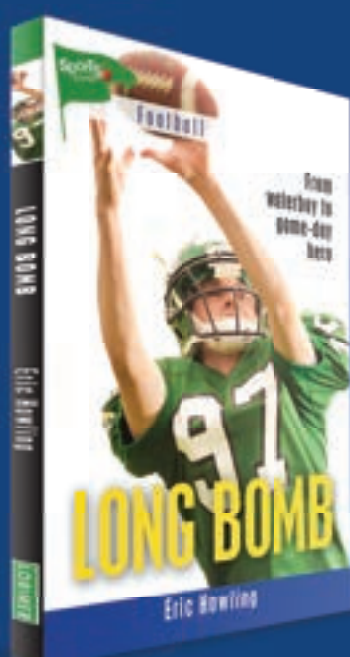
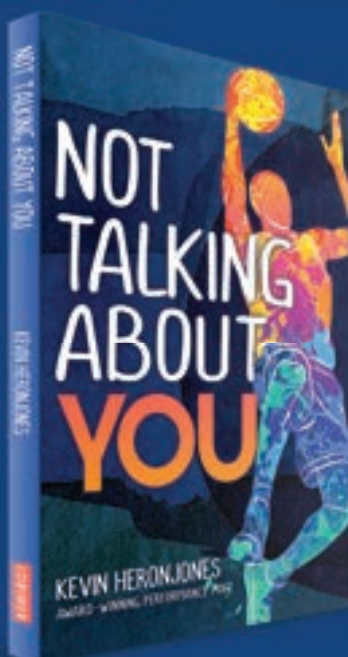
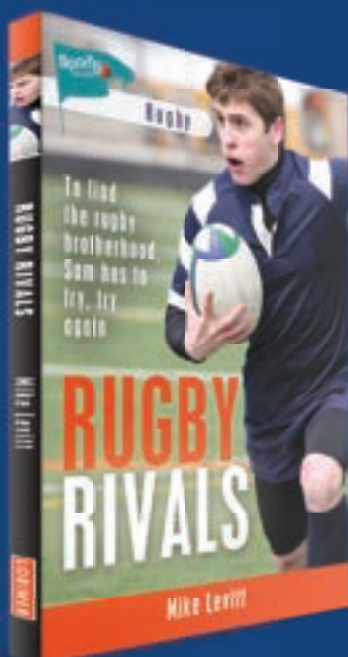


2026 Bullying in stories

Books to support Social and Emotional Learning



Bullying 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: 9781459419445

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 16.95CAD,
14.99USD, 14.99USD

Publication Date: 2025-
05-20

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

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.

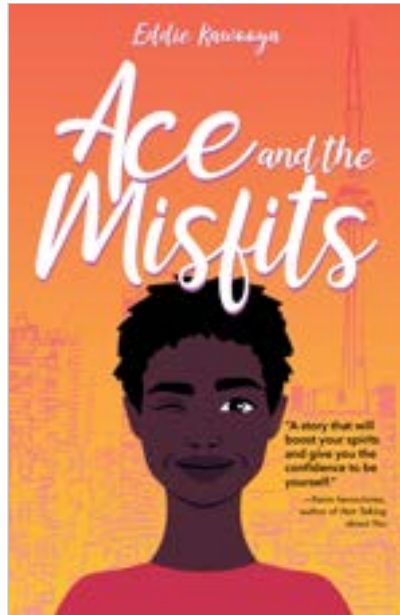
As jealousy fades and reality sets in, Baron realizes the seriousness of his action. Knowing regret will never be enough, Baron races against the clock to fix his mess. Set in Brampton, *Hacking Heartbreak* is a story about the intensity of first love and learning to live with the consequences of your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



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 Kawooya, author of Ace and the Misfits



ISBN: 9781459417519

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 19.95CAD,
16.99USD, 16.99USD

Publication Date: 2024-
02-13

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

Ace and the Misfits

(by: Eddie Kawooya)

A recently arrived Ugandan immigrant feels isolated and struggles with school and self-worth—until finding friendship with fellow outsiders helps him rebuild his confidence and sense of belonging.

More about the book:

In his debut novel, Eddie Kawooya presents a fish-out-of-water story of immigration and the pains and joys of integration into a new and sometimes frightening environment.

