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Mr. King's Machine

by Geneviève Côté

Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2016

ISBN 9781771380218

Regardless of how much people may appreciate nature, and sometimes because of how much they appreciate nature, humans are sometimes so enchanted by technology that they rush into using it without thinking through the consequences. In Geneviève Côté's picture book, *Mr. King's Machine*, readers from pre-school to Grade 2 will share the lesson learned by a gadget-loving cat who listens to his friends and neighbours and solves the puzzle of how to use his mechanical skills in a way that complements his love of flowers. He finds a way to respect nature rather than disturb it and his neighbours.



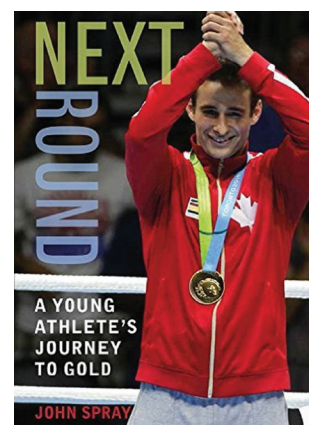
Missing Millie Benson

by Julie K. Rubini

Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2015

ISBN 9780821421840

There were many puzzled faces last May when it was reported that CBS was not proceeding with its Nancy Drew television series because the pilot episode was “too female.” This news story raises questions about Nancy Drew and the status of women in American society. Students will find answers to these questions in Rubini's biography of Millie Benson, the journalist best known (now) as the ghostwriter for many *Nancy Drew* mysteries. In this book for young readers, chapters echo *Nancy Drew* titles, such as “The Case of the Missing Ghostwriter”. This engagingly written and profusely-illustrated work of social history gives middle grade readers insights into the operation of publishing syndicates such as those responsible for *The Hardy Boys* and *Nancy Drew* series, an understanding of careers in print journalism and the evolving roles of women in American society through the 20th century. This biography of the creative, adventurous Millie Benson is not “too female” for any reader.



Next Round

by John Spray

Toronto, Pajama Press, 2016

ISBN 9781772780031

As a private investigator, author John Spray is a professional puzzle-solver. He promotes student interest in puzzle-solving by sponsoring the John Spray Mystery Award for Excellence in Mystery Writing for Children. However, it is his interest in boxing that has inspired his biography of Arthur Biyarlanov, who as a 20-year-old, won a gold medal in boxing for Canada in the 2015 Pan Am Games. To reach this goal and to place himself on the road to the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, he has had to solve the puzzles of living as a Chechnyan refugee in Azerbaijan, coming to Canada at the age of nine, discovering success as a soccer player before being sidelined by an injury, and then taking up boxing and finding the mentors to teach him the skills that he needed for success in the ring and beyond. Readers, aged 10 to 14, will find inspiration in this 112-page, profusely illustrated, story of determination, courage and athletic achievement.