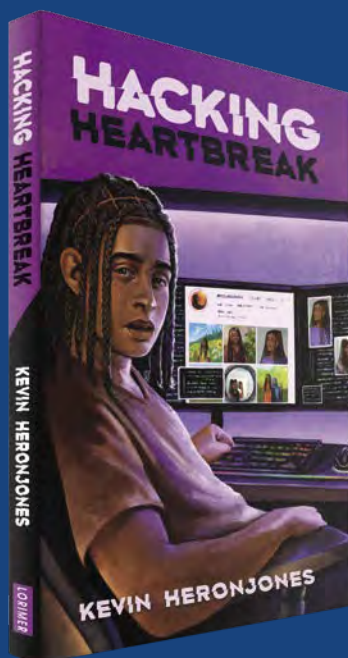


2026 Stories of Responsible decision making

Books to support Social
and Emotional Learning



Stories of Responsible decision making

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Middle School

Books to support Social
and Emotional Learning



ISBN:9781459416390

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2021-08-24

Social Emotional Skill:

Responsible Decision Making

Bank Shot

(by Valerie Pankratz Froese)

A girl juggling family caregiving and basketball struggles to balance her responsibilities and her passion, learning the cost of secrecy and the value of honesty along the way.

More about the book:

This girls' basketball story deals with the conflict between family caregiving responsibilities and extra-curricular sports that some kids, particularly girls, often face. Jo loves playing basketball in gym class, and she is surprised when she makes the school team. Because she has to babysit her younger brother, she's afraid her mom will make her give up her place on the team, so instead, Jo hatches a plan to have a neighbor secretly babysit so she can play. But the deception and secrets start getting to her after a few close calls. While Jo shows initiative and problem-solving skills both on and off the court, will her mom see it that way when she's found out?



VALERIE PANKRATZ FROESE grew up playing sports and started coaching at a young age. Her love of coaching drew her to a career in teaching, where she taught both elementary and middle school. Valerie lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Praise

"A tidy tale, villain- and (unusually, these days) bully-free, with clear but not heavy-handed game and life coaching."

— Kirkus Reviews



ISBN:9781459419445

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2025-05-20

Social Emotional Skill:
Responsible Decision Making

Hacking Heartbreak

(by Kevin heronJones)

After hacking the social media accounts of his crush, Baron is in a race against the clock to fix the mess he made and save her from serious consequences.

More about the book:

A Canadian Children's Book Centre Best Book for Kids & Teens, starred selection

Baron is a computer whiz with a passion for hacking and when the girl of his dreams starts taking an interest in him, he all but short circuits. Keyanna sees their dates as more casual than the love-struck Baron, but everything seems to be going well. When he sees her on a date with another guy, Baron hacks her school and social media accounts, angry and hurt.

As jealousy fades and reality sets in, Baron realizes the seriousness of his action. Knowing regret will never be enough, Baron races against the clock to fix his mess. Set in Brampton, *Hacking Heartbreak* is a story about the intensity of first love and learning to live with the consequences of your actions.

2025 Winner of Sanofka's Pen Peer Choice Favourite - Young Adult Books



Kevin heronJones is a youth basketball coach, author, journalist, actor, lecturer and award-winning performance poet. He has numerous spoken word recordings and his poetry book titles include *Vision*, *I AM a Child of the SUN* and *Telephone Love*. He lives in Milton, Ontario.

Praise

"A contemporary and thought-provoking teenage love story, whose dynamic characters provide a refreshing take on love, heartbreak, and redemption for today's modern audience." —Eddie Kawoya, author of Ace



ISBN:9781459414518

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2019-12-03

Social Emotional Skill:

Responsible Decision Making

If I Go Missing

(by Brianna Jonnie)

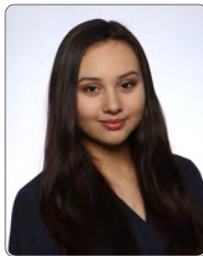
An Indigenous teen's powerful real-life letter demands justice amid the crisis of missing Indigenous people in Canada, brought to life in a compelling graphic novel blending imagined visuals with the reality of her words.

More about the book:

Combining graphic fiction and non-fiction, this young adult graphic novel serves as a window into one of the unique dangers of being an Indigenous teen in Canada today.

The text of the book is derived from excerpts of a letter written to the Winnipeg Chief of Police by fourteen-year-old Brianna Jonnie — a letter that went viral. In her letter, Jonnie calls out the authorities for neglecting to immediately investigate missing Indigenous people and urges them to "not treat me as the Indigenous person I am proud to be," if she were to be reported missing.

The artwork for the book imagines a situation in which a young Indigenous woman does disappear, portraying the reaction of her community, her friends, the police and media. An author's note at the end of the book provides context for young readers about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada.



BRIANNA JONNIE is an Ojibwe. Brianna has been awarded the City of Winnipeg Citizen Equity Committee's Youth Role Model Award, and the Lieutenant Governor's Vice-Regal award. Brianna lives in Winnipeg, MB.