Arriving in Canada, Ace finds himself living in a basement apartment, having to integrate into a new community where he is the “African.” Struggling with his grades and his self worth, he finds ignorance and bullying at school until he falls in with a crew of international misfits who understand what he’s going through.

With their support, Ace starts to regain the confidence he lost in the move and his subsequent troubles.

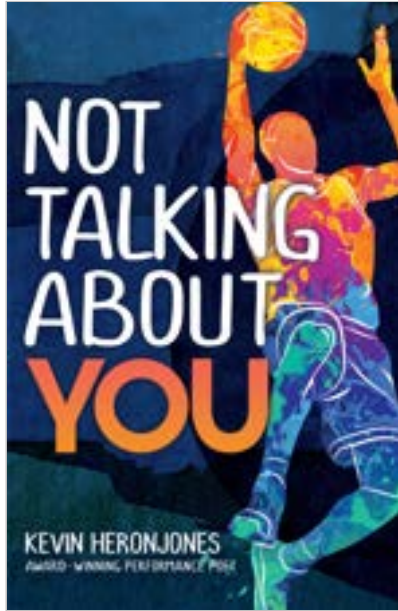


EDDIE KAWOoya was born in Uganda and raised on three different continents before settling in Canada. His love for writing was inspired by his grandmother's oral stories and folklore ancestral past. As an immigrant to Canada, he is passionate about issues related to race, inclusion and diversity. He lives in Toronto.

Praise

“...full of charming personalities... A heartwarming journey.”

— Kirkus Reviews



ISBN: 9781459417076

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 14.95CAD,
9.99USD, 9.99USD

Publication Date: 2022-
09-02

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

Not Talking About You

(by: Kevin heronJones)

A Black teen navigating a mostly white school struggles with his friend's racist behavior and must decide whether to stay silent or stand up for what's right, confronting the reality of everyday racism.

More about the book:

Part of a well-off middle-class family living in suburban Toronto, Khalil moves for grade eight to a school that does not have many racialized students. He is befriended by school sports star Cameron, who convinces Khalil to play basketball. Khalil is uncomfortable with his friend's racist statements and behaviour, despite Cameron's professed admiration for Black culture. As his discomfort grows, Khalil is left with a choice: accept this as "reality" or take a stand for what's right, even if it costs him friendships.

Not talking About You portrays racism as it occurs amongst young Canadians today. It explores the impact on the target and on bystanders who have to decide how to react when they find a racist youth in their midst.

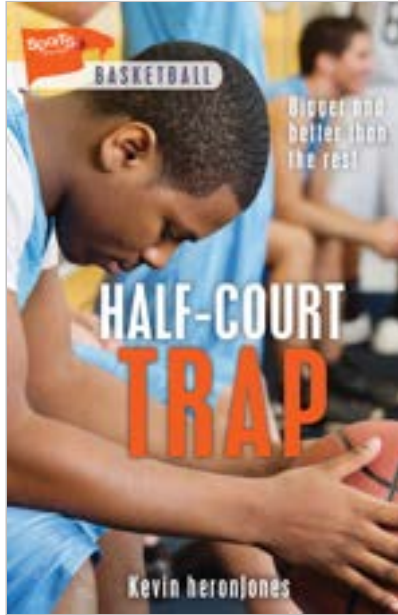


Kevin heronJones is a youth basketball coach, author, journalist, actor, lecturer and award-winning performance poet. He has numerous spoken word recordings and his poetry book titles include *Vision*, *I AM a Child of the SUN* and *Telephone Love*. He lives in Milton, Ontario.

Praise

"A compelling read for basketball fans with a powerful message about the persistence of racial bigotry."

— School Library Journal



ISBN: 9781459416444

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 12.95CAD,
8.99USD, 8.99USD

Publication Date: 2021-
08-24

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

Half-Court Trap

(by: Kevin heronJones)

A thirteen-year-old basketball player struggling with body image and rivalry plots revenge on a teammate, but an unexpected friendship leads him to empathy and self-acceptance.

More about the book:

The issues of male body image and rivalry come together in *Half-Court Trap*. Thirteen-year-old Nigel is teased and belittled at home because of his weight, so an opposing player's trash talk enrages him and he vows revenge. When his enemy becomes a teammate, Nigel plots to make him look bad and get him off the team. As Nigel finds out more about his rival, he not only learns empathy but comes to a new perspective on himself and acceptance of his body shape.



