

Forest Of Reading®

2025 Forest of Reading® & Festival Year-End Report

FOR SCHOOL-AGED PROGRAMS

This Year's Highlights

Fête de la Forêt de la lecture: In 2025, the Forest of Reading® held the second annual French language field trip opportunity to celebrate with 625+ young people. Celebrating our French programs separately provided Le prix Mélèze and Le prix Tamarac a unique spotlight! [Visit forestofreading.com/fete-eng/](https://forestofreading.com/fete-eng/) for more information.



Learn to Draw with Forest Illustrators: This year, registrants were invited to draw with our very own Forest of Reading® illustrators! Readers tuned in to 5 sessions where they learned how to draw their favourite characters! [Check it out at forestofreading.com/virtual-visits/](https://forestofreading.com/virtual-visits/)



Freedom To Read Special Event: On February 18, we introduced a new panel discussion, No More Bubble-Wrap: Teens, Tough Themes & Open Discussions. Moderated by Michelle Arbuckle, panelists Lawrence Hill, Maria Martella, and Wendy Burch-Jones discussed the importance of giving teens the freedom to think, question, and grow. [Watch the video at https://bit.ly/435YPGz](https://bit.ly/435YPGz)

Digital Ceremonies: We released exciting Digital Award Ceremonies for the English and French programs. These 9 videos allowed readers to celebrate Forest of Reading® nominees from the comfort of wherever they were! [Watch the ceremonies at forestofreading.com/digital-ceremonies-eng/](https://forestofreading.com/digital-ceremonies-eng/)



Pen Pals: For the second year, we connected readers with other book-loving kids in different boards and provinces through the Pen Pal program. 49+ classes and 1,648+ readers shared their love of books, learned about other readers' experiences, and built lasting friendships!

Programming

**4 White Pine
Author Visits**

**10 Blue Spruce
Read-Alouds**

**5 Learn to Draw
Illustrator Events**

**5 Forest
Special Events**

**6 French Language
Author Visits**

**16 Forest Friday's
Virtual Author Visits**

**4 In-Person
Award Ceremonies**

**9 Digital
Award Ceremonies**

+ OVER 14,000 CLASSES PARTICIPATED IN THE VIRTUAL CONTENT!

Forest by the Numbers

1,856

SITES PARTICIPATING IN THE FOREST OF READING® PROGRAM, INCLUDING SCHOOL LIBRARIES, PUBLIC LIBRARIES, HOMESCHOOLERS, INDIVIDUALS, LITERACY CENTRES, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS

270,000+

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

86,206

TOTAL BOOKS SOLD BY OUR OFFICIAL WHOLESALER, TINLIDS INC.

1,167

CANADIAN TITLES SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION FOR THE PROGRAM

100

NOMINATED TITLES FOR 2025

90

SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

49

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Forest by the Numbers

388,234

HITS TO THE [FORESTOFREADING.COM](https://forestofreading.com) WEBSITE DURING THE 2025 PROGRAM YEAR

3:01

TOTAL TIME SPENT ON [FORESTOFREADING.COM](https://forestofreading.com)

13,663

VIRTUAL VISIT VIEWS AFTER RECORDING

17

FOREST OF READING® AND FESTIVAL PARTNERSHIPS

7,639

TWITTER FOLLOWERS
[@FORESTOFREADING](https://twitter.com/forestofreading)

3,894

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS
[@FORESTOFREADING](https://facebook.com/forestofreading)

