

LITERALLY SPEAKING

Winter 2023 | Issue 12



Happy Holidays!

We are excited to announce that we have a new Executive Director! Welcome to Elisha Simon, we can't wait to see where you lead our team!

Quick reminder, our anonymous, online comment box is always available for your suggestions:

<https://freesuggestionbox.com/pub/dhjlxow>

The GLC Team



Winter Activities

What is it about winter holidays that has us unwinding inside, often in front of the tv? Maybe it's the weather, maybe our brains need a break, maybe there's too much happening!

But if you're looking for winter activities that are easy, relaxing, and screen-free, here are some suggestions to kick it up a notch, literacy-style:



Outdoor Scavenger Hunt

- Choose a day that's not too cold
- Create a list of common things you might find outdoors - pinecones, old leaves, frost patterns, etc.
- Take the kids out for a nice long walk with their list of scavenger items, they can cross off each item as they see it
- The best part of this game is that you can make it very difficult (fold older kids) or very easy (for the little ones)

Hold a Poetry/Drawing challenge

- Get the whole family engaged by writing a collaborative poem or drawing a picture together
- Starting with a prompt (like to do during a snowstorm), have each family member write a line of poetry or draw a piece of a picture - going around the table as many times as you need to
- By the time everyone has participated, you have with a piece of art that you created together

Learn about the Weather

- One of the most interesting parts of winter is the changeable weather, so why not use it to learn about clouds, measure the snow or rainfall, and check the speed and direction of the wind using some handmade tools?
- You can check the weather together and see if the predictions come true!
- Learn how to build your own weather station here:

<https://inventorsof tomorrow.com/2018/01/22/diy-weather-station-for-kids/>



News

New Leadership

It's our absolute pleasure to announce that the GLC has a new Executive Director, Elisha Simon. The press release announcing her new position can be found on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/gaspelit>.



The Literacy Summit

*Getting to Know you Better,
to Serve you Better*



We're looking for people to fill out an online survey! Every little piece helps us to round out the picture of literacy we have in our territory. Please consider filling one out - even if you put your name, our Project Coordinator (Angelina Leggo) will be the only one to see your responses. Please visit our website for the surveys: INSERT

Book Spotlight

Buffalo Is the New Buffalo by Chelsea Vowel

A collection of science-fiction inspired short stories by Metis author Chelsea Vowel, “whose work focuses on language, gender identity and cultural resurgence.”

The title *Buffalo is the New Buffalo* stems from a common metaphor within Indigenous communities in Canada “education is the new buffalo,” which “[signifies] the importance of education to their survival and ability to support themselves, as once Plains nations supported themselves as buffalo peoples. The assumption is that many of the pre-contact ways of living are forever gone, so adaptation is necessary. But Chelsea Vowel asks, ‘Instead of accepting that the buffalo, and our ancestral ways, will never come back, what if we simply ensure that they do?’”*

Two Green Birds by Geraldo Valério

“Francisco helps his grandmother take care of two magnificent green parakeet birds in the guava tree in her backyard. Initially, the birds will not eat or drink or speak. However, when Francisco sees parakeet birds from the wild in her backyard one day, he suddenly knows what he must do to make his grandmother's parakeets be happy.”*

Geraldo Valério is from Brazil and currently lives in Toronto. He’s the author and illustrator of several books. This one is perfect for ages 6-9.

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Avec la participation financière de :

Québec 

*Quotes taken from CBC Books: <https://www.cbc.ca/books/buffalo-is-the-new-buffalo-1.6280836>

Quote taken from 40 Canadian kids books to read in spring 2023: <https://www.cbc.ca/books/40-canadian-kids-books-to-read-in-spring-2023-1.6848466>

