

BEST CHILD SEATS
FOR YOUR BIKE

A LOCAL ORGANIC
SPRING MENU

A KID-FRIENDLY
TORONTO GETAWAY

inside!
FREE
56-page
BABY
GUIDE

CANADIAN family

**More than
MOM!**

Inspiring women
redefining
motherhood

Is she crazy or clever?

**Tales from
moms with
4 KIDS**

Are we
raising
praise
junkies?

Answers in our
Annual Reader
Survey **P.42**

plus
Sarah Richardson's

**STYLE
SECRETS &**

Trish Magwood's

**FAMILY
RECIPES**



SMARTY PANTS

family tested



reader profile

Meet Kaveena, just one of our many Family Testers. She's three and a half, is learning chess, and loves soccer, twirling in her pirouette skirt and playing with her imaginary friend, her shadow. **Who is your favourite person that reads to you?** "Mama, at sleep time, because I love her and she reads lots and lots." **Who is the smartest book character you know?** "Olivia the pig: If she doesn't know something, she doesn't touch it." **Why is reading important?** "Because people who like books read and eat smart things, like shrimp and pad Thai." **Favourite books?** "Mortimer because there's lots of screaming and Zoom! [both by Robert Munsch] because she is bad and goes really, really fast."

Brilliant kid-approved books, games and puzzles

BY MELISSA CARTER AND MIKA REKAI



"My son can't get enough of lifting these sweet flaps. It will be nice, too, when he's older and can understand the concepts, like the butterfly emerging from the cocoon."

MICHELLE FRANZ, MOM OF 10-MONTH-OLD AIDEN, WINNIPEG

AGES 0-1
+BOARD BOOK *Wake Up!* by Nancy Davis (Candlewick Press, \$8)

There's a fun flap to flip on every page of this cheery board book. A little ladybug wakes up to a bright, sunny day and searches for her hibernating friends to share the news that spring is here. —MC

"I really like the scrapbook-like illustration technique and how it is so true to a child's perspective. I recommend it for preschoolers and early readers. My daughter loves the pictures."

JOSH CRAWFORD, DAD OF JORDANNA, 2, DUNCAN, B.C.



AGES 1-2
+HARDCOVER *There Are No Scary Wolves* by Hyewon Yum (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$20) A little boy is tired of waiting for his mommy to find her keys and ventures out on his own, only to imagine wolves in place of people at all his favourite spots: the bookstore, the toy store and the Chinese takeout. The adorable pet cat adds a charming touch of humour to this well-realized story of anxiety, patience and comfort. —MC

PHOTOGRAPHY BY COLLEEN NICHOLSON (READER PROFILE) AND CARLO MENDOZA (BOOKS).

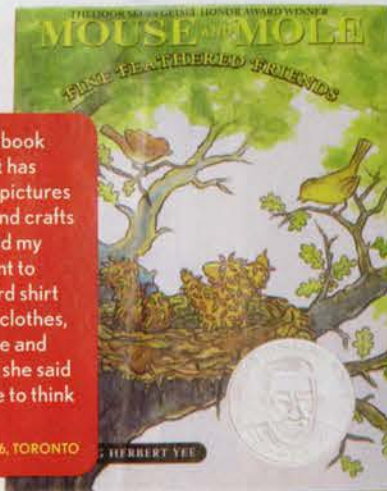
AGES 3-5
+HARDCOVER *Red Wagon* by Renata Liwska (Penguin, \$21) Lucy the fox just wants to play with her new wagon, but her mother insists she go to the market. And so Lucy does, bringing her whole menagerie of woodland friends with her. Along the way, her little red wagon transforms into a multitude of magical vehicles: a pioneer wagon, a pirate ship and a spaceship. —MC



"I really like the illustrations. We also enjoyed her work in *The Quiet Book*. My older daughter enjoyed the make-believe part, and it sends a nice message that all the groceries are vegetables."

