



Books

Biography

Portfolio

About Plasticine

Students & Teachers

News

News

Upcoming Events

News

April 2011: Great "Gifts" Giveaway!

Gifts, written by **Jo Ellen Bogart** and illustrated by **Barbara Reid** has been selected as the **TD Grade One Book Giveaway** title for 2011. Since 2000, in cooperation with ministries of education, school boards and library organizations across Canada — the **Canadian Children's Book Centre** has given every Grade One student a free Canadian children's book.

The book is to be taken home by each child to keep and to read with their parents. This far-reaching annual book giveaway program, which provides over 500,000 books to Grade One children across Canada, is fully funded by TD Bank Financial Group.

Jo Ellen's lyrical rhyme tells the story of travelling grandmother and the unusual gifts requested by her granddaughter. Barbara's plasticine illustrations follow Grandma around the world and back again as she shares "a roar from the jungle king", "an iceberg on a string" or "the smell of rain from a shady lane".

Gifts won the **Amelia Francis Howard Gibbon Award** and was named to the **IBBY International Honour List**. Both Jo Ellen and Barbara are thrilled that Grandma will be travelling once more, sharing her gifts with children all across Canada. Go Grandma!

Barbara will be touring across the Canada in the fall of 2011 in support of the program. Check **Upcoming Events** for tour information.

October 2010: Five times the fun!

Read Me a Story, Canadian Favourites is now in bookstores. Celebrate story time with this collection of great Canadian picture books. These stories are for sharing-perfect for story time, bedtime, anytime.

The anthology includes: **The Party**, by Barbara Reid; **Henny Penny**, by Werner Zimmerman; **Sophie and the Sea Monster**, by Don Gillmor and Michael Martchenko; **A Second is a Hiccup**, by Hazel Hutchins and Kady Macdonald Denton; **Too Many Books**, by Gilles Tibo and Bruno St. Aubin.

Perfect Snow a Blue Spruce Nominee

Snow and spruce trees-a perfect combination! **Perfect Snow** has been nominated as a **Blue Spruce** selection for 2011. Part of the Ontario Library Association "Forest of Reading" program, Blue Spruce awards are voted on by readers ages four to seven, from kindergarten to grade two.

To participate, or for more information please go to:
www.accessola.com/reading

September 2010: Writers in the house

The **Toronto District School Board** is thrilled to announce that three of Canada's most well-known authors have joined us as **Writers in Residence** for the 2010-11 school year. Welcome **Lawrence Hill**, **Barbara Reid** and **Eric Walters** to the TDSB team.

Connecting with students throughout the year at school and system-wide



Upcoming Events:

- **Toronto Public Library 2nd Annual Book Bash!!**

see the [events page](#) for details...

literacy initiatives and events, our Writers in Residence will provide valuable insights into the creative process that promotes a strong foundation in literacy development and a life-long joy of reading and writing. Watch for announcements of the exciting events with our Writers in Residence throughout the school year.

We are excited to have the support of our Writers in Residence as we also launch Just Read It for the 2010-11 school year. Students, teachers, and the entire TDSB community are encouraged to share their love of reading by submitting books and recommendations online. These submissions will also help determine locations for visits and presentations from our TDSB Writers!

Whether you are signing out books at your school or local public library, reading at home or in the classroom, we want to hear from you – let's see how many books we can read together! Visit Chris's Place to learn more about Just Read It or to submit a book today!

Win an author visit!

Toronto schools have the opportunity to receive a visit from Writer-in-Residence Barbara Reid. Students just need to read a book, report on it and submit it to the [Toronto District School Board Just Read It site](#).

Winners be chosen from the [Just Read It website](#), randomly selected each month. The more your school reads and reports, the better your chances-happy reading!

June 2010: Project Sunshine



On June 17th

The Project Sunshine arts and crafts program at **The Hospital for Sick Children** welcomed Barbara Reid as part of the bi-weekly arts and crafts show. Barbara read three of her popular children's books to over 150 children, ages 3-12 years. Her visit was televised and fed live into rooms of patients that were in isolation. After reading Barbara instructed an art lesson teaching patients how to use plasticine for illustration. The young artists were a delight to meet, and created excellent work! Many thanks to the enthusiastic volunteers, staff, and families who run this outstanding program.

May 2010: "Perfect!" said Jim "Excellent!" said Scott

Perfect Snow has won the **Amelia Frances Howard Gibbon Illustrator's Award**.

This award recognizes an illustrator of a noteworthy Canadian book, published in 2009, that appeals to children up to the age of 12 years.

From the jury citation: "In *Perfect Snow* Barbara Reid fully captures the experience of a Canadian schoolyard in winter. She uses her vibrant and detailed Plasticine art, here combined with ink and watercolour panels, to portray the energetic excitement that accompanies a perfect snowfall. Children will instantly recognize the setting and will delight in the characters' enthusiasm. The Committee was impressed with Reid's absolute command of her signature medium and also with her adept use of illustrated panels that serve to broaden the narrative. This is the third time that the internationally acclaimed Reid has won the Amelia Award."

