Forest Of Reading Awards

Mélèze 2027 – Discussion Content & Themes

**Translated by DeepL Translator*

À l'enVerre
Written and illustrated by Orbie
Published by Les 400 coups

“Alphonse is a bit of a slob. There are things lying around everywhere in his house. But he can find his way around just fine, and he likes it that way.”
That is, until his mess becomes the cause of his misfortune when he rushes to answer the phone, trips, and ends up with his head stuck… in a glass! Unable to free himself, Alphonse resigns himself to asking his neighbor Cécile for help. She finds the task too daunting and calls for backup—first from Isidore, then from Marielle, and finally from the village garage. There’s no way to keep this under wraps! Before long, everyone has heard about Alphonse’s misfortune and is using their boundless imagination to try to free him from that glass.

Content and discussion topics:
Chaos, Clumsiness, Solidarity, Mutual Aid

La bibliothèque enchantée 02: Le livre qui ne tenait qu’à un fil
Written by Jocelyn Boisvert
Illustrated by Julie Rocheleau
Published by Éditions Michel Quintin

In Alice’s room stands a vast bookshelf filled with enchanted books. Every time the young girl picks one out, it’s the same story… She never knows what’s going to happen to her!
Today, while browsing the shelves, Alice discovers THE BOOK HANGING BY A THREAD. A strange string is sticking out of the book. The intrepid reader pulls on it, but she’s the one who gets pulled inside the book… yet again! As she falls, she knocks out the story’s hero. Poor guy! He’d been dreaming of a life of adventure, but now he’s stuck on page 7. What if the mysterious string is the key to moving the plot forward?

Content and discussion topics:
Book, Parallel Universe, Graphic Novel

Les créatures de l'école
Written by Émilie Rivard
Illustrated by Ianick Raymond
Published by La Courte Échelle

When Joséphine finds a master key at school, her brother Arthur challenges her to use it to open the locked door in the school basement. According to him, disgusting creatures once appeared in that old restroom. Determined to prove to Arthur that she doesn't believe a word of his story, Joséphine decides to give it a try, despite her friend Blanche's reservations. Joséphine quickly realizes—but too late—that Blanche was right: it was a bad idea. A very bad idea...

Content and themes for discussion:
School, Monsters, Leeches, Courage, Horror, Investigation

Fémi et Lou et le trésor perdu
Written by Mireille Messier
Illustrated by Catarina Oliveira
Published by Éditions Orca

It's Fémi's birthday, and the only thing she wants is a metal detector. Instead, she receives clothes and a long, mysterious box containing a gardening tool from a neighbor, Mrs. Musette, along with a note asking her to help weed her yard. Sigh. Fémi lost her older sister Nicole's jewelry box when she buried it at the beach while she and her friend Lou were playing pirates. If they can find the box before Nicole returns from summer camp, they'll be in the clear. But their quest is impossible without a metal detector! Fémi and Lou need to earn money to buy one themselves. Luckily, Mrs. Musette offers Fémi five sous for every weed she pulls, and Lou agrees to help her. The money adds up, but very slowly, until the two friends discover that Mrs. Musette is willing to pay them more for butterfly eggs, so the butterflies can hatch safely and then be released outdoors. With summer coming to an end and Nicole's return imminent, will the friends manage to buy a metal detector and find the treasure before it's too late?

Content and themes for discussion:
Lost objects, Monarch butterfly, Perseverance, Friendship, Life cycle

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La folle journée de Wadarone
Written by Isabelle Picard
Illustrated by Meky Ottawa
Published by Bayard Canada Livres

Tonight is the last bonfire before winter. My whole family gathers to eat bannock and listen to Grandpa's stories… But I'm never allowed to hear his scary legends.
"Wadarone, it's bedtime. You're still too little," my parents say every time. Well, today, I've decided to show them that I'm… BIG.
So, when the bathroom turns into a swimming pool or a recipe threatens to turn into a disaster, I always have a brilliant idea to save the day… Even if it means causing a little chaos along the way.

