Forest Of Reading Awards

Peuplier 2027 – Discussion Content & Themes

**Translated by DeepL Translator*

10 faits étonnants sur les capybaras
Written and illustrated by Mélanie Watt
Published by Scholastic

Everyone has heard of capybaras, and everyone loves them, but what do we really know about them? Dive into this illustrated book packed with facts and discover the secrets (some cute, some curious, and others... not so much) of these adorable, enormous rodents.
As fascinating as these animals are, there's one particularly shocking fact they definitely DON'T want you to know! Will they be able to keep their secret for much longer?

Content and discussion topics:
Capybaras, Humor, Numbers

AKI
Written by Valérie Richer O'Bomsawin
Illustrated by Meky Ottawa
Published by Éditions Hannenorak

Aki is a picture book in which the beauty of things is revealed with tenderness and unfolds to the rhythm of a heartbeat. Through the eyes of a child filled with wonder, Valérie Richer O'Bomsawin pays tribute to the earth and all it has to offer.

Content and topics for discussion:
Gratitude, Nature, Wonder, Indigenous Peoples, W8banaki Nation

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Aujourd'hui, promis!
Written and illustrated by Josée Bisaillon
Published by Fonfon

Philo absolutely has to make a poster for a school project. She would have started earlier, but between her swimming lessons, a shortage of orange cardboard, and the onset of a cold, she always had a MORE THAN JUSTIFIED reason to put off her project. Today, for sure, she's going to finish it! Unless... A funny story about procrastination—read it right away. Whatever you're doing can definitely wait until later!

Content and topics for discussion:
Procrastination, Homework, Distraction, Imagination, Responsibility

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Chi miigwech, grand merci
Written by Astra Márta
Illustrated by Jordan Stranger
Published by Éditions Orca

We say “chi miigwech” for nature, plants, animals, and even the creatures we cannot see. “Chi miigwech” for food and the roofs over our heads, which meet our basic needs, and for everything we feel and experience. Chi miigwech for the Seven Sacred Teachings: truth, love, honesty, courage, humility, wisdom, and respect. And chi miigwech to you!

Content and topics for discussion:
Gratitude, appreciation, nature, Indigenous knowledge, emotions and sensations, Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) peoples

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Dre Rafistout
Written by Nicholas Aumais
Illustrated by Mélanie Albert
Published by Bouton d’Or Acadie

No sooner has Éva gotten out of bed than she slips on her scrubs and gets ready for a busy day of surgeries. She’s ready to see her patients. Did a toy tractor lose a wheel? Does a slingshot no longer shoot anything? Is a stuffed animal blind? No problem! Dr. Rafistout puts the items she and her father have salvaged to good use and gives the toys of her neighborhood friends a second life.

Content and topics for discussion:
Recycling, Toy Repair, Waste, Environment, Inventor

Ensemble: Un livre sur la communauté
Written and illustrated by Elise Gravel
Published by Scholastic

Together, we are stronger.
Together, we can make a difference.
And together, we form a community.

Through her signature quirky monsters, Elise Gravel explains the importance of working together and forming a community. Other people take care of us when we’re sick or hurt, teach us things, and protect us. They help us in many ways, even though being around other people can sometimes make us feel bad or angry.

With her poignant and insightful words, Elise highlights the importance of friendship, of building support systems, and of how—through the bonds that unite us and through cooperation—we can ensure that every member of our communities is cared for and safe. Our communities take care of us, and we must take care of our communities.

Content and topics for discussion:
Community, Mutual Aid, Support

Jules et Virgule, deux têtes de mule
Written by Andrée Poulin
Illustrated by Juliette Miron
Published by Dominique et compagnie

Jules is as stubborn as a mule. For the past ten days, he has refused to read a single word. This situation worries his sister, who is looking for a way to get him to end his reading strike. Meanwhile, Virgule has been howling nonstop ever since he arrived at the shelter.

Content and topics for discussion:
Love of animals, Academic difficulties, Reading aloud, Self-confidence, Emotions

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Oui, allô? Le cri des animaux
Written and illustrated by Amélie Legault
Published by Éditions Les Malins

In this long telephone chain, the animals express themselves using all sorts of cries, each one more surprising than the last!
Thanks to this book, you'll learn who yelps while eating toast, who bellows while applying mascara, who quacks while brushing her hair, and who bellowed while painting the walls of her bedroom.
But what on earth could these animals be talking about? Can you guess?

Content and Discussion Topics:
Animal Sounds, Family

Le sandwich aux grenouilles
Written by Danielle Chaperon
Illustrated by Élodie Duhameau
Published by Les 400 coups

To make matters worse, one morning when Jean-Pierre was really craving a frog sandwich, the sandwich shop had sold the very last one!

But everyone says, “There’s nothing more delicious than a tender, juicy frog sandwiched between two slices of bread. A true delight for the most refined palates!” Jean-Pierre should have known better. Determined to track down the buyer of the last, much-coveted sandwich, Jean-Pierre conducts his investigation and stumbles upon Mrs. Corneille perched high up in her tree! Ah! If only he could find a way to make her drop her snack from her beak…

Content and topics for discussion:
Investigation, Food, Fairy Tale

Yassama et la calebasse aux cauris
Written by Lua Shayenne
Illustrated by Tiffany Ratongaranto
Published by Prise de parole

Yassama leads a happy life with her family until the day the rain stops falling. The village well runs dry, the harvests dwindle, and hunger looms.
To help her family, Yassama walks farther and farther to find water. Along the way, she encounters an old baobab tree that teaches her the importance of respecting Mother Earth and taking care of what she provides.
Inspired by African oral tradition, theater, and dance, this picture book offers children ages 6 and up a celebration of perseverance and humility.

Content and themes for discussion:
Drought, Famine, Environmental History, Perseverance, Baobab, African Culture

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