess
on our lips in our hands
it was the time we have no more

And yet

And yet...

HONOURABLE MENTION: YOUTH SUBMISSION THE CONTAINMENT 2020

By Marie-Jeanne Benoit

To save themselves from real danger,
The whole city remains locked up for a long year
And the world is really destabilized as I hear
Because everyone is running out of toilet paper.

I'm alone at home
Playing with a gnome
I miss my friends because I can't play that way
I must stay away

I can eat ice cream
But not for real it's just a dream
I love to listen to music
That's another topic

I want to bake
My favourite cupcake
Don't forget the icing
For the topping

I can't play volleyball in quarantine
Because my ball is not clean

I walk down the street
And slowly I follow
the path of the rainbow
while listening to the rain beat

I hope you like my poem
Even if I'm not Leonard Cohen

TRANSACTIONS

IN MEMORY OF
JOHN FRY

1930-2020

By Kathleen Hulley

This past spring, we received the sad news that John Fry, long-time friend and supporter of the Morrin Centre, passed away on January 24th, 2020 at the age of 90.

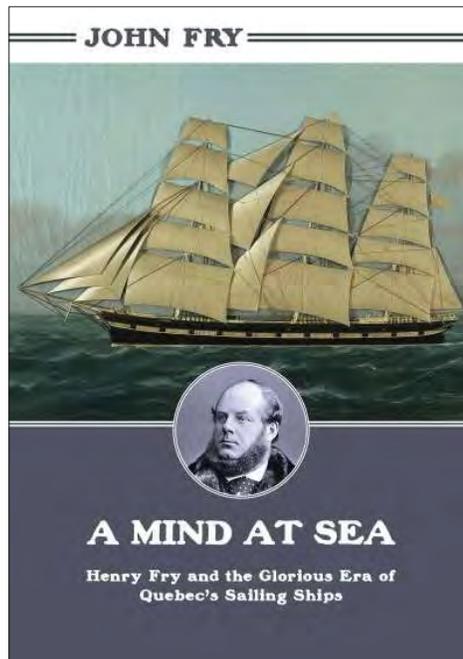
John Fry was born in Montreal in 1930 and moved to New York City in 1957. For over 40 years, he worked as a magazine editor at the Times Mirror Co. and at the New York Times Co. Notably, he was Editor-in-Chief of *SKI*, Editorial Director of *Outdoor Life and Golf*, and founding editor of *Snow Country* magazine. Mr. Fry was active in the skiing community, and he was elected to the US National Ski Hall of Fame (in 1995) as well as to the Canadian Ski Hall of Fame (in 2018). He was a founding member and later President of the International Skiing History Association, and published the award-winning *The Story of Modern Skiing* in 2006.

John Fry was also known for his book *A Mind at Sea: Henry Fry and the Glorious Era of Quebec's Sailing Ships* (Dundurn Press, 2013), in which he offered a portrait of his great-grandfather Henry Fry and the role he played in Quebec City, an important shipbuilding centre in the 19th century. A large model



John Fry (1986)

Photo courtesy of Leslie Fry



of *The Cosmo*, a famous square-rigged ship commissioned by Henry Fry, still graces the top of the new acquisitions book shelf in the LHSQ library. Henry Fry was also treasurer of the LHSQ in the late 1860s.

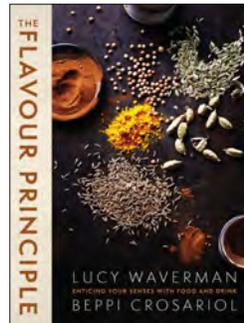
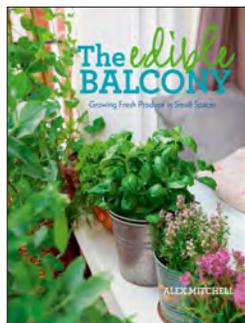
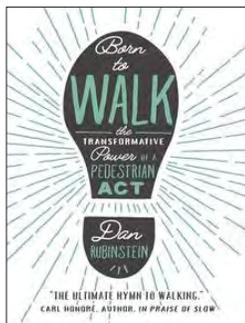
Mr. Fry had a number of connections to the Morrin Centre. As Executive Director Barry McCullough noted, "Mr. Fry was a great supporter of our mission and mandate, and he took a keen interest in our organization's history." In 2013, he gave a talk about *A Mind at Sea* at the Centre. He also generously allowed *Society Pages* to reprint excerpts from Henry Fry's previously unpublished *Reminiscences of a Retired Shipowner*. These *Reminiscences* appeared in the 2018 summer and fall issues of *Society Pages*, and Mr. Fry provided a wonderful biographical introduction to the pieces. In 2018, Mr. Fry also generously donated a number of books and maps to the LHSQ, many of which were added to the library's Special Collections.

Recently, Mr. Fry served on the board and as director of the Chawkers Foundation, a Canadian organization that has supported the Morrin Centre's Imagination Writers' Festival as well as an upcoming project that will bring to life some of the portraits that adorn our Presidents' Hall.

LIBRARY PAGES

TIME TO GET MOVING—AND THE LIBRARY CAN HELP!

ON THE SHELF: A thematic review of some interesting, important, or just entertaining books in the library of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec
By Britta Gundersen-Bryden



Normally at this time of the year, library members would begin thinking about taking out a stack of books for their summer reading (and “On the Shelf” may have had some good suggestions). But this summer will be far from normal and rather than retreating and relaxing, library users may feel more like “doing” than reading. Fortunately, the library’s e-book collection has a wide variety of non-fiction titles to inspire readers to spring into action.

Many folks have been taking long walks recently (always staying two metres apart, of course). Dan Rubinstein gives an in-depth look at this oldest form of transportation in *Born to Walk: The Transformative Power of a Pedestrian Act* (2015). Why not add a camera to your walking gear and take some interesting shots along the way? The editors of Popular Photography magazine have published *How to Photograph Everything: 500 Beautiful Photos and the Skills You Need to Take Them* (2014). Sections on taking photos of architecture, weather, and street scenes are perfect matches for Quebec City in the summer.

It is entirely possible to be productive while sitting on the balcony or the deck. Just think about knitting! *Japanese Knitting Stitch Bible* (2017), by Hitomi Shida and translated by Gayle Roehm, promises 260 “exquisite patterns”—more than enough to take a knitter well beyond summer. Elizabeth Zimmerman’s classic *Knitter’s Almanac* was reissued in 2013, marking what would have been Zimmerman’s 100th

birthday. Sections on tatting and lace take the almanac beyond the ordinary.

Alex Mitchell’s *The Edible Balcony: Growing Fresh Produce in Small Spaces* (2015) will appeal to folks who want to get their hands in the soil and enjoy the fruits (and vegetables) of their labour later in the summer. Whether your garden is on the balcony, back yard, or window ledge, make the most of it with advice from *Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden: A Natural Approach to Pest Control* (2014) by Jessica Walliser.

Books about cooking naturally follow books about gardening, and there are dozens of cookbooks in the library’s e-book collection. Of course, it is simple to find a recipe for almost anything on the Internet these days, but the advantage of using a cookbook is that readers can take the author’s measure, so to speak—and be inspired by great photos, too. Lucy Waverman has been a personal favourite for many years; it would hard to go wrong with *The Flavour Principle*, co-authored with Beppi Crosariol (2013). Sweet treats are the ultimate comfort food, and author Dorie Greenspan, creator of more than 300 cookie recipes, offers up many in *Dorie’s Cookies* (2016). Summer is also the perfect season to think about vegetarian dishes; *Plenty More* (2014) by Yotam Ottolenghi presents 150 recipes in what is described as a “visually stunning collection ... that will change the way you cook and eat vegetables.” Few things signal summer better than cooking up a little something on the grill.

LIBRARY PAGES

👉 ON THE SHELF (continued from previous page)



Brooke Lewy penned 60 recipes “dedicated to vegetables that eat like meat” in **Vegetables on Fire: 50 Vegetable-Centered Meals from the Grill** (2017).

