

# Spotlight

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One of the great life hacks I have learnt as a librarian is that kid's books are not just for kids. Having a busy day? Stressed? Rushed? Need a little art or story fix? Board books and picture books are a constant source of inspiration and comfort that can extend well beyond the toddler years. Lately, we've been getting lots of great new board books into the library and today I am sharing a few choice ones that are good for reading with a little one or just enjoying solo after a long day.

Jean Jullien's *Before & After* is brilliant in its evocative and simple illustrations of change – both good and bad. In a bold colour palette the board book walks the reader through a whole assortment of changes, big and small, from babies being born to ice cream melting off a cone. The book is playful and will surprise even the more veteran board book reader (thinking of all the valiant parents with multiple children's books memorized after repeat readings) with amusing images of change including the cooking of spaghetti and a short detour into philosophy with the timeless chicken and egg question.

Though we didn't experience the eclipse up here the darker nights are giving way to plenty of good moon viewing. Remi Courgeon's *Many Moons* is a poetic and playful board book that takes readers on a journey through the moon cycle matching the shape of the moon to everyday objects and activities. The book is mainly black and white with the only colour being the striking yellow of the moon. This book is a fun way to introduce kids to the cycles of the moon and the beauty of the night sky.

And finally, for all the rabble rousers out there, one of my favourite kid's books of the last year. Innosanto Nagara's *A is for Activist* may go over the head of little ones but it is a fun alphabet of inclusion and activism that is a welcome reprieve from some of the familiar troupes of mainstream kid's books.

This week, take some time to indulge your inner child. All of these board books and plenty more are waiting for you in the kids' department of the Yellowknife Public Library.

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