

Spotlight

Wednesday, October 10

If I could assign one thing to every avid reader, reluctant reader, and non-reader alike it would be to take five or ten minutes each week and read one picture book. Picture books are an incredible combination of story and art and a magic that we often don't indulge in past childhood unless we are sharing them with children. Some studies have argued that the unique power of story combined with image is the best way to truly immerse in language and it certainly is one of the most important ways we learn language. Here at the Yellowknife Public Library we have a rich and varied collection of picture books from the north, elsewhere in Canada, and around the world.

The last few years have seen a true renaissance in the art of the picture book. Notable artists and authors have started to experiment with the medium and produce incredible works appealing to children ages 1 – 100. One such example is *This Bridge Will Not Be Gray* by Dave Eggers with art by Tucker Nichols. Eggers is the celebrated author of the award winner memoir, *A Staggering Work of Heartbreaking Genius*. He translates his sly humour and love of details to a charming non-fiction picture book about the decision to paint the Golden Gate Bridge orange. Part history, part introduction to architecture, and part celebration of originality and boldness *This Bridge Will Not Be Gray* is surprisingly heartwarming. This is a book to remind us that the world is a wonderful and strange place for the curious and with good picture books we can feed the flame of that curiosity throughout our entire lives.



Megan Clark
Public Services Librarian