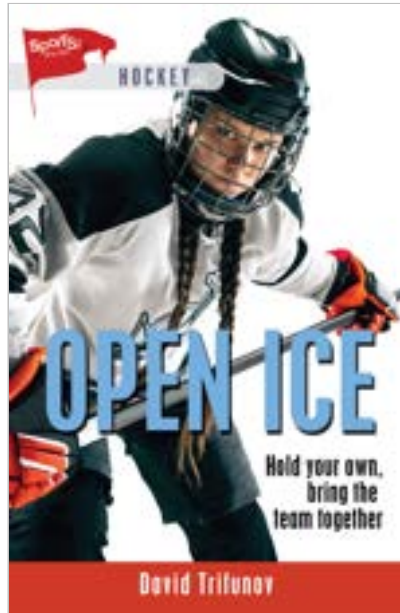
Kevin heronJones is a youth basketball coach, author, journalist, actor, lecturer and award-winning performance poet.

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

"Explores boyhood challenges and the value of teamwork, thoughtfully delivering realism and hope for reluctant readers."

— Kirkus Reviews



ISBN: 9781459415348

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 12.95CAD,
8.99USD, 8.99USD

Publication Date: 2021-
02-16

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

Open Ice

(by: David Trifunov)

A teen girl facing sexism in co-ed hockey must navigate team tensions and sports-based pressures, ultimately learning to stand her ground through teamwork and communication.

More about the book:

Set in a co-ed environment, *Open Ice* follows Vancouver, British Columbia, teens Jillian and Jacob, who must attempt to deal with their problems through communication, problem-solving and teamwork, not unlike the typical methods kids see when dealing with challenges. Touching on the sports-based — as opposed to social — pressures that discourage girls from continuing in team sports as they get older, *Open Ice* handles the issue of sexism in sports in a positive way.



DAVID TRIFUNOV is an award-winning sportswriter whose previous titles for Lorimer Kids and Teens include *Ice Time*, *Snow Soccer* and *Free Runner*. He lives in Kelowna, wife and three daughters.

Praise

"An excellent addition to any school library and would certainly help with dialogue on fairness and equality in recreational sports."

— CM: Canadian Review of Materials



ISBN: 9781459415928

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 12.95CAD,
8.99USD, 8.99USD

Publication Date: 2021-
02-16

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

Lone Runner

(by: Dirk McLean)

A solitary runner from Scarborough, Michaela overcomes discouragement and rivalry to find confidence, connection, and belonging on her diverse school track team.

More about the book:

Set in a diverse neighbourhood in Scarborough, Ontario, this book follows Michaela as she goes from a solitary runner to an athlete who contributes to the success of her cross-country team. Discouraged by an incident at her mostly-white summer camp, Michaela comes into her own as part of her racially diverse school track team. Focusing on themes of persistence, friendship and overcoming rivalries, this book illuminates traits of connection, empathy and forgiveness.

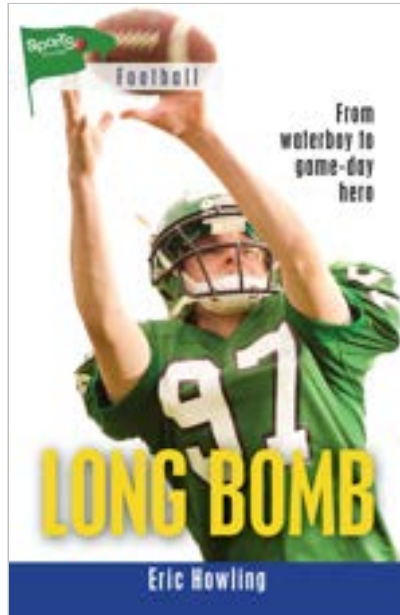


DIRK McLEAN is the author of children's picture books, the Lorimer Sports Stories novel *Not Out*, and *Team Fugee*. He has also written radio drama and stage plays which have toured southern Ontario elementary schools. Dirk was born in Trinidad & Tobago and now lives in Toronto.

Praise

"Middle schoolers at a second grade reading level will root for Michaela as she steps out of her shell."