In these times when days run into weeks and weeks run into months, it is fine to think of “spring cleaning” as summer begins. Marie Kondo guides readers with **The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing** (2014). Kondo has made her reputation by helping people determine which items in their houses “spark joy,” which don’t—and how to retain more of the former and fewer of the latter.

After all that shutter-snapping, knitting, gardening, cooking, and tidying, a rest will be well-deserved. Judith Hanson Laszter has some ideas to help do exactly that in **Relax and Renew: Restful Yoga for Stressful Times** (2016), her book on restorative yoga and how it can help heal the effects of chronic stress.

For younger readers (and those responsible for keeping them busy this summer):

More than 250 arts and crafts ideas, experiments, and projects can be found in the following five e-books for younger readers:

- **Project Kid** (2014) by Amanda Kingloff has more than 100 projects using everyday materials and objects.

- **Tinkerlab: A Hands-On Guide for Little Inventors** (2016) by Rachele Doorley has 55 experiments for children age 2 and up.
- **Origami Activities for Children** (2012) by Chiyo Araki presents more than 20 projects.
- **Rosie Revere’s Big Project Book for Bold Engineers** (2017), by Andrea Beaty and illustrated by David Roberts, includes ideas for more than 40 things to invent, draw, and make.
- **The Kid’s Book of Simple Everyday Science** (2013) by Kelly Doudna has 40 simple science activities.

Finally, for those youngsters who may be anxious or curious or a bit of both about what’s going on in the world around them, two titles come to mind: H. A. Rey’s **Curious George Discovers Germs** (2015), based on an Emmy-winning PBS series and is full of facts, photos, experiments, and activities, as well as **Germs Are Not for Sharing** (2017) by Elizabeth Verdick and illustrated by Marleka Heinlen.

LIBRARY PAGES

NEW LIBRARY CATALOGUE

By Kathleen Hulley

**EXTRACT FROM A PAPER “ON THE CATALOGUE” READ BEFORE THE SOCIETY,
ON THE 16th MARCH 1864, BY THE LIBRARIAN.**

The classification of our Catalogue is systematic. It proposes to rise through the whole domain of human knowledge, from what is most simple to what is most complex, from what is best known and most comprehensible to what is least known and most obscure.

— From *Catalogue of Books in the Library of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec* (Quebec City: Printed by G. T. Cary, 1864), xvii.

At the end of March, the Morrin Centre’s Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) received a “facelift.” The new catalogue, which is run by ResourceMate, the Guelph-based company that hosts the LHSQ’s library database, has new features and functions in order to improve the user experience.

One of the best things about the new catalogue is that it is much faster than the previous version! And now you can refine your search by clicking on filters on the left. Rotating “New Items” and “Most Checked Out” books also appear at the bottom on the homepage. Stay tuned for an Advanced Search function, which will appear in the coming months.

To find more about a particular book, just click on the

title to get more information and to see if it is available to be checked out.

To sign into your library account (click on the upper right-hand corner), you will now need to use your full library card number as the “username” and the last four digits of your card number as the “password.” Once signed in, you can reserve and renew books, or create book lists to email to yourself for later.

Happy searching!

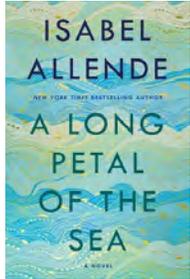
If you have any questions about using the online catalogue, please contact the Library Manager at kathleenhulley@morrin.org.

The screenshot displays the Morrin Centre library website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'MORRIN CENTRE' on the left, 'CONTACTS' and 'SIGN IN' on the right, and a central search bar containing 'morrin centre'. Below the navigation bar, the 'morrin' logo is visible, along with 'centre culturel • cultural centre'. The main content area shows search results for 'morrin centre', with 'Results 1 - 2 of 2 for morrin centre'. The results are sorted by 'Relevance'. The first result is 'Iron Bars And Bookshelves : A History of the Morrin Centre' by Blair, Louisa / Donovan, Patrick / Fyson, Donald, categorized as 'Non-Fiction' with call number 971.4 B635. The second result is 'Visitations : Poems' by Whitt, John Hart, categorized as 'Poetry' with call number 821.8 W624. On the left side, there are filter options for 'Resource Types' (Books (2)), 'Authors' (Blair, Louisa (1), Donovan, Patrick (1), Fyson, Donald (1), Whitt, John Hart (1)), 'Category' (Non-Fiction (1), Poetry (1)), and 'Large Print' (Regular (2)). A 'RECENT SEARCHES' section is also visible at the bottom left.

LIBRARY PAGES

NEW ACQUISITIONS

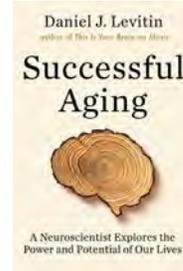
Here are some of the new titles in the library collection.
Books with an * are also available on OverDrive.



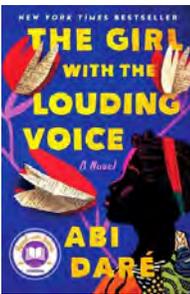
A Long Petal of the Sea *
Isabel Allende
A432 2020
Fiction



Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead *
Olga Tokarczuk
T646 2009
Fiction



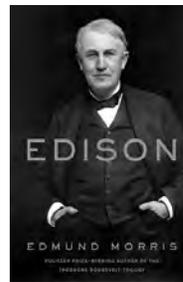
Successful Aging
Daniel J. Levitin
912.67 L666
Non-fiction



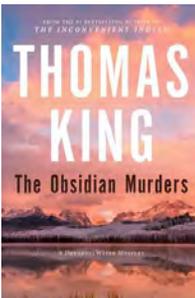
The Girl With the Louding Voice
Abi Daré
D217 2020
Fiction



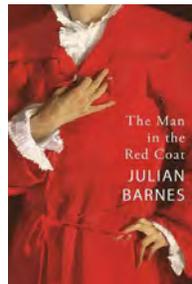
Red at the Bone
Jacqueline Woodson
W898 2019
Fiction



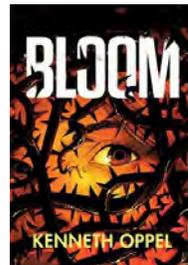
Edison
Edmund Morris
BIO E23 2019
Biography



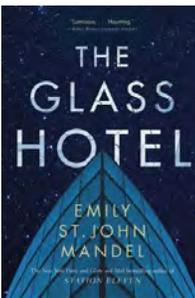
The Obsidian Murders *
Thomas King
K54 2020
Fiction



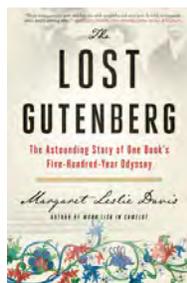
The Man in the Red Coat
Julian Barnes
944.081 B261
Non-fiction



Bloom
Kenneth Oppel
JF OPP 2019
Junior Fiction



The Glass Hotel *
Emily St. John Mandel
M271 2020
Fiction



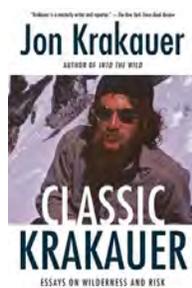
The Lost Gutenberg
Margaret Leslie Davis
093 D263
Non-fiction



Lion vs. Rabbit
Alex Latimer
JP LAT 2013
Junior Picture



The Dutch House *
Ann Patchett
P294 2019
Fiction



Classic Krakauer
Jon Krakauer
814.54 K89
Non-fiction

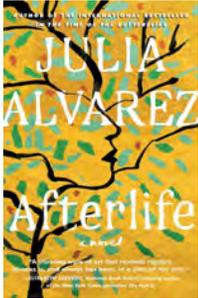


Greta and the Giants
Zoe Tucker & Zoe Persico
JP TUC 2019
Junior Picture

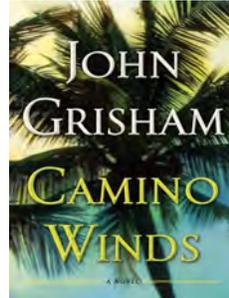
LIBRARY PAGES

WHAT'S NEW ON OVERDRIVE

We've added hundreds of new books to our OverDrive collection over the last three months! Here are some of the new e-book titles now available. Log in to the Morrin Centre's OverDrive system at morrin.overdrive.com with your library card to check out our latest acquisitions.



