

# Share Your Ideas

Saskatchewan School Library Association

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## Saskatchewan School Library Association

### Latest and Greatest

During the winter, the editors of *The Medium* distributed a Google form requesting the Saskatchewan School Library Association (SSLA) membership to share details of a great new resource that has been recently added to their school library collection. This article details the resources which Saskatchewan teacher-librarians recommended as their latest and greatest. Each book title is linked to a page on *Goodreads*, a social site which provides reviews and publishing information. Goodreads participants can see what their friends are reading, keep track of what they have read, and organize their books into virtual bookshelves.

### Elementary Recommendations

Diane Barsi from Holliston School of Saskatoon Public Schools recommends [\*Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes\*](#) by Eric Litwin:

“This is a great picture book that my Kindergarten students loved last year! It is a concept book about colours which can be read or sung. There is a YouTube video of the author singing the book. Also whatever happens, Pete just takes everything in his stride and does not get upset.”

**GoodReads Link:** <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6871646-pete-the-cat>

Tracy Woodward from Warman Elementary School of Prairie Spirit School Division recommends [\*Up and Down\*](#) by Eric Oliver Jeffers:

“The illustrations are simple, but engaging. The story is a good story of friendship. This is actually a sequel to Jeffers' book *Lost and Found* as the boy and the penguin are back and are still friends. It does not sound like a sequel and it stands on its own (although I totally recommend *Lost and Found* as well). This is the story of the boy's friend, the penguin, who wants to learn to fly and who wants to do it all by himself. He learns you can accomplish important things with the help of a friend. If you do not know Oliver Jeffers, you really need to get to know him! All of his books are fabulous!”

**GoodReads Link:** <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/8493424-up-and-down>

### Young Adult Recommendations

Carlene Walter from Saskatoon Public Schools recommends [\*Icefall\*](#) by Matthew J. Kirby:

“*Icefall* is a novel that leaves the readers always on the edge. The book masterfully weaves suspense, Norse mythology, and the chilling setting of an unforgiving tundra. Fans of the Riordan's tales of Greek and Egyptian mythology will enjoy this young adult novel. It is, in my opinion, a contender for a Newbery medal or honour.”

**GoodReads Link:** <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/10626639-icefall>

Charmaine Stouse from McLurg School of Regina Public School Division recommends *Matched* by Ally Condie:

This book is perfect for young adults looking for a new futuristic/utopian read. With themes very similar to *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, this book is an updated version with love playing a large role. In a world where everything is regulated by the Society, Cassia is waiting to learn who her "match" will be. The Society never makes mistakes, so when she sees two different boys with whom she could be matched, this causes her to question those in charge and begin a journey that will challenge her way of life."

**GoodReads Link:** <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/7735333-matched>

Hilde Besic from Warman High School of Prairie Spirit School Division recommends *The Last Summer of the Death Warriors* by Francisco X. Stork:

"I loved this book because two unlikely young men with hugely different personal struggles build a strong friendship that helps them cope with those struggles. Part of the strength to grow, change and cope comes from the gifts each young man can offer the other. They also find the strength to open themselves to the gifts and strengths that more and more people around them have to offer. Is that not what the world expects of all of us?"

**GoodReads Link:** <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6659536-the-last-summer-of-the-death-warriors>

Connie Davis from St. Mark Community School of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools recommends *Gone* by Michael Grant:

"The novel *Gone* is a fabulous, fast paced novel. It grips you from the first page when you find out that the teacher "poofs" - disappears into thin air in mid sentence. The students love to think about not having adults around to "boss them around" but they never stop to think what it truly would be like without adults. As a read aloud or book club book, it sparks great discussions about what things they need adults to do in their lives."

**GoodReads Link:** <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2536134.Gone>

Jennifer Lane from Sheldon Williams Collegiate of Regina Public School Division recommends *The Gargoyle* by Andrew Davidson:

"I would recommend *The Gargoyle*. It is incredibly imaginative and original. It touches on the subjects of art, religion, love, and the extensive care and attention required for burn victims. In addition, it has elements of fantasy and is overall great storytelling with a passionate love that burns through each and every page!"

**GoodReads Link:** <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2595138-the-gargoyle>

Anonymous Recommendation of *Thunder over Kandahar* by Sharon McKay:

"I recommend *Thunder over Kandahar* to all teenage girls because it is a novel about the ultimate friendship. I also recommend it to anyone who is interested in learning about the Muslim culture. This novel is a Willow Award nominee and is geared towards students ages 12 and up. The story takes place in Afghanistan where a girl named Yasmine is forced to come back to Afghanistan after living in Britain. It is difficult to adjust to the new customs and restrictions as a young woman in Afghanistan. Yasmine's father hires a girl named Tammana to be his daughter's companion. Yasmine's father educates both girls and they become best friends. Yasmine and Tammana encounter

many dangerous situations and must use their wisdom to stay alive. It is a story about friendship and staying alive in the most difficult situations.

This novel is filled with suspense that will keep the reader hooked. The one drawback is in the last couple of chapters; you definitely notice a difference in voice. The author gets right to the point and tells you exactly what happened to all the characters by digressing from her original story telling format. Nevertheless, I enjoyed reading this novel and loved learning more about the Muslim culture.”

**GoodReads Link:** <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/8078021-thunder-over-kandahar>

### Anonymous Recommendation of *Soul Enchilada* by David MacInnis Gill:

“Bug Smoot finds out that her deceased grandfather made a deal with the devil and traded his soul for a Cadillac, using her soul as collateral. Bug is not going to let any repo man take what is rightfully hers, even if he is the devil. And the fun begins.

The main character is poor and alone in the world and life is a struggle, but she is not about to give up without a fight. "Bug" Smoot is feisty and tough and doesn't wallow in 'Poor me' sentiment. When the cute boy shows his interest in her, Bug is taken aback that he would want to be with someone down and out like her, and then she accepts his attention and goes for it. She knows about loyalty and commitment, about standing up for what she wants and believes in, but she is not willing to cheat to get it. And she has a sense of humour. There is action and suspense, but it is the character of Bug that makes me like this book so much.

The book is set in El Paso, Texas, a city that I have visited numerous times, and I loved recognizing the places that were described.”

**GoodReads Link:** <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/3463179-soul-enchilada>