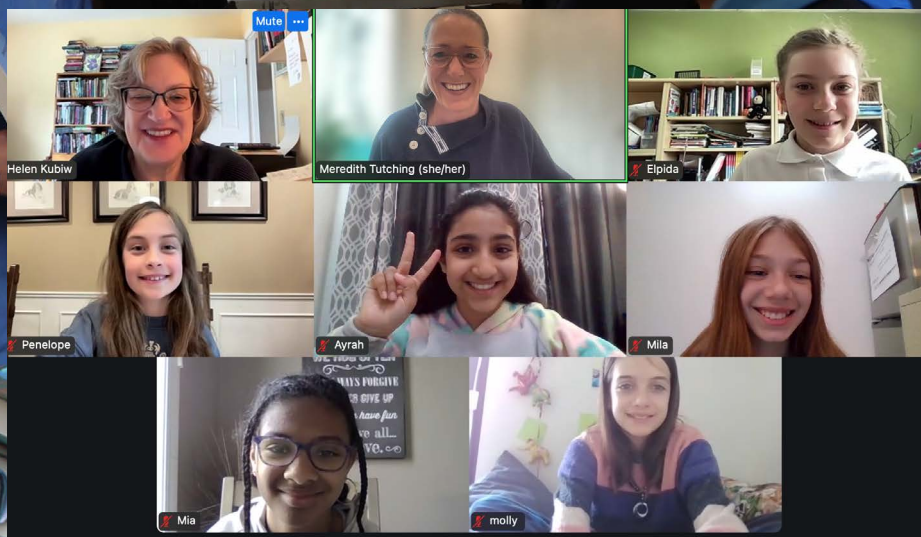
Kid & Teen Committees

19 kids were part of three committees and spent multiple meetings deliberating about the best Canadian books kids in the country should read this summer.

This year the committees picked 11 books for grades 3-6, 10 books for grades 7-8, and 10 books for grades 9-12. These books have not previously been on a Forest program but are a curated list that could be in future and must-reads for the summer. Kids picking for kids!

31

Books
Selected



Silver Birch Fiction

Red Maple



Forest of Reading® Festival



At this year's Forest of Reading® Festival, the OLA welcomed over 5,000 attendees to Harbourfront Centre on May 13-14, as well as volunteers, featured authors, publishing partners, and guests who joined to deliver this fantastic event. Recognition was shared in person for the Silver Birch Express, Silver Birch Fiction, Red Maple, and White Pine. Ainara Alleyne hosted the in-person ceremonies.

Making as much noise for books as we did was such a highlight, and it was so exciting to be able to reach our readers from far away through our Digital Award Ceremonies for each program.

The Library Marketplace (TLM) launched new merchandise including the Forest of Reading Buddy, and it was a huge success, especially at the TLM store at the Festival. [Visit The Library Marketplace to see more!](#)

This year's Festival was a true rock concert for books! We encourage you to watch what it's like to attend at bit.ly/2024FestivalVideo.



Forest of Reading® Festival



Fête de la Forêt de la lecture

This year, the Forest of Reading® held our second annual Fête de la Forêt de la lecture on May 15 at the Harbourfront Centre! We were so excited to have 625+ young readers join us to celebrate the 2025 Le prix Mélèze and Le prix Tamarac awards hosted by Chantale Renée, bilingual voice-over artist and comedian. [Visit forestofreading.com/fete-fr/](https://forestofreading.com/fete-fr/) to learn more.



**6 Author
Workshops**

**6 Authors
in Attendance**

**12 Stage
Performances**

**1,507 Digital Ceremony
Webpage Views**

**625+
Attendees**

In the Media

Books

Anoosha Syed and Joel A. Sutherland among winners of 2025 Forest of Reading Awards

The program is the country's largest recreational reading initiative for kids

CBC Books · Posted: May 14, 2025 12:31 PM EDT | Last Updated: May 15



Anoosha Syed, left, and Joel A. Sutherland are among the winners of the 2025 Forest of Reading Awards. (Mirha Syed, Colleen Morris)



« BACK TO OMNI ARTICLES

2025 Forest of Reading nominees revealed

The Ontario Library Association has announced the nominees for the 2025 Forest of Reading.

The 10 nominees in the Blue Spruce category (JK-Grade 2) include *The Little Regent* (Owlkids Books) by Yewande Daniel-Ayade and illustrated by Ken Daley, and *Mandeep's Cloudy Days* (Annick Press) by Kuljinder Kaur Brar and illustrated by Samrath Kaur.

