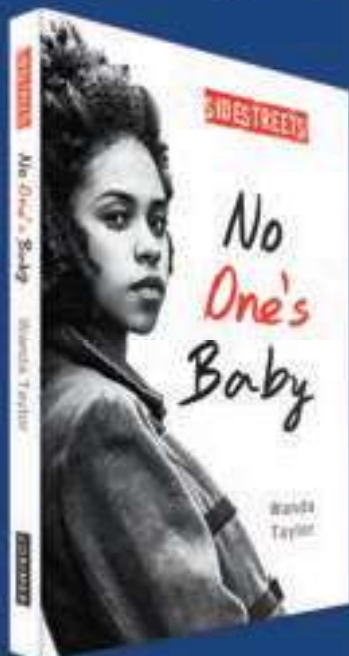
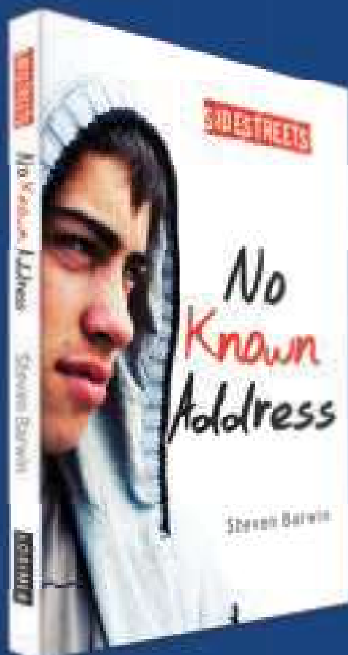
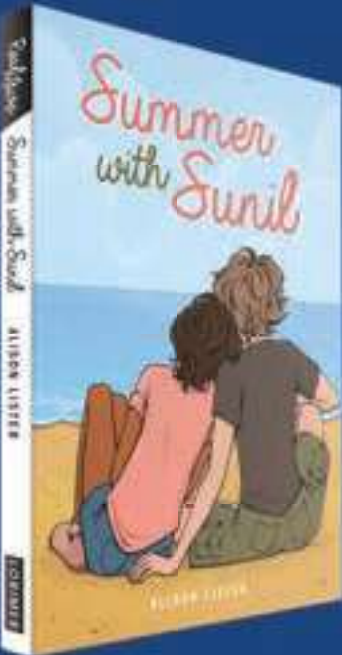
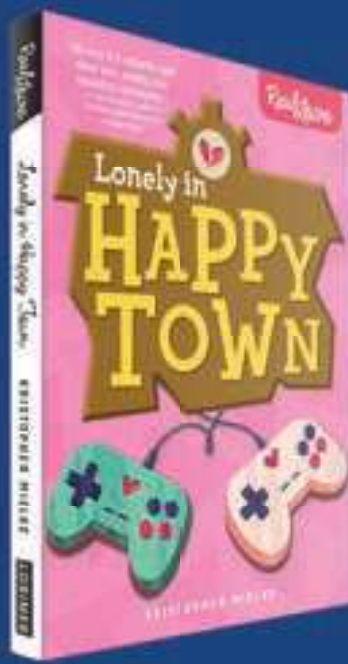
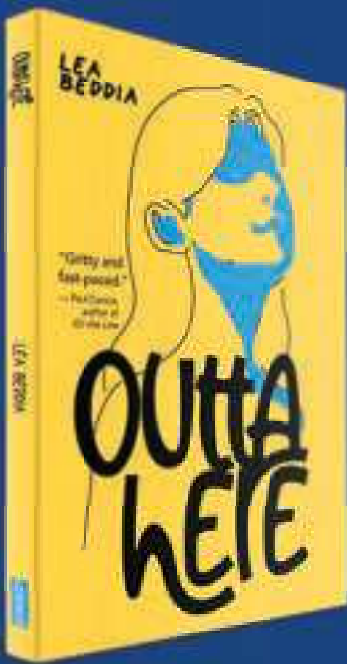


2026 Absent and Neglectful Parents in stories

Books to support Social
and Emotional Learning



Absent and neglectful parents in stories

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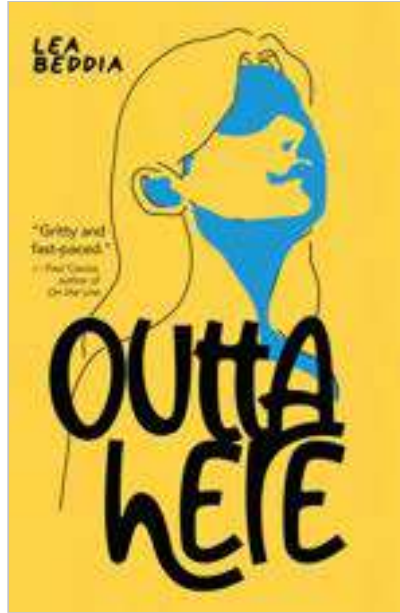
For more titles and information please visit

www.lorimersel.ca



Middle School

Books to support Social
and Emotional Learning



ISBN: 9781459417298

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 16.95CAD,
14.99USD, 14.99USD

Publication Date: 2023-
09-26

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

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.