Content and topics for discussion:

Grandfather, Intergenerational, Wendat, Legends, First Nations, Knowledge Transmission by Elders

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Une girafe, ça sourit, oui!
Written by Andrée Poulin
Illustrated by Geneviève Després
Published by Les 400 coups

“In 2020, torrential rains caused flooding on a peninsula in Lake Baringo, Kenya. The area turned into an island, and nine giraffes found themselves trapped there. ”
Stranded in the middle of a pool of water and mud, the herd must be rescued to survive. Through poetic storytelling and gentle illustrations, Andrée Poulin and Geneviève Després invite us to follow this rescue operation, which separated a baby giraffe from its mother for a time before they could finally reunite with the other giraffes in their herd.

Content and discussion topics:
Giraffes, Flood, Rescue, Kenya, Animal Protection

L'écureuil qui marchait sur l'eau (Kévin #2)
Written and illustrated by Chloé Baillargeon
Published by KATA éditeur

Kévin is back, and this time, his adventure takes place on the St. Lawrence River!
After surviving extinction, the albino squirrel from Montreal returns in a second, even more thrilling adventure!
In 2164, Montreal remains choked with pollution and mountains of trash despite initial efforts at reforestation and recycling. While humans and squirrels work hand in hand to rebuild a livable environment, Kévin and his friend Ernestine discover an even greater threat: a gigantic continent of trash is blocking the Gulf of St. Lawrence, dooming marine species.
With the help of Karl, a 300-year-old Greenland shark, and a cheerful crew known as the Noisette Brigade, Kévin sets sail on the Croque-Poubelle, an ingenious ship designed to devour trash. Their mission: to dismantle the island of trash, clear the waters, and restore hope to all living things.

Content and discussion topics:
Marine pollution, Invention, Survival skills

Au royaume des chienpignons (Maple #1)
Written and illustrated by Juliette Miron
Published by Éditions Michel Quintin

Maple is a curious, creative 13-year-old girl who loves animals and, according to her sister, is VERY absent-minded. So far, everything seems normal. But during a family trip, her life is turned upside down.
After following a mysterious moon-shaped rock deep into the forest, Maple finds herself in the world of Phaern. The place is filled with surprising creatures, like flying deer and even bears with butterfly wings! When she catches a glimpse of her reflection in a puddle, the teenager is stunned to realize she has been transformed into a dog. What is she doing there, and more importantly, how can she get back home?
Perhaps her presence in this universe has a greater significance than she could ever imagine...

Content and themes for discussion:
Parallel universe, Dogs, Metamorphosis, Travel, Friendship

Mission animal de compagnie! Lequel est fait pour toi?
Written by Joanie Lamoureux
Illustrated by Juliette Miron
Published by Bayard Canada Livres

Do you dream of having a pet at home, but aren't sure which one to choose?
This book is here to help you find the perfect companion for you!
From energetic dogs to curious ferrets, not to mention rabbits, turtles, snakes, or even miniature pigs, discover the needs, personalities, and funny habits of all these animals.
Join Joanie, an animal health technician and host of the show *Joanie's Safari*, to learn all about our furry, feathered, and scaly companions.

Content and discussion topics:
Pets, Documentary

Srirachat: Le voleur de Lamoumou
Written and illustrated by Jean-Philippe Morasse
Published by Éditions Les Malins

In Quebec, there's a place called Bouletteville. That's where the Chabot family lives. They live on Rue du Chatouillis, very close to Avenue Saucisson and Boulevard Cramoisi, to be more precise. It's in this very place that the story you're about to read takes place. In a town where, usually, everything is quiet...
In the dead of night, Srirachat hears a strange noise in his house: CRACK! CRAACK! But there's no way to tell what it is. The next morning, horror! Sacha's precious LAMOUMOU has disappeared… And he's not the only one: several houses in the neighborhood have also been burglarized! The little kitten decides to launch an investigation that will lead him from one surprise to the next. Amid red herrings, hair-raising scares, and zany adventures, Srirachat will discover that… appearances can sometimes be very, very deceiving!

Content and discussion topics:
Cats, Thief, Moving, Investigation, Stuffed animals