

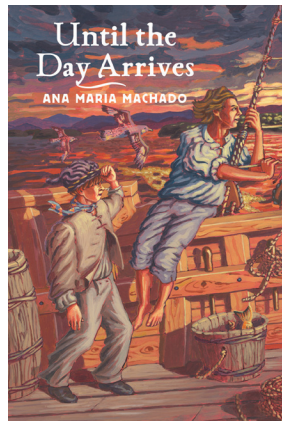
Little Bee

by Chris Cleave

Toronto: Doubleday Canada, 2012

ISBN 9780385677783

From the first page of *Little Bee*, the reader is struck by the voice and perceptions of globalization of the Nigerian girl who gives her name to the novel. She has arrived in England as an illegal immigrant and endured two years of detention. She learns that to gain admission to Britain she must “look good or talk even better.” She decides that focusing on learning the language is the safer course of action. Making contact with the English family that she hopes will be able to help her, she finds herself in a much more complex situation than she had expected. Most appropriate for senior secondary school students, this novel explores the dynamics of family relationships and friendships that transcend cultural differences.



Until the Day Arrives

by Ana Maria Machado with translation

by Jane Springer

Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2014

ISBN 9781554984558

You may have noticed that there isn't a “b” in the title of this novel but the inclusion is justified by the fact that this old-fashioned adventure story takes middle-grade readers from seventeenth century Portugal to the author's native land, **B**razil. The narrative tells of siblings orphaned by the plague who are forced into exile where they are able to make lives for themselves thanks to their own personal skills and the patronage of powerful people in commerce and the church. Despite their own good-fortune, they are not blind to the injustices of slavery, racism and sexism in an empire built on the slave trade, and they dream of overcoming the prejudices of colonial society to find happiness and a new life in the New World. ■