Praise

"...a great addition to a literature circle or introduction to a unit on Indigenous perspectives for any high school classroom or library." —CM: Canadian Review



ISBN:9781459420090

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2025-05-20

Social Emotional Skill:
Responsible Decision Making

My True Colours

(by Mike Levitt)

An insecure teen in rural BC is forced to confront his own transphobia and how his emotions are affecting others after he participates in violent anti-LGBTQ+ demonstrations.

More about the book:

A Canadian Children's Book Centre Best Book for Kids & Teens

Set against the backdrop of anti-SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) education protests, this story delves into the spread of hate and misinformation within families and communities.

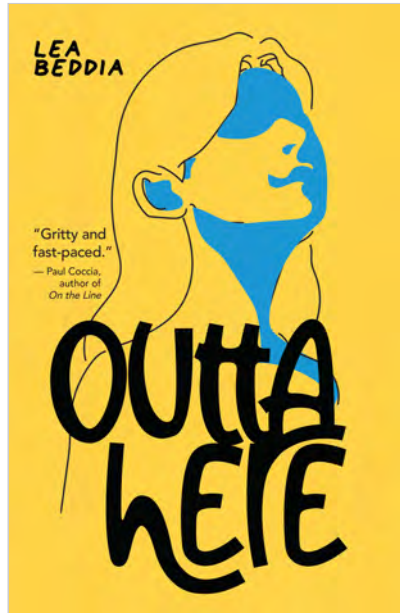
With consequences looming after a violent confrontation with a member from his school's Gender Sexuality Alliance in the aftermath of an anti-SOGI protest, a teen finds himself confronted with his bigotry and prejudices. When he learns that a key figure in his life is transgender, he starts on a journey of questioning his beliefs. He finds that he has more in common with members of the LGBTQ+ community than he ever expected.



MIKE LEVITT is the award-winning author of *Rugby Rivals* and *Rugby Rookies*. A lifelong rugby player and coach, he works as a mental health clinician with the Xaxli'p people and supports the local 2SLGBTQI+ community through two-spirit youth events and the *Lillooet Life Stylz* newsletter. He lives in Kamloops, BC.

Praise

Bigotry challenged when it targets those you care for



ISBN:9781459417298

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2023-09- 26

Social Emotional Skill:
Responsible Decision Making

Outta Here

(by Lea Beddia)

A small-town teen faces the challenges of her mother's opioid addiction and a dangerous home life, striving to escape and build a better future through college despite limited support.

More about the book:

Outta Here is the story of a lively and imaginative small-town teen living with a mom whose pain medication has led to addiction, leaving little money for basics -- like food.

Élise's best friend and her sympathetic teachers offer what help they can, but there's only so much they can do. Élise's situation suddenly turns dangerous when her mother invites a fellow addict into their lives. Élise has to find a way to get out – to get to college, pay for her education, and deal with her mother's lifestyle.

Lea Beddia has written an authentic, hard-hitting novel which captures a reality faced by many teens whose families experience the epidemic of opioid addiction.

Shortlisted for the 2025 Janet Savage Blachford Prize for Children's and Young Adult Literature.



LEA BEDDIA is an author, storyteller and educator. Born and raised in Montreal, she now teaches school in Joliette, Quebec where she lives with her husband and three children.

Praise

"Élise is a powerhouse of a character... A heartbreaking testament to saving oneself."

— Kirkus Reviews

High School

Books to support Social
and Emotional Learning



ISBN:9781459417199

Imprint:Lorimer

Publication Date:2023-04-04

Social Emotional Skill:

Responsible Decision Making

Shades of Black

(by Carlos Anthony)

A sensitive Black teen in Toronto's Etobicoke neighborhood faces suspicion and police scrutiny after a school shooting, navigating the challenges of vulnerability, racial bias, and belonging in an urban school.

More about the book:

Romero, a Guyanese Canadian, is a sensitive kid who is just starting to attend an inner-city-style school with a large racialized population. Romero falls in with a friendly crew but finds himself in trouble when a shot is fired in the school cafeteria — and he gets stuck with the gun. Meanwhile, the police, often using brutal tactics and targeting young Black males, try to find out who the shooter was.

To humanize and critique the Black male experience and dispel the myth that vulnerability and empathy equal weakness, Carlos Anthony draws on his own recent experiences as a teen in school in Etobicoke.



CARLOS ANTHONY is a filmmaker and author who writes about the experiences that Black men have historically avoided talking about. He has been recognized for his video web series, short story series, published essays, and short films. With his wife and children, Carlos lives in Windsor, Ontario.

Praise

"Anthony has crafted a fast paced, multifaceted story that brings many heavy issues to the surface including the difficulties with maneuvering adolescence, being Black, school shootings ... Highly Recommended."

— CM: Review of Materials

2026 Social Emotional Learning Catalogue

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