

“BOOKMARK!” HIGHLIGHTS BOOKS FOR A VARIETY OF GRADE LEVELS AROUND A PARTICULAR THEME.

With the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games coming to Toronto this summer, explore summer sports, ranging from cycling to synchronized swimming and much more, with this diverse selection of books compiled by CCBC Library Coordinator Meghan Howe.

Summer Sports

PICTURE BOOKS AND EARLY READERS FOR KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

Along a Long Road

written and illustrated by Frank Viva
(HarperCollins Canada, 2011)

Speed off on an eventful bicycle ride along the bold yellow road that cuts through town, by the sea and through the country. Viva’s striking graphic style is executed in five joyous colours, and his spare, rhythmic language is infectious.

Captain Lilly and the New Girl (First Novels)

written by Brenda Bellingham
illustrated by Clarke MacDonald
(Formac Publishing, 2009)

A competing coach doesn’t want to let Lilly’s friend Sara play soccer because she is wearing a hijab. But Lilly, Sara and the other soccer players, tired of listening to the adults argue, head off to have a game for fun, showing the grown-ups what really matters.

JUNIOR & INTERMEDIATE NON-FICTION AND FICTION FOR GRADES 3 TO 8

Addy’s Race (Orca Young Readers)

written by Debby Waldman
(Orca Book Publishers, 2011)

Addy has always worn a hearing aid and, although her mother says it makes her special, she wants to be special for something she’s *done*. She joins her school’s running club and discovers her talent for the sport, but problems on the team and at school make Addy’s life complicated.

Baseballlogy: Supercool Facts You Never Knew

written and illustrated by Kevin Sylvester
(Annick Press, 2015)

Behind the game of baseball lies a wealth of science, folklore, mathematics, psychology — and a very colourful past. Whether they are die-hard fans or casual spectators, readers will be captivated by this collection of fascinating, little-known facts. Fans will also enjoy Sylvester’s *Game Day: Meet the People Who Make it Happen*.

Cyclist BikeList: The Book for Every Rider

written by Laura Robinson
illustrated by Ramón K. Pérez
(Tundra Books, 2010)

An essential guide for cyclists, whether they’re first-timers or dedicated riders, this book includes historical information and lots of practical information, from how to choose a bike to how to maintain it, to proper nutrition and useful gear. Also included is a section dedicated to famous cyclists throughout history, including Canadian Olympian Clara Hughes.

Crazy About Basketball!

written by Loris Lesynski
illustrated by Gerry Rasmussen
(Annick Press, 2013)

With over 40 bouncy poems and energetic, humorous illustrations, this book captures the joys, thrills and challenges of basketball. The poems run the gamut from silly, just-for-fun ones to others that provide useful tips on training, tactics and teamwork. Young readers will also like Lesynski and Rasmussen’s *Crazy About Soccer!*

Curve Ball (Sports Stories)

written by John Danakas
(Lorimer, 2014)

On his old team Tom was a star catcher, but on his new team all the players are older and bigger. His feelings of failure get worse once a new catcher joins the team and Tom is benched. Can Tom regain his rightful place behind the plate? Check out these other baseball titles in the Sports Stories series: *Double Play* by Sara Cassidy and *Power Hitter* by Christine A. Forsyth.



Flying Feet (Orca Sports)

written by James McCann
(Orca Book Publishers, 2010)

Jinho is frustrated with his traditional tae kwon do training. When he meets a trainer from an underground mixed martial arts club, the prospect of fighting without boundaries is exciting. He soon realizes fighting without rules or referees is dangerous. What will happen when he faces an opponent named The Ripper?

The Gymnastics Book: The Young Performer's Guide to Gymnastics (Second Edition)

written by Elfi Schlegel and Claire Ross Dunn
(Firefly Books, 2012)

Any child interested in gymnastics will be drawn to this comprehensive introduction to the sport. Expert advice is combined with instructive how-to photographs to create an indispensable resource. Topics covered include finding a club, warm-up and cool-down exercises, routines, nutrition and much more.

Hoop Genius: How a Desperate Teacher and a Rowdy Gym Class Invented Basketball

written by John Coy
illustrated by Joe Morse
(Carolrhoda Books, 2013)

James Naismith was asked to take over a rowdy gym class right before winter vacation in December of 1891. The boys were all bored with the exercises and gymnastics they'd been doing, so Naismith decided to try something new. Using a soccer ball and two old peach baskets, Naismith introduced his class to his new game of basketball.

Hustle (Sports Stories)

written by Johnny Boateng
(Lorimer, 2014)

Fourteen-year-old Johnny, nicknamed "Hustle," wants to be the school's basketball star, but his friend Rex outshines him, on and off the court. Then Rex gets hurt, and Johnny has to put his jealousy aside to help his friend and his team. Basketball fans will want to read these other titles in the Sports Stories series: *Game Face* by Sylvia Gunnery, *Hoop Magic* by Eric Howling and *Pick and Roll* by Kelsey Blair.

Jackie Robinson: Breaking the Color Line in Baseball (Crabtree Groundbreaker Biographies)

written by Matt J. Simmons
(Crabtree Publishing, 2014)

Jackie Robinson broke the colour barrier to become the first African-American player in Major League Baseball. With dignity and composure, Robinson endured racist jeers and even death threats from fans and players. His historic feat of crossing baseball's "colour line" became a symbol in the American civil rights movement.