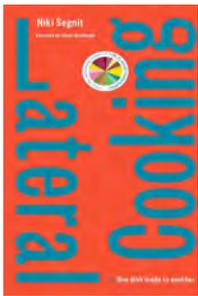
Afterlife
Julia Alvarez
Fiction



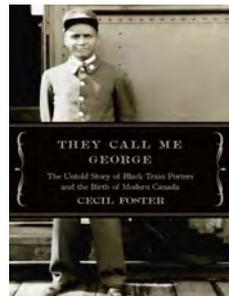
Camino Winds
John Grisham
Fiction



The Book of Longings
Sue Monk Kidd
Fiction



Lateral Cooking
Niki Segnit & Yotam Ottolenghi
Non-fiction



They Call Me George
Cecil Foster
Non-fiction



The Splendid and the Vile
Erik Larson
Non-fiction

The Morrin Centre's OverDrive website now features a new section just for kids! Books in this section include Read-Alongs (which are picture books with an optional professionally recorded narration), chapter books, and more! Just like with the regular OverDrive catalogue, the kids' section will feature rotating collections of thematic suggestions.

MORRIN CENTRE LIBRARY

Kids

Subjects Collections ▾

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Read-Along Picture Books

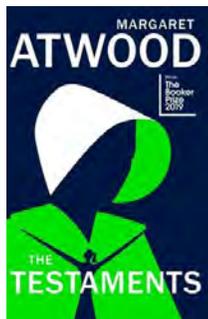
SEE ALL

<p>AVAILABLE</p> <p>Scaredy Squirrel by Melanie Watt EBOOK</p>	<p>AVAILABLE</p> <p>Scaredy Squirrel H... by Melanie Watt EBOOK</p>	<p>AVAILABLE</p> <p>Scaredy Squirrel M... by Melanie Watt EBOOK</p>	<p>AVAILABLE</p> <p>Spork by Kyo Maclear EBOOK</p>	<p>AVAILABLE</p> <p>The Paper Bag Pri... by Robert Munsch EBOOK</p>	<p>AVAILABLE</p> <p>Stephanie's Ponytail by Robert Munsch EBOOK</p>
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LIBRARY

THE TESTAMENTS BY MARGARET ATWOOD

Book Review by Aiden Roberts



If revenge done intelligently is your cup of tea, this book is for you.

Aunt Lydia, a much-hated character when readers encountered her in *The Handmaid's Tale*, is the central narrator in this captivating three-person account of life inside the repressive, misogynistic, puritan theocracy called The Republic of

Gilead. It existed in what was a certain region of the United States in the late 20th century until sometime in the early 21st century.

Lydia's story comes to us by means of a secret manuscript that she worked on and then kept hidden inside a hollowed-out 19th-century tome. The manuscript is found many generations after the demise of Gilead and it brings to life certain historical facts about life inside, and the reasons behind, the fall of the much-hated and feared Republic.

Lydia is an ageing woman who holds the most powerful female position in Gilead. She has risen to the top after a cruel initiation because of her strong desire to survive, her cunning, and her diverse skills. She

addresses her imagined reader like a friend. She explains why she is writing her explosive account. Her main goal in the time that is left to her is to topple the regime which she, despite herself, has helped to establish. She has been gathering incriminating evidence for years, and some of it includes many of her own misdeeds. She is devising a means of getting the information out of Gilead into Canada and then hopefully having it revealed to the world at large.

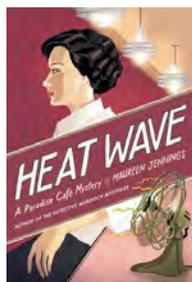
In her scheme, Lydia has craftily recruited two young women whom she has taken under her wing. She along with the help of Mayday, a secretive resistance group, want to help the young women flee Gilead with enough concealed information that once revealed will do serious damage to the corrupt leaders of the regime, which should bring down the Republic.

The Testaments is a cleverly woven and spellbinding cautionary tale for today that comes to us from an imaginary past. There are several surprise tie-ins with *The Handmaid's Tale*. It is certainly a novel that will incite readers to engage in discussions for years to come. Drink up!

The Testaments (McClelland & Stewart, 2019). Also available as an e-book.

HEAT WAVE BY MAUREEN JENNINGS

Book Review by Rosemarie Fischer



After meeting Maureen Jennings during the 2019 Imagination Writers' Festival, I became intrigued by her many crime-fiction books. This led me to borrow *Heat Wave* (2019), which takes place in Toronto during the Great Depression. The main character in the novel is a young woman named Charlotte Frayne, the junior associate at a private investigation firm. During a week-long heat wave in the summer of 1936, Charlotte must investigate an anti-Semitic hate letter delivered to her boss and an attack on his wife, as well as inquire into a case of embezzlement for a client.

I enjoyed following the action with heroine Charlotte Frayne, a resourceful and intelligent thirty-something-year-old woman who lives with her grandfather. Frayne

proves to be smart and gutsy, without being reckless, as she relentlessly attempts to help her boss and her client solve their investigations.

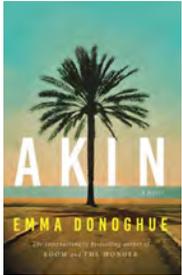
I especially liked Jennings' descriptions of the Paradise Café, which is run by four friends who are World War I veterans. The café is located in downtown Toronto, where down-and-out people can get a decent three-course meal for only 35¢. The Depression-era menu was full of curious food such as Eccles cake, Bakewell tarts, trench pudding, oxtail stew, mulligatawny soup, and roly-poly pudding, all items that I found intriguing and wanted to try. The fast-paced action, interesting characters, and historical features kept me turning the pages, and I am looking forward to reading the next book in the series.

Heat Wave (Cormorant Books, 2019). Also available as an e-book.

LIBRARY

AKIN BY EMMA DONOGHUE

Book Review by Gail Cameron



I have always enjoyed a good book, and now, since being isolated, I have more time on my hands to indulge in my guilty pleasure. Luckily, our online e-book selection keeps growing. I am very pleased to write about my latest read.

Several years ago, Emma Donoghue was an author at the Morrin Centre's Imagination Writers' Festival. I was privileged to attend her talk. She's a very engaging author and presenter. Her latest novel, *Akin*, introduces us to a recently retired New York City professor named Noah Selvaggio, who is about to leave on a long-awaited trip to Nice. He hasn't returned since living there as a young child. He wants to explore his roots and get answers to some family secrets dating back to World War II during the Nazi Occupation.

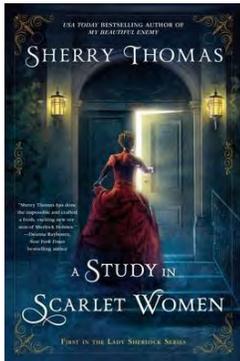
Unexpectedly, just before leaving, Selvaggio becomes the unlikely and unwilling guardian of his 11-year-old great-nephew, Michael, and he takes him along on his trip. The reader gets a look at historic wartime Nice, the French Resistance, and the Marcel Network. Our travellers explore the city and visit sites that bring some clarity to Noah's quest for answers into his mother's past. The book shows the clash of generations with communication, technology, and life experiences. They are not traditional travelling companions but they discover that they can rely on each other. The novel shows the importance of respect, love, family, and kinship in all its forms. The characters create a strong bond, and we come to wonder who needs whom most in the end.

This is Donoghue's twelfth novel and it didn't disappoint. I hope that you enjoy reading it as much as I did!

Akin (Harper Collins, 2019). Also available as an e-book.

A STUDY IN SCARLET WOMEN BY SHERRY THOMAS

Book Review by Jeanne Lebossé-Gautron



A Study in Scarlet Women, by Sherry Thomas, is the first book of the Lady Sherlock series. It tells the story of Charlotte Holmes and her detective work, performed under the assumed name of Sherlock Holmes, as her sister and father fall under suspicion for three murders.