— School Library Journal



ISBN: 9781459414846

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 12.95CAD,
8.99USD, 8.99USD

Publication Date: 2020-
02-04

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

Long Bomb

(by: Eric Howling)

A shy Calgary teen who doubts his abilities steps onto the football field, finding courage as he stands up to bullying, overcomes self-doubt, and learns the value of teamwork and self-belief.

More about the book:

Ed Warnicki used to play football in the park with his dad and dream of being a great receiver. Now fourteen, he secretly hopes to play for the Calgary High Mustangs team, but instead settles for the job of waterboy.

The team's quarterback is constantly bullying Ed and one day at practice throws a ball right at Ed's head. Ed's instincts kick in and he makes a decent catch! So, when the team's top receiver gets injured, Ed joins the team as back-up receiver. Annoyed, Tyrone won't pass to Ed, and even calls a play he knows could get Ed hurt. But the big game against their rival team puts school pride and Ed's confidence on the line. Will Tyrone throw to Ed? Can Ed catch the crucial pass?

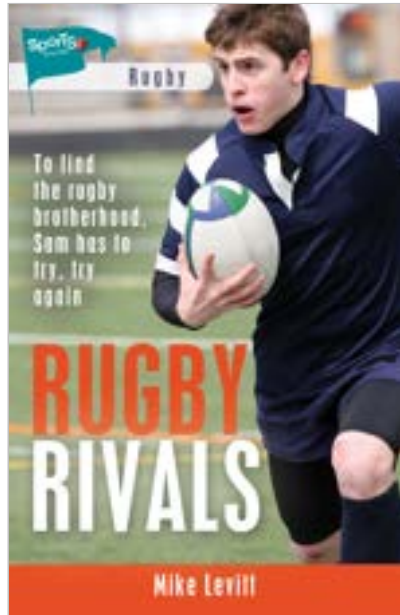


ERIC HOWLING is the author of ten books including *Head Hunter*, *Red Zone Rivals*, *Hoop Magic*, and *Run and Gun* in the Lorimer Sports Stories series. His books have been shortlisted for the Mackinack Children's Choice Book Award, named *Resource Link's* Year's Best and picked as CCBC Best Books selections. Eric lives and plays sports in Calgary, Alberta

Praise

"... the in-depth game play will attract sports fans."

— School Library Journal



ISBN: 9781459414921

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 12.95CAD,
8.99USD, 8.99USD

Publication Date: 2020-
02-04

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

Rugby Rivals

(by: Mike Levitt)

A rugby player has trouble fitting in at his new school, and with his new teammates. After lashing out and hurting a teammate in an unsporting way he struggles to learn valuable lessons about teamwork, and regain his sense of integrity and purpose on the rugby field.

More about the book:

Sam's grandfather, Pops, always taught Sam that the most important aspects of rugby are sportsmanship and teamwork. But that's hard to remember when Sam's school is shut down and he transfers to Rosedale Heights.

Sam feels like he's alone against the world trying to prove himself — and failing. He has trouble fitting in with the snobby Rosedale team. In an act of retaliation, Sam breaks a teammate's nose, and he knows he's lost sight of what rugby is supposed to be about.

All seems lost when Sam gets kicked off the team under suspicion of stealing. Can Sam prove his innocence and get back in play for the highly anticipated England game?



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

"... the in-depth game play will attract sports fans."

— School Library Journal

High School

Books to support Social
and Emotional Learning



ISBN: 9781459420069

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 16.95CAD,
14.99USD, 14.99USD

Publication Date: 2025-
05-20

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

Dogs Don't Break Hearts

(by: 'Nathan Burgoine)

A teen recovering from an emotionally manipulative relationship finds healing through volunteering at a pet rescue—where a special dog and a kind new crush help him learn to trust and love again.

More about the book:

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

A gentle romance about a teen, gaslit by his former boyfriend, who takes solace in volunteering at pet rescue—where he finds his life brightened both by a special dog and a promising new relationship. With the help of his loyal canine friend, he learns to trust again and open his heart to love.

This gentle romance is a journey of healing, friendship, and the transformative power of connection—both with animals and with someone who sees him for who he truly is.



'NATHAN BURGOINE is the author of the queer young adult novel *Exit Plans for Teenage Freaks* (finalist for the Prix Aurora Award for YA Novel) and queer young adult novella *Hope Echoes*, included in the collection *Three Left Turns to Nowhere*. He, his husband, and their rescued husky live in Ottawa, Ontario.