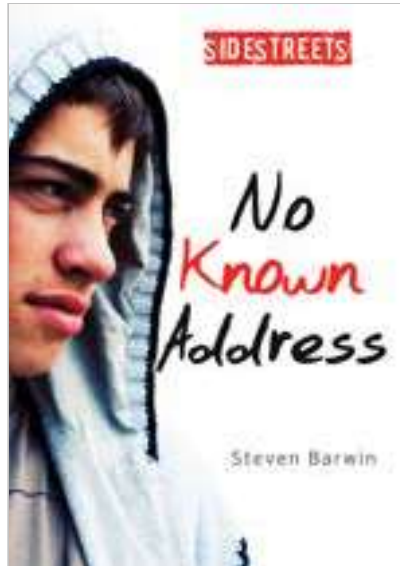


LEA BEDDIA is an author, storyteller and educator. Born and raised in Montreal, she now teaches school in Joliette, Quebec where she lives with her husband and three children.

Praise

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

— Kirkus Reviews



ISBN: 9781459415546

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 12.95CAD,
8.99USD, 8.99USD

Publication Date: 2020-
09-15

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

No Known Address

(by: Steven Barwin)

A teen from a well-to-do, but abusive Victoria family finds himself homeless after facing false accusations. He navigates family abuse, homelessness, and the search for safety and belonging, eventually finding a supportive situation.

More about the book:

Teen homelessness is not always connected to poverty and crime. Sometimes there's more to the story. *No Known Address* follows a teen named Tyler from a privileged family in Victoria, British Columbia, who is kicked out of his home by his abusive dad after being blamed for bringing prescription narcotics to a party. This novel brings to light the serious nature of verbal and emotional abuse and how difficult it is to be understood and access support in such circumstances.

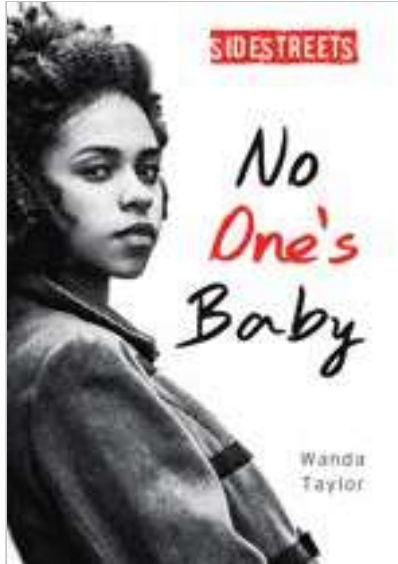


STEVEN BARWIN is a high school teacher. He is the author of several books in the Lorimer Sports Stories series including *Spiked*, which was Resource Links' Year's Best book, *Icebreaker* and *Slam Dunk*, both of which were named Best Books for Kids and Teens by the Canadian Children's Book Centre. He is also the author of the teen novel *Trap Jam*. Steven lives in Thornhill, Ontario.

Praise

"A thought-provoking problem novel about a teen's journey to find a safe place to call home."

— Kirkus Reviews



ISBN: 9781459414969

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 12.95CAD,
8.99USD, 8.99USD

Publication Date: 2020-
02-04

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

No One's Baby

(by: Wanda Taylor)

A biracial teen adopted by white parents struggles with identity and loss, facing a pregnancy that forces her to confront her past and seek out her birth mother.

More about the book:

Adopted by Caucasian parents, biracial teen Lizzie feels like she never belonged. After the death of her father, Lizzie starts acting out — dating, staying away from home for days and giving up her plans to continue her education. When Lizzie discovers she is pregnant, she is faced with the difficult choice of having a child or getting an abortion. This leads Lizzie to want to find her own birth mother. After running away from home, Lizzie ends up in Kingston, where she tracks down an older woman named Ruth who sheds light on the circumstances surrounding Lizzie's birth.



WANDA LAUREN TAYLOR is an author, filmmaker, editor and educator. She is a former CBC TV producer and author of books that include *Birchtown and the Black Loyalists*, which has been listed as one of the top Black history books for young readers by *Today's Parent Magazine* and by the Canadian Children's Book Centre, and the SideStreets novel *Ride or Die*. Wanda lives in Toronto, Ontario.

Praise

"With gritty themes like teen pregnancy, abuse, and discrimination, this title deals with important issues head-on."

— School Library Journal

High School

Books to support Social
and Emotional Learning



ISBN: 9781459418110

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 19.95CAD,
16.99USD, 16.99USD

Publication Date: 2026-
05-19

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

Finding Family

(by: Kamilah Haywood)

More about the book:

In *Finding Family*, eighteen-year-old Jamaican-Canadian Trey leaves behind a life of rejection in the suburbs and finds a new community in Toronto's Gay Village. As he navigates the complexities of queer identity, romance, and self-discovery, Trey learns that family isn't always defined by blood, but by those who choose to accept and support you.