Kayak Combat (Sports Stories)

written by Eric Howling
(Lorimer, 2010)

Cody is the star of his Calgary kayaking club as they host a Canada-wide competition. But there is a new guy from Ontario who can out-paddle them all. One stormy day, Cody notices his rival's kayak is missing from the clubhouse — does Cody attempt a solo rescue or does he eliminate the competition?

Playing Favourites (Sports Stories)

written by Trevor Kew
(Lorimer, 2012)

Gavin is starting high school this year, which means moving from a school with a championship-winning soccer team to a school with no team at all. He makes a deal with the football coach who agrees to let Gavin be responsible for running the soccer team. Gavin soon learns that being a good coach isn't the same as being a good player. Soccer fans will also want to read Kew's *Breakaway*.

Score! The Story of Soccer (Soccer Source)

written by Jennie Haw
(Crabtree Publishing, 2013)

Providing a historical look at the sport's development, from ancient times through its explosion in Europe to its huge popularity in North America today, this book will interest young soccer fans wanting to know more about the sport they love. They will also like Amanda Bishop's *Soccer's Superstars: The Best of the Best* in the Soccer Source series.

Shot in the Dark (Sports Stories)

written by Janet M. Whyte
(Lorimer, 2015)

Eighth-grader Micah is psyched to have made the BC junior goalball team — even though he gets the news while dealing with a flare-up of his degenerative eye condition. What he's not happy about is his parents' decision to get him a guide dog, and the possibility of losing his independence.



Soccer Sabotage (A Graphic Guide Adventure)

written by Liam O'Donnell
illustrated by Mike Deas
(Orca Book Publishers, 2009)

Playing on her local soccer team, Nadia faces challenges from her opponents *and* teammates. After her coach is hurt in a suspicious accident, and threats against the team escalate, Nadia and her brother must pull the team together and take a shot at the championship. This read offers a clever blend of action, mystery and soccer tips.

Spiked (Sports Stories)

written by Steven Barwin
(Lorimer, 2013)

Emma is the tallest eighth-grader in her class. While she used to love sports, other things have become more important — like clothes and makeup and fitting in. When Emma gets roped into volunteering for the girls' volleyball team, she feels the urge to play again. But what will her new friends say?

Topspin (Orca Sports)

written by Sonya Spreen Bates
(Orca Book Publishers, 2013)

Kat is thrilled to be competing in a junior doubles tennis championship. But her partner Miri is sneaking around at night, showing up late to practice and jeopardizing their matches. When strange things interfere with Miri's boyfriend's performance, Kat tries to figure out what's going on before it's too late.

Weird Zone: Sports (Weird Zone)

written by Maria Birmingham
illustrated by Jamie Bennett
(Owlkids Books, 2013)

There's more to sports than just soccer, baseball, basketball and hockey! This book uncovers the "other" sports of the world, from the local and hidden to the strange, bizarre and downright crazy. Discover people who ride bikes underwater, sail boats on sand and golf on ice. Filled with fascinating facts and fabulous photographs, *Weird Zone: Sports* is sure to please.

Wicket Season (Sports Stories)

written by Gabrielle Prendergast
(Lorimer, 2012)

Harry is determined to make the cricket team at his new school in Toronto, but he'll have to step up his game. To impress his coach, he volunteers to coach Kanga cricket for beginners. He soon realizes being part of a bigger community is more rewarding than standing out on your own. Readers will also like *Not Out* by Dirk McLean.

SENIOR FICTION FOR GRADES 7 AND UP

BMX Tunnel Run (Take It to the Xtreme)

written by Pam Withers
(Whitecap Books, 2011)

Join Jake and Peter as they BMX their way through another adventure. The duo discover a maze of mining tunnels and ride through their latest escapade — underground. Equipped with night-vision goggles, the teens have to defy a group of hostile riders as they struggle to find their way back to daylight. Along the way, Peter must deal with some personal misfortunes.

Haze (Orca Sports)

written by Erin Thomas
(Orca Book Publishers, 2012)

Bram's friend Jeremy tells him he has information about a hazing-related student death, and then he's injured in a hit-and-run accident. With Jeremy in a coma, Bram and Abby are trying to figure out what really happened. Is the swimming coach to blame? Bram doesn't want to accuse an innocent man.

Straight Punch

written by Monique Polak
(Orca Book Publishers, 2014)

Tessa's tagging habit lands her at New Directions, an alternative school in Montreal's toughest neighbourhood. Half of every school day is devoted to boxing. The other students think boxing is cool; Tessa can't handle violence of any kind. But when a neighbour starts a petition to have New Directions closed down, Tessa discovers something worth fighting for, both in and out of the ring.

Vegas Tryout (Podium Sports Academy)

written by Lorna Schultz Nicholson
(Lorimer, 2012)

Synchro swimmer Carrie Munroe is Podium Sports Academy's best prospect at the upcoming Vegas tryouts — but the pressure to succeed, combined with family issues, leads Carrie to make risky decisions about her health and eating habits. Can her family and friends help her before things spiral out of control? Readers will enjoy other titles in the Podium Sports Academy series, including *Forward Pass* (soccer), *Hoop Dreams* (basketball) and *One Cycle* (lacrosse).

