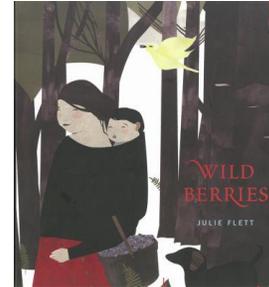
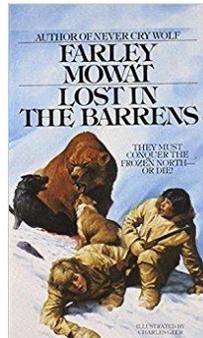
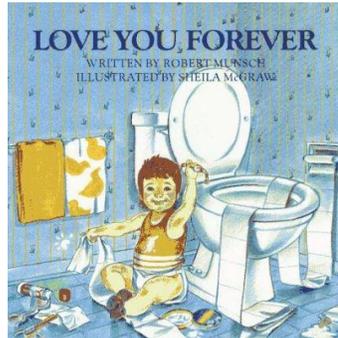
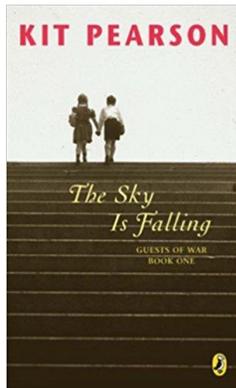


# Spotlight

## Canadian Classics: Kids Edition



June 30, 2017

Last week we considered the idea of a Canadian classic or the Canadian literary canon. While there are many complications to that notion including the relatively short history of Canadian books (on account of the relatively short history of Canada) and also the trouble of determining what would truly make a title a Canadian classic – by whom, for whom, and about what. Still, there are some Canadian children’s titles that have made a lasting impression and speak to specific times and places in Canadian history and art. To that end, I’ve selected four titles to get you started exploring the storied history of Canadian children’s literature.

Written after Robert Munsch and his wife suffered the loss of two stillborn children his book, *Love You Forever*, remains one of his most enduring and celebrated titles. Since its publication in 1986 it has sold over 15 million copies and there surely has been a treasured and tattered copy in many a Canadian home. A newer tale of family and love comes to us from Manitoba artist Julie Flett. While a much newer name to the children’s literature scene her stunning illustrations, sweet stories, and bi-lingual texts (Cree & English) are bound to make give a lasting impression well into the future.

For the older ages, chapter books are a child’s first entry into the rich and solitary world of reading. These chapter books may be shared with a parent in nightly read-alouds before they give way to being tucked away with under a blanket or becoming soggy companions carried from camping site to camping site over the summer holidays. Both heavyweight’s in children’s chapter books Kit Pearson and Farley Mowat have provided us with strong places to start exploring the varied world of chapter books. Pearson’s WWII drama *The Sky is Falling* and Mowat’s thrilling arctic adventure *Lost in the Barrens* present two very different views and experiences of Canada which both only hint at the great diversity in both Canadian history and literature.

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