This spirited novel from Kamilah Haywood offers an authentic portrayal of Toronto's LGBTQ+ scene.



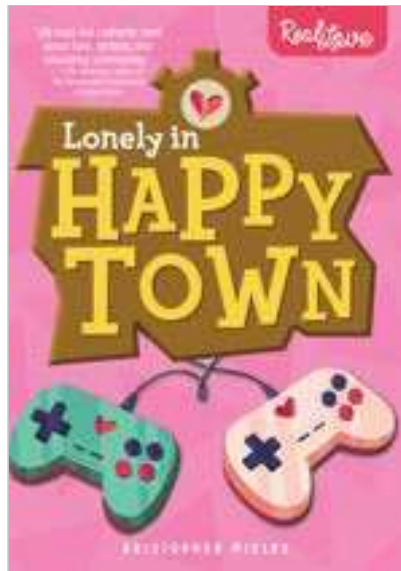
Kamilah Haywood is a queer, Black, Canadian fiction author of Jamaican heritage. She writes books depicting the unfiltered, authentic, and occasionally dark side of urban life. She has co-founded a series of workshops in association with Kya Publishing focusing on networking between Black authors. Kamilah also serves on the board of directors for the Elizabeth Fry society. She lives and works in Milton, Ontario.

Praise

"Readers will discover the future can be bright through a family of friends."

— Ken Setterington, author of *Righting Canada's Wrongs: The LGBT Purge*

—



ISBN: 9781459420038

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 16.95CAD,
14.99USD, 14.99USD

Publication Date: 2025-
05-20

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

Lonely in Happy Town

(by: Kristopher Mielke)

A gay teen who escapes into an online game falls for the same girl in both virtual and real life—sparking an LGBTQ+ romance that pushes him to navigate identity, reality, and what it means to truly connect.

More about the book:

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

In Kristopher Mielke's romance set in the world of gaming, a lonely teen works nights at a convenience store, only coming alive in the game Happy Town — but he soon finds himself crushing on the same girl in both places.

Juggling the complexities of his feelings, he must confront the blurred lines between fantasy and reality while navigating his own identity. As he embarks on a journey of self-discovery, he faces the challenge of bridging the gap between his two worlds.

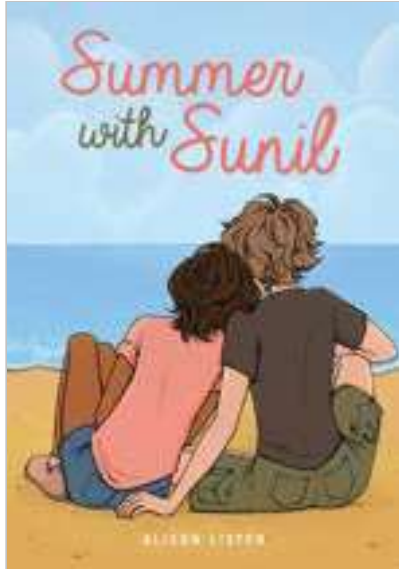


Kristopher Mielke (he/they) is the co-author of *Victory Lap* with Riley Alexis Wood. They love drinking too much coffee, watching long video essays about philosophy and cartoons, and writing about queer heroes and hungry monsters. They live outside of Erin, Ontario.

Praise

"This accessibly written title will draw in reluctant readers and appeal especially to gamers. Journey and their friends come across as true-to-life nerds... Will engage readers, leaving them alternately cheering and screaming at the cast."

— Kirkus Reviews



ISBN: 9781459419285

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 16.95CAD,
14.99USD, 14.99USD

Publication Date: 2024-
09-11

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

Summer with Sunil

(by: Alison Lister)

A trans teen stuck on a lonely summer vacation in coastal Nova Scotia finds unexpected connection and self-discovery through a chance romance with another isolated queer youth facing an abusive family situation.

More about the book:

Sometimes love can be found in the most surprising places...

Two kids on holiday, both sure they must be the only queer people for kilometres, find each other and sparks fly.

Dominic, a trans teen, is stuck on vacation in sleepy coastal Nova Scotia with their parents, all summer, with no other company. Sunil is all alone in a rented beach house while their dad is off hanging out with his new girlfriend. A chance encounter with Sunil on the beach catches Dominic by surprise, and all of a sudden, their summer doesn't look so bleak.

What follows is a vivid, romantic story full of self-exploration and the gauzy haze of summer love.



Alison Lister is an enby (non-binary) author who has been writing realistic and romantic adult LGBTQ+ fiction as Elizabeth Lister, and currently as AE Lister, for over ten years. They live in Ottawa, Ontario with their partner and two children.

Praise

"Dominic and Sunil's relationship is gentle and charming, and they are easy to root for."

— Kirkus Reviews

2026 Social Emotional Learning Catalogue

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