Charlotte is a bright young detective who rails against the expectations put on women in the Victorian setting of the novel. Why should husbands be allowed mistresses, while wives are kept from having their own affairs? Why should women just *live with things*, instead of deciding things for themselves, instead of making their opinions known? Sharp of spirit, Charlotte is a delight to meet and discover over the course of the novel. Odd and uncommon, Charlotte is far from the helpless woman society would like her to be; she masters social constraints only to learn how to circumvent them.

The murder investigation is but a backdrop to the struggles of a young woman seeking independence in the world of men, where she is controlled by norms and expectations that cause her to encounter “the woman problem” time and again. The different strands of the narrative make for an entertaining read as you jump from problem to backstory to brilliant deduction, all in the same breath. The novel, with its shifts in point of view from one important character to another, is an easy read in the best of ways. The narrative flows and, though I sometimes questioned the importance of a scene or another, I was soon proven wrong when the threads connected later on.

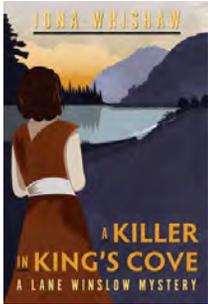
All in all, *A Study in Scarlet Women* is a fantastic read for those looking for female characters with agency and gusto and for murder mysteries.

A Study in Scarlet Women (Berkley, 2016). Also available as an e-book.

LIBRARY

A KILLER IN KING'S COVE BY IONA WHISHAW

Book Review by Rosemarie Fischer



A Killer in King's Cove was recommended to me by our Library Manager, Kathleen Hulley. The book takes place in 1946 in the Kootenay region of British Columbia, in a small settlement called King's Cove. The heroine, Lane Winslow, is an intelligent young woman with a mysterious past who has just arrived from

England in an attempt to escape her war memories. It goes without saying that she is also very beautiful...for when are heroines in mystery novels ever plain or buck-toothed?

The intrepid Lane finds a corpse in her creek shortly after arriving and soon all the clues point to her being the culprit. Along with taciturn Inspector Darling and enthusiastic Constable Ames of the Nelson Police, much sleuthing is done and the lovely Lane just can't

resist getting involved in finding the killer amongst the eccentric inhabitants of her small community.

I really liked this book for several reasons. Mostly, I enjoyed the setting in a small town near Nelson, B.C., where members of my family live and where I have spent many holidays. It is a beautiful region, which the author has faithfully described in her book. The characters in the novel have depth and are multi-layered. We are interested in finding out more about them as the story evolves. The author also addresses mental health issues that some of the characters are dealing with, such as PTSD and depression, as a result of their experiences during the two world wars or due to their own, personal traumas.

In conclusion, I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, and I have already started the next one in the series.

A Killer in King's Cove (Touchwood Editions, 2016). Also available as an e-book.

LITTLE RED WRITING BY JOAN HOLUB

Book Review by Azanie Roy



Books are often used in classrooms for writing prompts and to model different writing techniques and styles. For anyone trying to encourage their child to continue writing at home, *Little Red Writing* is a great children's picture book that can be used for elementary-school students of all ages. The reader follows the

journey of Little Red, a pencil assigned to write a story by her teacher Ms. 2 (a little pencil play on words). In this retelling of *Little Red Riding Hood*, children review parts of speech, such as adverbs, conjunctions, and adjectives, which are introduced as plot-twists in the story. Written by Joan Holub and illustrated by Melissa Sweet, this work can be re-read often, with children learning something new each time they open the book.

Holub is a prolific writer and illustrator with over 170 books in print. She has written books for toddlers, notably the "This Little Series," which includes *This Little*

Scientist: A Discovery Primer, *This Little Artist: An Art History Primer*, and *This Little Trailblazer: A Girl Power Primer*. Holub also writes for elementary-school-aged children with her "Heroes in Training" series for children ages 7 to 10 and "Grimmtastic Girls" series for children ages 8 to 12. Her website, www.joanholub.com, offers many pedagogical tools for teachers who wish to teach her books in their classrooms.

Parents can borrow *Little Red Writing* through the Morrin Centre's e-book collection. This book is a Read-Along title, which means readers have the option to listen to a professionally recorded narrator reading the book aloud online. With one click on the first page of the book, children can enjoy being read to at any time of the day.

Other Read-Along titles in the Morrin Centre's OverDrive collection include: *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds, *I Want My Hat Back* by John Klassen, and *Scaredy Squirrel Makes a Friend* by Mélanie Watt.

Little Red Writing (Chronicle Books, 2013). Only available as an e-book.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

IMAGINATION ONLINE

By Jeanne Lebossé-Gautron



Far from being idle during the quarantine, the Morrin Centre team has put together a shiny new playlist on the Morrin Centre's YouTube channel. The Imagination Online playlist now contains six fantastic 15-minute videos by authors who were scheduled to appear at Imagination 2020: Jill Heinerth, Sean Michaels, Terry Fallis, Melissa Yi, Moe Clark, and Marianne Dubuc. Viewers can hear them discuss their novels, read excerpts, and answer audience questions. Enthusiastic and engaging, these authors are a delight to listen to.

Jill Heinerth reads from her book *Into the Planet: My Life as a Cave Diver*, shares pictures and videos of her expeditions, and talks about her relationship with fear in the context of her cave diving.

Sean Michaels reads from his novel *The Wagers* and talks about luck, the lack thereof, and fate.

Terry Fallis reads from his novel *Albatross* and talks about humour, editing novels, destiny, and fountain pens.

Melissa Yi reads from a handful of novels from her Hope Sze series, notably its latest volume, *Graveyard Shift*, and talks about her day job as an emergency physician and the possibility of writing a novel about a pandemic.

Moe Clark gives a loop-pedaling demonstration and talks about Métis culture as she shares her artistic talent with us.

Marianne Dubuc reads her children's book *Little Cheetah's Shadow* and demonstrates how to draw Little Cheetah.

These videos were posted on the Morrin Centre's YouTube channel and Facebook page in April and May. If you missed them, go have a look and leave comments for the authors!



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING GOES ONLINE!

By Azanie Roy

The Morrin Centre has always valued its Education Pillar, and in times like today, we as a team feel that it is important to continue offering programs and services to our members in any way possible. To help keep children engaged and learning, a variety of activities are now being offered online, namely an Online Book Club, a Writing Club, as well as weekly Storytime sessions over the Jitsi and Zoom platforms. Children also have access to the new MorrinCentreKids YouTube channel, which features members of the community as well as Morrin Centre staff and volunteers sharing their skills and reading children's picture books.

We are thrilled to announce that this year's *Book Quest* will launch on July 4th with guest author and illustrator Marianne Dubuc, who will read one of her stories over the Jitsi platform and teach participants how to draw different characters from her books.

Working from home and trying to bring services to children and their families online was definitely a challenge in the beginning, from finding a workable platform, to getting used to seeing children on a screen rather than in person and sitting on (and playing on) the cushions in the children's section of the library. That being said, the new format has allowed us to reach a broader audience, including children who live further away, and I am glad to see new faces join me online every week.



These new online activities began in mid-April with the Children's Online Book Club. Every two weeks, children ages 8 to 12 go online to discuss their views about a selected book, while developing their critical thinking abilities. Depending on the book, discussions range from animal rights to the hypothetical difficulty of having a dragon as a pet. This same age group meets on alternating Saturdays for the Writing Club, during which participants dream up different characters, settings, and short stories of all kinds.

