

## SPOTLIGHT ON BOOKS



On the back of Lara de Bastiani's picture book, *The Fox and My Boot*, are just four words: "Based on a true story."

I recalled reading the actual story in the news back in the latter part of 2017. The story of a fox swiping a boot was amusing and I was glad to see that de Bastiani used it for inspiration for a book. Still, I wondered if there was enough fodder for a whole book. I thought about another picture book I'd recently read that also told a true story about an animal. It was Leanne Shirliffe's *Saving Thunder the Great* and it told of a mother's determination to rescue her son's gerbil from the Fort McMurray wildfires. That one had danger and excitement. Could a missing boot compete?

Wisely, de Bastiani doesn't try to compete but rather capitalizes on the light, feel-good story that attracted news reporters in the first place.

She also takes some liberties by adding in some other animals as they try in vain to help her locate her missing footwear and it takes on a delightfully silly tone along the lines of P.D. Eastman's classic *Are You My Mother?*

Janet Pacey's signature style also adds to the whimsy and charm of the book and of course locals will love the Yellowknife setting.

John Mutford, Library Manager

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