May 2010: BIG fun in Cookstown



In May, Barbara gave presentations at the newly renovated Cookstown branch of the **Innisfil Public Library** and enjoyed signing the very BIG copy of *Sing a Song of Mother Goose* on display in the children's section. A videographer captured some of the visit for the library website....

Perfect Snow has been shortlisted for the **Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award, Picture Book Category**

The awards were established in honour of Ruth Schwartz, a Toronto bookseller, by her sister Sylvia, whose name was later included. The administration of the awards is shared with the Ontario Arts Council. The winners are chosen by student juries, this year from Huttonville Public School in Brampton, ON.

Other shortlisted titles are: *When Stella Was Very Very Small*; *Proud as a Peacock*, *Brave as a Lion*; *Scaredy Squirrel at Night*; *The Imaginary Garden*. Winners will be announced May 26.

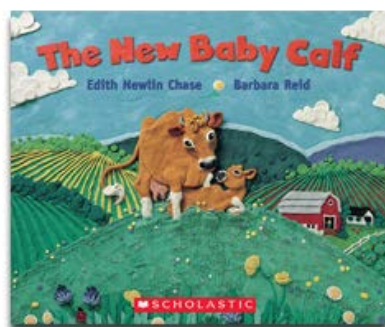
Perfect Snow has been nominated as a **CBA Libris Children's Picture Book of the Year**.

The Libris Awards are voted on by members of the Canadian Booksellers Association. The winners will be announced at a ceremony hosted by CBC Radio's Shelagh Rogers, on May 29 during the CBA's National Conference. Other finalists are: *When Stella Was Very Very Small*, by Marie-Louise Gay; and Bradley McGogg, *The Very Fine Frog*, by Tim Beiser, illustrated by Rachel Berman.



January 2010: That Clever Fox!

Fox Walked Alone has been named a **Sydney Taylor Notable Book for Younger Readers**. The Sydney Taylor Awards are administered by the Association of Jewish Libraries and "honour new books for children and teens that exemplify the highest literary standards while authentically portraying the Jewish experience". [Click here for more information](#). **Fox Walked Alone** is published in the U.S.A. by Albert Whitman & Company.



Something MOO! The New Baby Calf, the classic story by Edith Newlin Chase about the love between a mother and her new baby is now available in a sturdy board book edition. Also available in French: *Quel beau petit!*

November 2009: Snowing Indeed!!

Family Day at the National Gallery - Over 450 children and parents participated in a day of plasticine workshops given by Barbara in the Great Hall of the National Gallery in Ottawa. Much fun was had by all!

Panel Discussion of the art of the Picture Book - Panelists Diane Kerner, Director of Publishing, Scholastic Canada, Wallace Edwards, illustrator, Michele Lemieux, illustrator, and Barbara Reid, author/illustrator, held a lively discussion on both the creative and publishing processes of producing a great picture book. The well attended discussion was moderated by Josianne Polidori, Head, Children's Literature, Library and Archives Canada.

The workshops and panel events took place as part of an exhibition of picture book illustration at the National Gallery, and the "Take Home an Original: the Art of the Picture Book" auction to benefit the **Canadian Children's Book Centre**

Perfect Snow named as one of **Quill and Quire's "15 Books That Mattered"** - Quill and Quire lists 15 books that have the biggest impact in 2009. *Perfect Snow* is one of five children's books included, along with *The Uninvited*, by Tim Wynne Jones; *Jacob Two-Two on the High Seas* by Cary Fagan; *City Alphabet* by Joanne Schwartz and Matt Beam; *Scaredy Squirrel at Night*, by Melanie Watt.

Perfect Snow has also been named to the **Toronto Public Library First and Best List 2009**. Books on the list are top picks for children from birth to age 5.

September 2009 Forecast Snow!!

Barbara's newest book **Perfect Snow** is now available, published by Scholastic Canada.. Also available in French, **La neige parfaite**, by **Editions Scholastic**.

Accompanying the book are new videos: you can view the Perfect Snow book trailer, author interview with Barbara Reid, or see the how-to plasticine demonstration video on Barb's new **You Tube Channel**

Barbara will be presenting her new book **Perfect Snow** at **Word on the Street** on Sunday, September 27. For more information visit the **Word on the Street website**.

November 2008: Classic Canadian Poster for Book Week

In honour of the 100th anniversary of the publication of Anne of Green Gables, the theme for this year's TD Canadian Children's Book Week is "Classic Canadian Reading". Barbara's poster for the event features two children and a beaver reading together in a canoe. Both kids are wearing classic Canadian Tire rubber boots, the girl wears a Cowichan sweater and the canoe is patriotic red, as are the maple leaves in the water. Pretty Canadian, eh?

There are also references to several Canadian children's literature icons: the boy wears Rocket Richard's hockey sweater, the girl's pigtails are red like Anne's, and a baby mouse is wrapped in a bit of blue blanket from Phoebe Gillman's "Something From Nothing". Can you spot any others? (click on the image to enlarge)



TD Canadian Children's Book Week is November 15-22, 2008. For more information go to www.bookcentre.ca

September 2008: Wonderful Copenhagen!