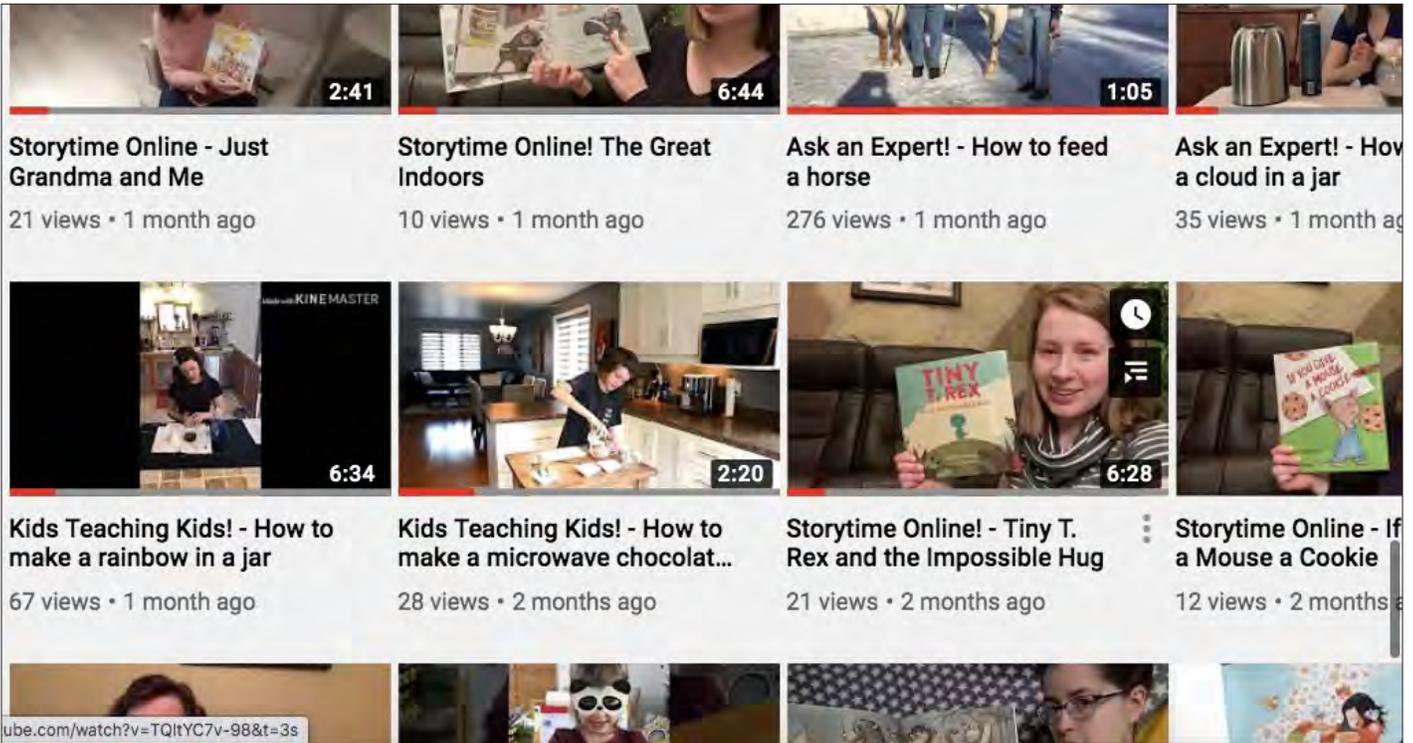
Storytime activities are also being offered online. Each week, we read a story with a different theme, followed



by a game and craft suggestions for children to do at home with their parents. Many participants have sent in photos of their works of art and presented them at the following activity. One of the challenges of ensuring that young children stay engaged is the availability of materials for them to play with during the online activities. This is why every child participating in this year's *Book Quest* activities in July and August will receive a free bag filled with all the materials needed for each of the Saturday activities.

Although live virtual activities are offered each weekend, the Morrin team has also offered activities for children to do online during the week. For instance, in March, the Morrin Centre launched a writing contest that was open to children of all ages, using the theme "The discovery of a new planet." From space battles to children exploring different planets on field trips, each submission engaged with the topic in a different and creative way. Isabelle Drouin won the

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



contest with her story titled “Class Trip,” which can be found on page 18 of this issue. A number of children also submitted poems for the *Society Pages* Poetry Contest that ran through April. Marie-Jeanne Benoit’s poem “The Containment 2020” (on page 5 of this issue) received an honourable mention.

Children can also access the *MorrinCentreKids* YouTube channel, where new content is added weekly, such as Storytime readings, crafts activities, and videos of different animals from members of the community. *MorrinCentreKids* is a place for community members to share their special skills with others and to learn from one another. Video submissions are always welcomed, from both children and adults alike.

Even though the online meet-ups can never replace the plush chairs in the children’s corner, the cushions children have such fun arranging in a jungle gym, nor the quaint sign reminding us that the library couch is older than our grandparents, it’s still a way for us to stay connected and to keep the love of reading and learning alive until we meet again in person. Before I end this article, I have a message for all the *Morrin Centre* children: I miss you and I can’t wait for our next adventure in the *Morrin* library! Stay safe everyone!



Sarah Blair in a Storytime Online video (June 2020)

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

At the end of March, the Morrin Centre held a writing contest for children. The theme was “The discovery of a new planet.” Isabelle Drouin won the contest for her story “Class Trip,” which you can read below. Isabelle also included artwork to accompany her story. Congratulations, Isabelle!

CLASS TRIP

By Isabelle Drouin

“Good morning school!”

It was the Friday before March Break and the principal of Pine Branch school was giving the morning announcements.

“I have some great news!” he continued. “After March Break, Ms. Robinson’s grade 5 class will be going on a field trip to outer space.” The fifth grade started cheering.

At the end of the day, Ms. Robinson gave her class the information they needed about the trip.

“Come to school at 5 a.m. because the bus leaves at 5:30 a.m.”

RING! RING! RING!

“Oh! That is the bell. Have a nice March Break and don’t forget to grab a copy of the packing list.”

10 days later at 6 a.m. the class boarded the spaceship at the military base.

“I wonder what it’s like. I’m so excited,” said Lilah.

“Yeah! I can’t wait,” answered Molly.

VROOM! They took off. After 5 hours of flying, they climbed through a tunnel and into the I.S.S.

“This place is awesome! Check out those windows!”

“Wow! The view is magnificent,” Isabelle told Gabrielle. Then, turning to a nearby astronaut, the girls asked together: “What is that weird purple and turquoise planet thing out the window?”

“We are not sure yet. But tomorrow my friend and I are going to explore it in our ship. Do you two want to come? My name is George, by the way.”

“I’m Gabrielle but everyone calls me Gabby, and this is Isabelle. We would love to come. Right Izzie?”

“Of course.”

The girls left early the next morning. (It was always dark outside, so it wasn’t *bright* and early). When they saw the thing up close, their jaws dropped open. It was an enormous ball of swirling colours.

“It’s definitely a planet. We’re going to be amazing scientists!”

“Can I name it?” Isabelle asked timidly.

“Why not?” George asked her.

“Please, what’s your name?” she asked the other astronaut.

“Bill.”

“Then the planet is called BIGG. B-I-G-G.”

“WHAT?!” asked Gabby.

“Our initials. Bill, Isabelle, Gabrielle, George.”

When they got back to the space station, their classmates asked them where they had been.

“Miss didn’t tell you? We were exploring a new planet. Planet BIGG actually,” Gabby told them.

“Well, we better get to bed. We will be leaving in the morning,” said Bill.

The next morning, after Ms. Robinson took attendance, they boarded the spaceship.

“I don’t want to leave,” complained Sophia.

“I don’t either, but we have to,” answered Luke.

As they were landing, Ms. Robinson made an announcement.

“Goodbye for now. I’ll see you tomorrow evening in the school gym. We are going to have a party for our scientists—Isabelle, Gabrielle, Bill, and George.”