In the Silver Birch Express category (Grades 3-4), *Uma Krishnaswami* is nominated for *Birds on the Brain* (Groundwood Books), as are Candace Savage and Rachel Wada for *Always Beginning: The Big Bang, the Universe, and You* (Greystone Kids).

For the Yellow Cedar (Grades 5-8), which is the nonfiction category, the 10 nominees touch on a variety of topics, from disaster in *The Halifax Explosion* (Plumleaf Press) by Alia Cooper and illustrated by Rebecca Bender, to activism in *Queer History A-Z: 100 Years of LGBTQ+ Activism* (Kids Can Press) by Robin Stevenson and illustrated by Vivian Ross.

The Red Maple category (Grades 7-8) includes Wali Shah and Eric Walters's *Call Me Al* (Orca Book Publishers) and Deborah Ellis's *The Outsmarters* (Groundwood Books).

The nominees for the White Pine category (Grades 9-12) include Stephanie Cooke and Mel Valentine Vargas's *Zillion Talk* (Harper Alley) and Sarah Suk's *The Space Between Here & Now* (Quill Tree Books).

Y a pas deux matins pareils | Rattrapage du jeudi 15 mai 2025

Culture : Les prix de la Forêt de la Lecture

Jeudi 15 mai 2025

Lancer l'écoute 4 min

Y a pas deux matins pareils

Lancer l'écoute 4 min

The TOC Blog

The Forest of Reading: Cultivating a Love of Literacy with Meredith Tutching

Posted in English Tutoring, Featured, Hooked On Books, Tips & Advice

More than just a book program, the Forest of Reading® is a movement—inviting young readers from across the country to read, reflect, and vote for their favourite Canadian titles. With a strong emphasis on student voice, diversity in literature, and celebrating Canadian authors and illustrators, this program nurtures a sense of ownership and joy around reading that extends well beyond the classroom. That's why we're thrilled to bring you an exclusive interview with Meredith Tutching, the heart and soul behind this beloved program and Director through the Ontario Library Association. Read on for the inside scoop and to benefit from Meredith's expert advice on how to participate in the program and festival—and inspire a lifelong love of reading in the process.

At Teachers on Call, our in-person and online tutoring service is always looking to highlight programs that make reading exciting, empowering, and accessible for students. One program we love to spotlight is the Forest of Reading — Canada's largest recreational reading initiative. Our team also loves how the program introduces children to the concept of voting through book selection—an idea that aligns with our passion for teaching civics education, as highlighted in our recent blog on *Empowering Future Voters*. In this blog, Meredith shares how the Forest of Reading engages learners of all ages—from English to French language streams—with enriching activities, author interactions, and the electrifying energy of the annual Forest of Reading Festival (lovingly dubbed the “rock concert of reading”). Whether you're an educator, library professional, or parent, there's something here for everyone looking to inspire the next generation of readers and storytellers.

RELATED ARTICLES

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“Operation Cupcake”: A Sweet Introduction to Elementary Science, Math, and Engineering

The Power of Visual Arts in Learning: Discovering the Magic of “Asha and the Toymaker”

2025 Forest of Reading Winners Announced: Canadian Students Choose Their Favourite Books

Thank You

Thank you to Tinlids for being the Official Wholesaler of the Forest of Reading® for 2025. The Forest of Reading® would not exist without their support and we continue to encourage you to purchase your booksets from Tinlids. By supporting Tinlids, you are helping Canadian publishers, authors and illustrators continue to create books!

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best books for schools and libraries



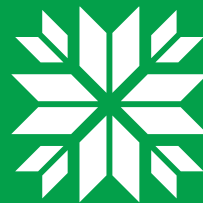
Thank you to the Government of Canada, Canada Council for the Arts, and the Ontario Arts Council for your help in making this year's Forest of Reading® program a success!

Canada





Thank you for
another great year!



**Forest Of Reading®
Festival**

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forestofreading.com

*2025 Forest of Reading® Festival photos courtesy of
Michelle Arbuckle, Laurel McLeod, and Callie DeWees.*