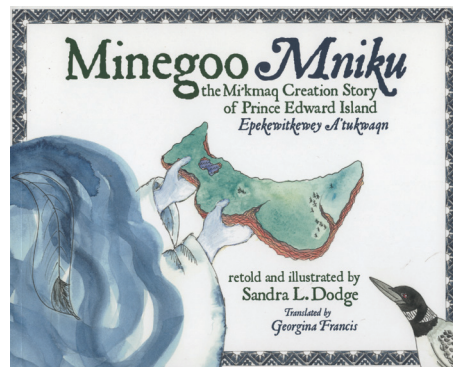


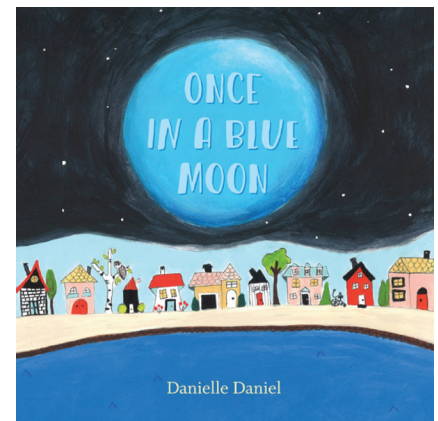
Goodnight, Hockey Fans
by Andrew Larsen
Illustrated by Jacqui Lee
Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2017
ISBN 9781771381055

Bedtime can be a challenging time for parents and their children who do not want to give up their days' activities and favourite programs to surrender to sleep. This picture book, intended for an audience from pre-school to Grade 2, tells the story of a boy who is sent to bed before the end of the hockey game and who fears he will never fall asleep. He turns on the play by play of the game on the radio concealed under his pillow and drifts off into dreams of himself scoring a winning goal for his team. When his parents check in on their sleeping son, they note the smile on his face and the faint sound of the radio playing beneath his pillow. This is a good story to introduce discussions of favourite sports, hints for falling asleep, or dreams that put smiles on children's faces.



Minegoo Mniku: the Mi'kmaq Creation Story of Prince Edward Island
Retold and Illustrated by Sandra L. Dodge
Translated by Georgina Francis
Charlottetown: Acorn Press, 2017
ISBN 9781927502853

This bilingual (Mi'kmaq/English) picture book endeavours to keep "the magic of the past alive" by sharing a story passed down through the ages beside warm fires on dark, cold winter nights. It takes its readers back to the beginning of time when the Great Spirit created the universe, his helper, Kluscap, the Mi'kmaq people and then the most beautiful place in the world, their island home. Comparing and contrasting this story with other creation stories would be a great exercise in critical thinking. Regardless of whether or not students engage in learning the Mi'kmaq language, its presence on the page demonstrates a respect for the cultural origins of the story and can serve as a launching point for discussions of respect, cultural appropriation and the nature and importance of oral history.



Once in a Blue Moon
by Danielle Daniel
Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2017
ISBN 9781554989751

The "blue moon" is the second full moon in a calendar month and this phenomenon is seen approximately once every three years. Danielle Daniel's illustrated book of poetry for a young audience celebrates similar rare and often seemingly magical natural phenomena. Many students will relate to poems about seeing fireflies in the forest, finding a four-leaf clover in the grass or watching a ladybug on a leaf. Some poems evoke the excitement of spotting a turtle sunbathing or a family of ducks waddling across the road. Other poems will introduce readers to more novel experiences such as double rainbows, the Northern Lights and shooting stars. These poems will help students to understand poetry as a celebration of life rather than a collection of rhymes. As they read these poems they will be encouraged to observe the wonders around them and appreciate the natural world.

continued on page 12