■

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

MEET OUR NEW BOOK QUEST COORDINATOR
NAOMI ROUSSEAU

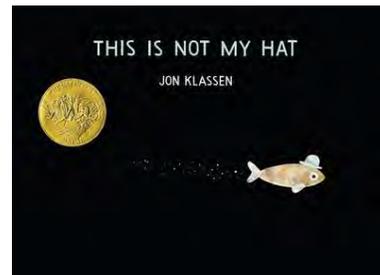
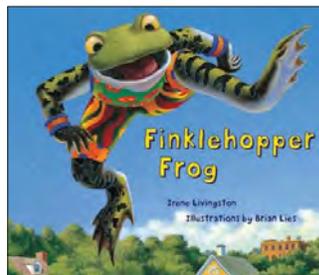
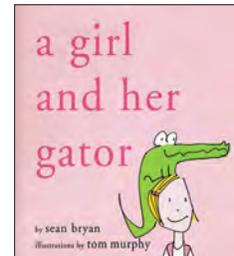
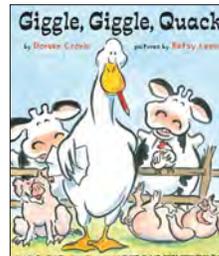
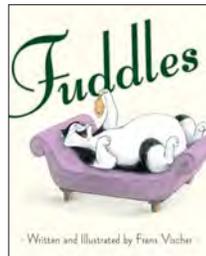
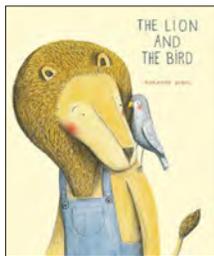
I am thrilled to be this summer's *Book Quest* Coordinator. The library has been a fixture in my life for as long as I can remember. I myself participated in the first few *Book Quests*, even though I needed a little help reading the books in the beginning. This summer, I get to complete the circle by reading to the younger participants and doing crafts and activities with everyone.

I grew up in the Quebec City area as a lover of both animals and reading, so this summer's *Book Quest* topic is perfect for me: vertebrates! Over the years, dogs, cats, horses, a miniature donkey, as well as fish, a hamster, a turtle, and a gecko were all part of my life—and a houseful of books, always books! My mom tells stories of when I was young: she would try to sit me in front of the TV to “keep me busy” and I would wander away and ask to be read to. Once I was able to read for myself, I became a true menace, staying up with a flashlight into all hours of the night: “One more chapter!”



When I am not leading *Book Quest*, I am a student at the University of Toronto pursuing a double major in Physics and (this is a long one) Biodiversity and Conservation Biology, and, to add a bit of a challenge, a minor in math. Math is how you do physics, physics is how the world works, and conservation is how you save the world. During the school year, I work as an educator at Ripley's Aquarium of Canada—if you have some time, ask me about sharks!

My favourite vertebrates are sharks and bison. I have many favourite books, arguably too many to list, but if I had to choose just one, it would have to be *Tiger's New Cowboy Boots* by Irene Mork. I can't wait to meet all of you at *Book Quest* and find out what your favourites are!

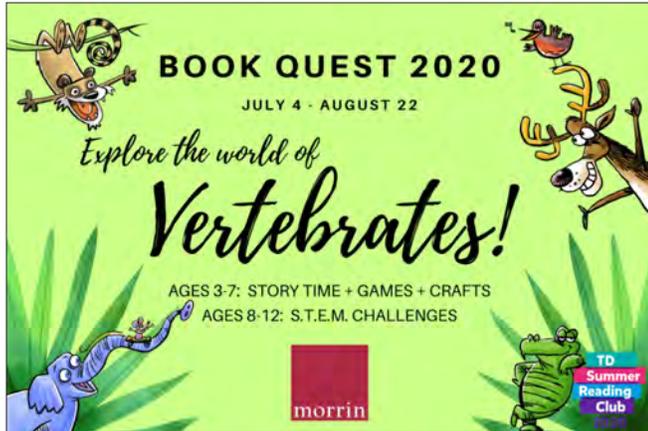


EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

BOOK QUEST 2020

EXPLORE THE WORLD OF VERTEBRATES

By Naomi Rousseau



The Morrin Center Summer Reading Program is back for its 16th consecutive year! Once again in partnership with the TD Summer Reading Club, *Book Quest* invites children between the ages of 3 and 12 to dive into reading with storytimes, activities, crafts, and much more. This year, children and parents alike can discover the wonderful world of vertebrates. For the first time in *Book Quest* history, science and literature come together with our new S.T.E.M. challenges for children ages 8 to 12 (and their jealous parents).

As you can imagine, this year's *Book Quest* has come with a new set of challenges. In these difficult times, more than ever, we have noticed the importance of reading and keeping literature alive. As such, the Morrin Center has vowed to keep its *Book Quest* going. This year, to accommodate our new reality, the

program will be held entirely online on the Jitsi and Zoom platforms. In the last week of June, parents will be asked to make a quick stop at the library to collect a SUPER, AWESOME, FUN ACTIVITY BAG containing all the necessary materials (and a few extra surprises) for children to participate in *Book Quest* activities from the safety of their own homes.

As usual, *Book Quest* will be separated into two age categories. Children from 3 to 7 years of age will be entertained with a story, a short activity, and a related craft. We will begin by tackling the big question that is on all of your minds: "What in the world is a vertebrate?" Our older age group (children 8-12) will receive a weekly S.T.E.M. challenge—a guided science experiment or engineering task worthy of even the maddest of scientists. After the first week, both groups of young literarians will engage with weekly themes that explore the five different groups of vertebrates: mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians.

We are all very excited for this year's *Book Quest* and hope to see you there!

All *Book Quest* activities are free of charge. For further information, please contact Naomi Rousseau, our Summer Reading Program Coordinator, at bookquest@morrin.org.

Children 3-7

Saturdays 10:30 a.m.

July 4	Launch Party with Marianne Dubuc
July 11	What in the World is a Vertebrate?
July 18	Adventurous Mammals
July 24	Bossy Birds
Aug. 1	Sneaky Fish
Aug. 8	Clingy Reptiles
Aug. 15	Jogging Amphibians
Aug. 22	Closing Party

Children 8-12

Saturdays 9:15 a.m.

July 4	Opening Party with Dr. Forsythe
July 11	Catapult into the World of Physics
July 18	Milky Madness
July 24	The Secret Science behind Migration
Aug. 1	Two-Faced Fluids
Aug. 8	Hot or Cold?
Aug. 15	Strrrrrrrrrretch
Aug. 22	Closing Party

A TRIBUTE TO ROSEMARIE FISCHER

By Barry McCullough

It does not seem possible that Rosemarie and I have known each other for nearly a decade. If you have attended one of our annual general meetings in recent years, there is a good chance that you have heard me describe Rosemarie as the “rock” of the team. This is because she has always been the steady, guiding force behind the scenes, keeping everything, including me, in line and on course. The Morrin Centre has accomplished some great things over the past ten years and Rosemarie has been a very important part of our evolution. Many of these milestones would not have been attainable without her and the attention and dedication she puts into her work.

Rosemarie’s contributions to the Morrin Centre over the past ten years have been too numerous to name. She was one of the team leaders behind our annual Volunteer Appreciation Night, and she took charge of refreshing our gift shop several years ago and is responsible for many of the great items that are available for purchase today. In my opinion, the biggest strength that Rosemarie brought to the Morrin Centre was how deeply she cared about the building, its

artefacts, and its history. She always kept a watchful eye on the building and all of our heritage assets. In fact, it was Rosemarie who spearheaded the effort to have our library tables restored in 2017–2018 alongside other initiatives that have kept the building looking beautiful and inviting.

I suspect that Rosemarie will be as busy in retirement as she was during her working life because she has many interests: gardening, languages, knitting, and much more. She and her husband, Patrick, will no doubt continue to feed their love of travelling once the world returns to some degree of normalcy.

We are certainly all going to miss seeing Rosemarie every day, but I know that she will not disappear completely. On behalf of the entire Morrin Centre team and Council members, past and present, I would like to wish Rosemarie a healthy, happy, fulfilling, and well-deserved retirement.

Thank you for everything, Rosemarie!



AN INTERVIEW WITH ROSEMARIE FISCHER

Interview by Kathleen Hulley

This summer Rosemarie Fischer, the Morrin Centre’s Management Assistant, will be retiring. If you have happened to call the Centre, the kind voice at the end of the other line will most likely have been Rosemarie, who has answered thousands of questions about our institution and our activities over the years. Not only does Rosemarie help with important administrative tasks, but she also oversees a number of our services and activities, such as the gift shop, Volunteer Appreciation Night, and the English discussion group.

We’ll certainly miss Rosemarie at the Morrin Centre! Before her retirement, Society Pages editor, Kathleen Hulley, sat down with her for an interview. Rosemarie kindly agreed to share some of her memories and stories of working at the Centre over the years.