In September the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) held their 31st World Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark. With assistance from the Canada Council for the Arts, Barbara was able to travel to Denmark to receive an Honour List Diploma for her book "Fox Walked Alone". Queen Margrethe of Denmark attended the opening ceremonies of the congress and presented Hans Christian Anderson Awards to Jurg Schulbiger (author, Switzerland) and Roberto Innocenti (illustrator, Italy).

IBBY's mission is to promote international understanding through children's literature, and to give children everywhere the opportunity to have access to books with high literary and artistic standards. The goal is: "Every child a reader". "It was most inspiring to hear from many of the passionate people who are creating programs and working on projects in support of IBBY's goals. Attending the Congress also gave me an excellent opportunity to meet with colleagues from around the world. The presentations by top international illustrators, authors, publishers and academics sparked my imagination and absolutely filled my head with inspiration and ideas for future projects.



The visit to Copenhagen also coincided with the publication of "Metromusen", the Danish edition of The Subway Mouse. I was able to meet with the publisher, and enjoy a studio visit and interview with Lillian Broegger, illustrator extraordinaire and Denmark's Hans Christian Anderson Award nominee. Of course, there was photo opportunity with Denmark's most famous storyteller, H. C. Anderson himself!

To learn more about IBBY, visit www.ibby.org

May 2008: BIG book opens at Toronto Public Library

The TPL opened the first of several planned KidStops, indoor literacy playgrounds, at the S. Walter Stewart library in East York. Features include a rocket ship to climb in, puppet theatre, toddler computers and a wall of blocks that spin to display letters of the alphabet and Mother Goose artwork by Toronto illustrators Heather Collins and Barbara Reid.



A giant version of Barbara's book "Read Me a Book" is mounted at kid-height on the wall. KidStops support the TPL's Ready for Reading program that promotes literacy development in children up to age five. Happy reading!

April 2008

Barbara's artwork featuring two children flying on a blue heron is the image for the 2008 Vancouver International Children's Festival.



November 2007

The Queen of Plasticine and the First Lady of Mother Goose! Barb Reid & storyteller Sally Jaeger will celebrate the release of **Sing a Song of Mother Goose** this December at **Mabel's Fables Bookstore** with pictures, stories, rhymes, and songs. Visit the [events page](#) for more information.

Sing a Song of Mother Goose has been named to the **Toronto Public Library's** "First and Best Book List". Listed books are the top picks for building reading readiness in children from birth to age five. "First and Best" is part of the new "Ready for Reading" program that offers a comprehensive set of free, high quality programs, services and resources at the Toronto Public Library. The clown logo for the program was created by **Barbara Reid**.

Fox in the Forest! - Fox Walked Alone has been nominated for the 2008 **Ontario Library Association Blue Spruce Award**, part of the Forest of Readings Program. In spring, readers ages 4 to 7 in kindergarten to grade two will vote for their favorite books to determine the winners. For more information visit the [OLA website](#).

September 2007

The Canadian National Section of IBBY (The International Board on Books for Young People) has selected **Fox Walked Alone** for the IBBY Honour List, in the illustration category. The IBBY Honour List is a biennial selection of outstanding, recently published books for children, honouring writers, illustrators and translators from IBBY member countries around the world. Honour List selections are representative of the best in children's literature published in the past two years (in each country) and suitable for publication throughout the world.

The Honour List titles selected by each country will be displayed at the 31st IBBY World Congress to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, September 7-10, 2008; diplomas will be presented to the recipients. The Honour List is one of the most widespread and effective ways of furthering IBBY's objective of encouraging international understanding through children's literature. For more information visit the IBBY [website](#).

Sing a Song of Mother Goose is published! A new board book edition featuring 14 favourite Nursery Rhymes takes flight! Also available in French as **Un, Deux, Trois, Voilà la Mère l'Oie!** Visit the [books section](#) for more.

Fox Walked Alone shortlisted for the **Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award**. The winner of the award is: *When You Were Small*, by Sara O'Leary, illustrated by Julie Morstead. Visit the [Canadian Book Centre website](#) for more information about the award.

June 2007

Libris Awards - Barbara Reid has been named both **Children's Author of the Year and Children's Illustrator of the Year**. The Libris Awards are nominated and voted on by members of the Canadian book selling community and were presented at the Book Expo Convention in Toronto.

Fox Walked Alone has been named an Honour Book for the **2007 Amelia Frances Howard Gibbon Award for Illustration**.

May 2007

Fox Walked Alone shortlisted for the **Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Award** in the Picture Book category. Winner of the award is **Scaredy Squirrel** by Melanie Watt.

March 2007

Read Me a Book is now a board book! (Scholastic Canada Ltd.) The board book format is also available in French: "Lis-moi une histoire" (Éditions Scholastic).



[Books](#) | [Biography](#) | [Portfolio](#) | [About Plasticine](#) | [Students & Teachers](#) | [News](#)

© copyright Barbara Reid | photography by [Ian Crysler](#) | website by [Hoffworks](#)