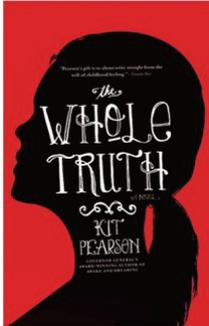


CLA Book of the Year for Children Award Winner Press Release

The Whole Truth wins CLA's Book of the Year for Children Award **For Immediate Release**

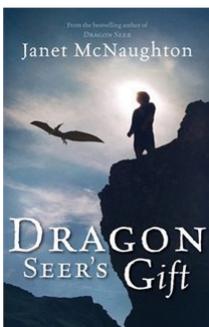


(Ottawa, April 16, 2012) From a superb collection of children's literature produced by Canadian authors and publishers in 2011, the Canadian Library Association/Association canadienne des bibliothèques (CLA/ACB) has selected its 2012 winning title for the Book of the Year for Children Award. This year's winner is ***The Whole Truth*** by Kit Pearson, published by HarperCollins.

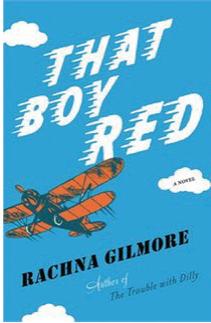
In 1932, after the drowning death of their father, nine-year old Polly and her older sister Maud travel from Winnipeg to Kingfisher Island off the coast of British Columbia to begin a new life with their grandmother. After Maud leaves for boarding school, Polly is left on her own to adjust to island life, unknown relatives, and the burden of keeping a shocking family secret. When the secret is revealed, will it destroy their fragile happiness? Mystery, complex characters, and finely crafted prose conveying the rhythms of Depression-era island life make this intriguing novel one to remember!

"Kit Pearson's superbly crafted story introduces readers to a moral dilemma that has no easy answer," commented Myra Junyk, Chair of the Book of the Year for Children Award Jury. Kit Pearson convincingly explores the realities of life in the Depression era, complex family dynamics, and ultimately, the healing power of forgiveness.

The CLA's Book of the Year for Children Award Jury has also selected two Honour Books this year: ***Dragon Seer's Gift*** by Janet McNaughton (published by HarperCollins) and ***That Boy Red*** by Rachna Gilmore (published by HarperCollins). The members of this year's jury were: Myra Junyk (Literacy Advocate and Author, Toronto – Chair), Megan Clare (Librarian, Waterloo), Jaclyn McLean (Librarian, Prince Albert), Kay Weisman (Children's Literature Consultant, Vancouver), and Alexandra Yarrow (Librarian, Ottawa).



Dragon Seer's Gift is the most recent book by Janet McNaughton, and award-winning author of young adult novels. It is a follow-up novel to ***Dragon Seer*** (2010). Twelve-year old Gwyn Rae is bored with school and can't seem to focus on anything. When he decides to investigate the life of his ancestor, Daniel Rae, for his Heritage Fair project, he makes a shocking discovery. Daniel died unexpectedly while trying to pass along his role as the Dragon Seer of the mysterious Picts. What do you do with a dragon named Hermit who has been left alone to sleep for over one hundred years? McNaughton skillfully combines fantasy, environmental responsibility and non-stop action.



That Boy Red by Rachna Gilmore is set in Prince Edward Island. Gilmore's literary works include picture books, books for early readers, middle-grade and young adult fiction as well as adult fiction. In these interconnected short stories set in Prince Edward Island in the 1930's, readers meet young Red who lives with his siblings and his parents on their farm. Red is a lovable, well-meaning young man. His misadventures range from mistakenly destroying his grandmother's precious heirloom, to convincing his younger sister he is dead, to getting lost in a fierce snowstorm. Gilmore's novel is funny, engaging and delightfully entertaining!

The CLA Award for Children Jury salutes the efforts and accomplishments of all Canadian writers of children's literature and their publishers for providing our children with an exceptional collection of quality books that easily meets the interests and reading abilities of all children.

The CLA Book of the Year Award for Children has been presented annually since its inception in 1947 to recognize excellence in children's books written and published in Canada during the preceding year. This year's award, generously sponsored by Library Services Centre, will be presented to Kit Pearson for ***The Whole Truth*** on May 31, 2012, during the CLA National Conference and Tradeshow in Ottawa. The Book Award Reception is generously sponsored TD Bank Group.

The Canadian Library Association/Association canadienne des bibliothèques is Canada's largest national and broad-based library association, representing the interests of public, academic, school and special libraries, professional librarians and library workers, and all those concerned with enhancing the quality of life of Canadians through information and literacy.

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