When did you start working at the Morrin Centre?

I started in February 2011, and it was just when the Morrin Centre was setting up the prison exhibit, *Doing Time: The Quebec City Common Gaol (1808–1867)*. There was lots of coming and going, with many people wanting to be let into the building. There was a lot happening at that time! College Hall was just about finished, but the Chem Lab wasn’t set up as it is today. The Library was finished. There were many people working on the prison. I just remember running downstairs a lot to open the door, see who was there, and answer their questions.

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You're known around the Morrin Centre for your wonderful sense of humour. What are the funniest Morrin Centre stories that you can remember?

Ha! I didn't know I had a good sense of humour. People tell me I'm funny and have a sense of humour, but I don't really notice it myself. (Laughter). There were many days when there was joy at work at the Morrin Centre. I think the person that I laughed the most with was Jessica Kelly-Rhéaume [the Morrin Centre's Library Manager from 2013 to 2016] because we had a similar sense of humour. Sometimes we would find something funny and have incredible giggle fits!

I can remember several funny stories:

Once a colleague was telling a story that was somewhat inappropriate. And she was telling it in the big office on the fourth floor, loudly with her back to the window. But she didn't realize when she was telling it that the window cleaner was right there, and that the window was open and he heard it all. And when she realized, she was appalled and it was really, really funny! We still tease her about it!

Another time—again a story about window washers!—the window washers were up on a lift cleaning the windows in front of Barry's office. Claude Blaney [our Building Caretaker] had the idea that he would send up some veggie hot dogs for Barry. He had them actually bring the hot dogs up to Barry in the lift.

Also, I am the one who answers the main phone at the

Morrin Centre. A few times a year, people call asking for their parole officer. One time, a woman called and said, "I'd like to speak to my son who's in your jail." And so I replied, "Well, if he's in our jail, he's not alive anymore because he would be at least two hundred years old!" I always get a good laugh about those calls.

Or I get, "Can you give my son a message." And I think, "No, I'm not a medium!" [laughter].

How has the Morrin Centre changed over the years?

When I first started working at the Morrin Centre there was a definite high and low season. January, February, and March we didn't have very many tours. There were a few events, not many rentals. It was a quiet period, which isn't the case anymore—

except now, because it's a pandemic. We don't really have a low season anymore.

At first when I was hired, we didn't have a Rentals Coordinator and it was my job too. But as we got busier and busier, that was really hard. Things would get very hectic in the fall with the Literary Feast, Christmas Party rentals, and my other tasks as Management Assistant. I was always responsible for the silent auction at the Literary Feast. It was really a relief when they decided to hire a rentals coordinator! Having more staff members really helps!

Of course, there have always been new staff members joining the team. It seems to be a place for young people to start their careers and get experience, and for middle-aged people to finish their careers. For me, I'd had other jobs. I was a teacher for twenty-two years, I was a hotel receptionist, and then I changed careers again in my fifties and came to the Morrin



Barry McCullough and Rosemarie Fischer at the Salon de la Mariée (2014)

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👉 ROSEMARIE FISCHER (continued from previous page)

Centre. There have been people who have been here for quite a while—Stefanie and Barry started before I did. But I've seen a lot of people come and go. And now it's finally my turn to say, "I'm leaving the Morrin!" I've enjoyed working with many smart, creative, and hard-working people over the nine years that I have been at the Centre, as well as many wonderful volunteers.

The Morrin Centre team has a number of traditions. What is your favourite one?

I really like how when it is someone's birthday we have cake together. That's always really fun and just a nice, relaxed time to be together.

Yes, and we always sing a short birthday song!

Yes! "This is your birthday song, it isn't very long. Hey!" Also, it's also lots of fun when the time comes in December and we all get together to sign the Christmas cards. I enjoy our June staff retreats as well. The other tradition that I like, and that I've always been involved in, is our Volunteer Appreciation Night. It's fun to organize and it's a nice evening to spend with our volunteers and other staff members. That's a highlight of my year.

What is your favourite room (or object) at the Morrin Centre?

I love the library. I've always liked libraries! I like the smell of it, the wood, the clock. I have always enjoyed winding the clock, often with Gail Cameron [*our Accounting and Financial Clerk*]. Also, the fact that the library is full of books that we can read! I like all the windows too, and in the back there's the lilac tree and birds. It's definitely my favourite room.

It's my favourite room too, of course! What do you think of the rumour that there is a Morrin Centre ghost?

Every time I've gone into the death row cellblock, I've always felt a strange presence there. I've always found it very oppressive. It's almost like I have trouble breathing in there. That struck me the very first time I went in, and it's always been like that. Other people say, "No, that's nonsense." That's my least favourite room in the

whole place, even though I find it fascinating. We joke around a lot about a ghost and we call him Bernard! Nonetheless, I've never experienced a ghost at the Morrin Centre, but I do feel that there's a surreal presence in there.

What has been your most memorable event or activity at the Morrin Centre over the years?

That is a hard question. When we have events like the Literary Feast and Imagination, they're enjoyable, but they're also stressful because we're all there working. And these events have to work, they have to be a success. So it's not always possible to relax and enjoy them. But Imagination is always a highlight for me. And I do remember when my childhood school friend Robert J. Sawyer was invited and I attended his event with my husband and daughter. He's a science fiction writer. I found that really enjoyable.

The Lit Feast is always really exciting. It's a lot of work. I've been to quite a few over the years. But I think the ones I've liked the most have been because there's a nice, warm, fuzzy community feeling. I think of the Lit Feast with David Hackett Fischer, Lawrence Hill—I really enjoyed his presence—and, of course, Louise Penny.

A couple of years ago there was a jazz concert with Valérie Clio and Gabrielle Shonk. They sang some hits, classic jazz tunes. I really enjoyed that concert! I went on my own for my own pleasure as a guest, so I could just relax.

What is one of your most memorable experiences at the Morrin Centre?

Well, I have two. One is when I rented College Hall for my daughter's wedding ceremony in 2018. To me that was the most moving, memorable experience I had at the Centre—to host her wedding there and to be surrounded by all my family who had come from far away. It was very, very special for me, and it wouldn't have been as special in another place.

We rent the hall a lot, for all kinds of events, and also for concerts. Often people will come practice the day before, and we'll be working upstairs in the big office on the fourth floor when we'll hear music. One time, I

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remember a harpist came alone to practice. All of a sudden we heard these beautiful notes floating in. I went down to see her and she was playing the harp. College Hall has really good acoustics. And she said, "I just love playing here. *Ça se joue tout seul. Je touche aux cordes et le son vient tout seul.*" I remember getting shivers from how beautiful the sound was.

As an avid reader, you borrow a lot of books from the library. What are some of your favourite books and authors?

I have always been able to count on the Centre's librarians for book suggestions. I remember Virginie Haustrate [the Library Manager from 2010 to 2013] suggested the author Carlos Ruiz Zafon and his book *The Shadow of the Wind*. It's about a boy who goes into a room of forgotten books. It's really excellent. Jessica got us all reading the Flavia de Luce books by Alan Bradley, starting with *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*. I know Elizabeth Perreault [former Development & Communications Director], Gail, Jessica, and I all read the whole series and suggested them to a lot of people

who've also enjoyed them. And recently you suggested the Iona Whishaw books to me. I'm on the third book and am thoroughly enjoying them as well.

I do enjoy crime fiction, but nothing too gruesome. I've read all the Michael Connelly series as well, I like that. Every once in a while, I get out a completely different book, like *The Art of Racing in the Rain*. Or a romantic story that I read that I loved was *Water for Elephants*. There's an elephant in the story named Rosie! I liked it a lot, but I guess I'm a bit of a romantic at heart.

Now that you're retiring, I imagine that you have a number of exciting new projects and adventures planned. Can you share some of these with us?

I don't have that many really! We're hoping to travel once the pandemic is over and we were planning on going to British Columbia. Two of my three children live there, but we don't know when we'll go. I'm going to take piano lessons again, continue learning Spanish, play in my flowerbeds. And I do eventually hope to be a volunteer at the Morrin Centre.