Praise

"This heartfelt story crackles with authenticity and sparkles with joy."

— Michael Thomas Ford, author of *Suicide Notes and Every Star That Falls*



ISBN: 9781459419315

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 16.95CAD,
14.99USD, 14.99USD

Publication Date: 2024-
09-11

Social Emotional Skill:
Relationship Skills

Not Not Normal

(by: Peter E. Fenton)

A queer teen battling anxiety and insecurity gains confidence through a new friend and romance, helping him face bullying and embrace his true self.

More about the book:

Jordan and Nathan couldn't be more different, but when order and chaos collide, opposites attract. Jordan is a bit of an oddball at school. He likes rules, routine, old sci-fi novels, and is often the victim of his bully's torment. When new student Nathan joins the school, he wears down Jordan's walls and, with his love, empowers Jordan to stand up for himself.

Nathan's parents are going through divorce, and at a new school in a new city Jordan provides him with the stability he can't find at home. Through their friendship and eventually their romance, Jordan embraces his newfound self-confidence and proclaims his love for Nathan in front of the school. Each is just what the other needs.



Toronto, Ontario.

PETER E. FENTON writes LGBTQ2S+ romance and mystery novels that are proudly set in Canada, including *The Woodcarver's Model* and the Declan Hunt Mysteries series. He lives in

Praise

"...personable characters and their relatable struggles mean that this romance for reluctant readers should find fans both within and outside its intended audience, making it a good choice for any teens who find it challenging to fit in... An engaging opposites-attract queer romance."

— Kirkus Reviews



ISBN: 9781459418059

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 16.95CAD,
14.99USD, 14.99USD

Publication Date: 2024-
02-13

Social Emotional Skill:

Relationship Skills

Luscious Love

(by: Katerina Bakolias)

A teen grapples with body image, low self-worth, and a toxic boss—until she finds the courage to stand up for herself, recognize her worth, and embrace the love she truly deserves.

More about the book:

This romance, set amongst Mina's first summer job, explores new love, body image and the frustrations of working in retail.

Mina is thrilled with her new job at the prestigious Luscious Lingerie Store, known for hiring only the most elegant people. Even better, she meets, Lexi who is beautiful, slender, and smart, everything Mina fails to see in herself, and they start a relationship. But when her manipulative boss asks Mina to submit a picture to a contest, highlighting their commitment to diversity in size, her insecurities creep back in.

Will Mina finally learn to accept the love she deserves, speak up about her feelings, and stand up to her boss?



Katerina Bakolias (she/her) is a queer, Greek-Canadian, playwright, and screenwriter. Recognized for her talents Katerina received the RBC Chrysalis Emerging Artist Award in 2020. She lives in Nova Scotia.

Praise

A lovely story of learning to chart your own course... Mina is a body-positive fat girl who's considering whether she might actually be pansexual. She's a delightful main character, exploring all facets of growing up and becoming one's own person.

— Kirkus Reviews



ISBN: 9781459417182

Imprint: Lorimer

Product Form: Paperback

Prices: 14.95CAD,
14.99USD, 14.99USD

Publication Date: 2023-
04-04

Social Emotional Skill:

Relationship Skills

Secret Me

(by: Angel Jendrick)

A popular, closeted, teen from Charlottetown struggles with her hidden sexuality and guilt over bullying, but a night with a nonbinary classmate helps her embrace her true self and new love.

More about the book:

Charlottetown teen Tage seems to have it all: she hangs out with the school's most popular clique and has a handsome boyfriend. She's also living a lie about her sexuality.

Wren, a nonbinary schoolmate, has been the victim of bullying by Tage's clique, which leaves Tage racked by guilt because she's always been drawn to Wren. When Tage picks up Wren during a snowstorm and they are forced to spend a night together, their true feelings emerge.

With Wren's support, Tage had to decide whether to come out to celebrate herself and her new relationship.



ANGEL JENDRICK is the author of gritty contemporary romances. She also dabbles in poetry, from time to time. With her wife, their three children, Ellie their energetic Lab, and a blind cat named Taz, Angel lives on Prince Edward Island.

2026 Social Emotional Learning Catalogue

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