ELIZABETH SHADEED, MOM OF KAYLA, 4, AND LILA, 2, CALGARY

AGES 6-8
+HARDCOVER *Mouse and Mole: Fine Feathered Friends* by Wong Herbert Yee (Houghton Mifflin, \$15) Mouse and Mole decide to celebrate spring by drawing and writing their own bird books. But their plans seem foiled when the birds fly away as the two artists approach, until Mouse comes up with a clever disguise. The beautiful pictures keep it approachable, and the sweet story encourages nature appreciation. —MR



"I like this book because it has chapters, pictures and arts and crafts ideas. I told my mom I want to make a bird shirt out of old clothes, like Mouse and Mole, but she said she'd have to think about it."

CHARLOTTE, 6, TORONTO

ADULT

+PAPERBACK *A Thread of Sky* by Deanna Fei (Penguin, \$20) When Irene Shen is widowed, she plans a postcard tour of China for herself and her sister, mother and daughters. Every chapter of this character-driven novel is narrated by one of the women, each at a different tipping point, but all facing the same question of how to reconcile the past while managing the expectations of mothers and the compromises of motherhood. —MC



WHEN YOU REACH ME

"It was really cool how everything came together in the end. The short chapters are good if you don't have much time to read."

BELLA, 11, PRINCE ALBERT, SASK.

AGES 9-12
+HARDCOVER *When You Reach Me* by

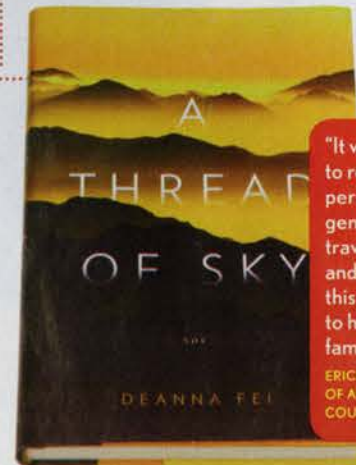
Rebecca Stead (Random House, \$15) Sixth-grader Miranda lives a normal life with her young mother until she begins to receive mysterious notes from someone who seems to know everything about her life before she knows it herself. A gripping mystery, perfect for teens just realizing class and gender issues, it will also charm adult fans of *A Wrinkle in Time*. —MR



"This novel is beautiful, and I could picture every moment of it. My mom told me books are usually boring at the beginning and better towards the end, but I told her that with this book she was totally wrong and that it was very interesting!"

ALYSSA, 13, CHAPEL ARM, Nfld.

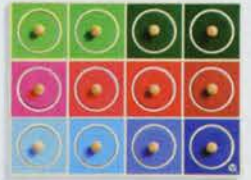
AGES 13-16
+HARDCOVER *Akata Witch* by Nnedi Okorafor (Penguin, \$18) This spellbinding fantasy tells the tale of Sunny, a 12-year-old West African albino and American ex-pat who must learn to harness the power of her magic in order to catch a serial killer. Teens will enjoy this original take on a classic coming-of-age witch theme that ultimately tells a very human story about growing up in a global environment and still feeling like an outsider in your own home. —MR



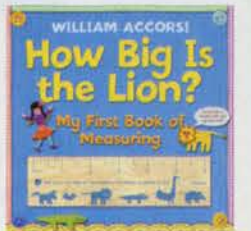
"It was interesting to read the different perspectives of three generations of women travelling together, and I was moved by this mother's attempt to hold her adult family together."

ERICA JOHNSON, MOTHER OF ANDREW, 14, AND COURTNEY, 11, WINNIPEG

brain-boosting fun



Matching Shades (Kid O, \$14) With silkscreened colour (not heat-transferred stickers), this quality puzzle intellectually stimulates all the way from baby to preschooler. From simply putting the pieces in to sorting by colour, and then shade, it builds early mathematics.



How Big Is the Lion? by William Accorsi (Workman Publishing, \$15) This book is the perfect tool for giving kids hands-on experience with the metric system. Full of cute rhymes and adorable pictures to admire and measure, it comes with an easy-to-read ruler (inches and centimetres) helpfully attached to the back of the book.



uKloo Early Reader Treasure Hunt Game (uKloo, \$15) If your reluctant reader can't sit still long enough to sound out sentences, this educational game is an engaging way to improve her literacy. The hide-and-seek concept combines clues (that participants hide around the room) with basic sentence construction and a game-board chart of sight words. —MR