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👉 ROSEMARIE FISCHER (continued from previous page)



We're going to miss you a lot. You're the glue of the Morrin Centre!

You're going to have to find some new adhesive there! The Fischer glue is leaving [laughter].¹

Do you have anything else you would like to add?

Working at the Morrin Centre has been a wonderful experience for me. I had been a teacher of ESL for 22 years and I was a tour guide and also hotel receptionist before taking the job of Administrative Assistant at the Centre. It was my first time working for a non-profit organization and I found that it has been the most fulfilling job that I have ever had. I had to work really

hard and often multi-tasked, but I loved the teamwork and the wonderful feeling of accomplishment I had knowing that my hard work was being reinvested in the organization and was serving a greater purpose. I've learned so much working at the Morrin Centre too. You're always pushed to learn new things. And all these young people arrive and introduce new ideas.

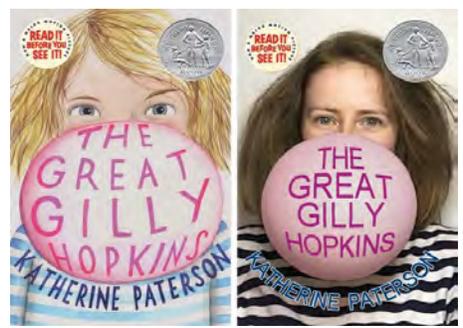
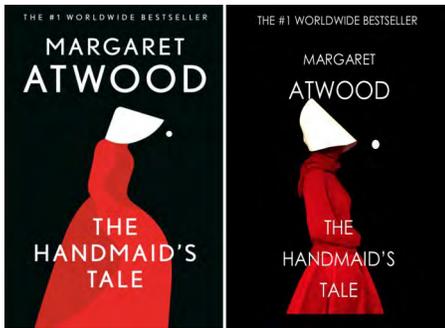
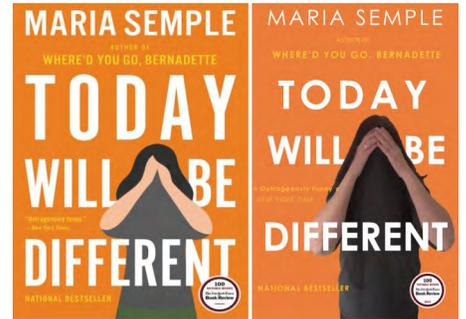
Furthermore, I really enjoyed working in Old Quebec. But the Morrin Centre, the building itself, is its own character. *C'est un personnage*, with its own personality, history, and stories to tell. And I hope there will be many, many more stories and events at the Morrin Centre in the future. ■

* Editor: This is a reference to "fish" glue, which is used to repair heritage objects and furniture made of wood. At the Morrin Centre, it has been used on the staircase and shelves in the library and Rosemarie found it for us.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM #BOOKCOVERDOUBLES

Throughout May, the Morrin Centre team recreated the covers of some of the books we have in our OverDrive e-book collection. Here are some of the highlights!

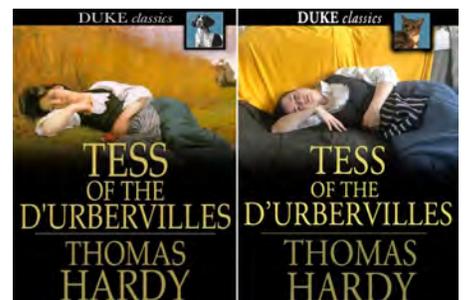


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By Jeanne Lebossé-Gautron

If you've ever walked down rue Saint-Jean in Old Quebec, you might have gone by the Théâtre jeunesse les Gros Becs. Tucked between a café and a clothing store, the entrance to this theatre for children is deceptive: narrow and discrete, it nonetheless hides a beautiful theater hall and a wide lobby. In these spaces, the Gros Becs theatre company puts on a variety of shows, all for young people. From theater to puppets to shadow theatre to clowns, there is something for everyone!

As a cultural institution, the Morrin Centre is proud to partner with Les Gros Becs, and this partnership comes with a nice bonus for Morrin Centre members: for their 2020–2021 season, Les Gros Becs has a special discounted price of \$18 per ticket, including taxes,

upon presentation of your Morrin Centre membership card!

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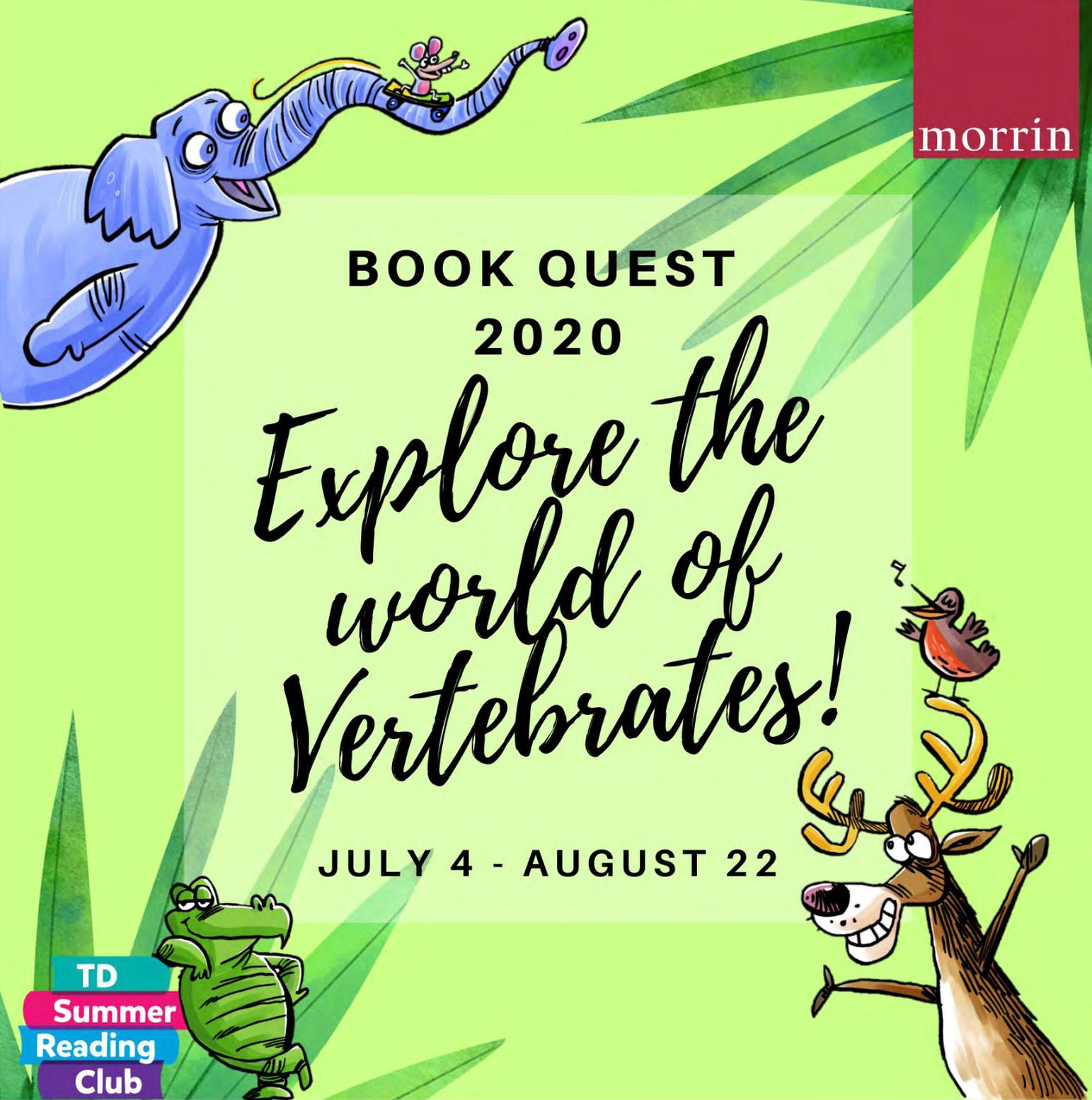


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