



## Spotlight on Books

A great number of wonderful picture books were written in 2018 and one of my favourites is by Canadian writer/illustrator Marie-Louise Gay titled *Mustafa*. *Mustafa* is the story of a young boy who has moved from his “old country” to a new country – from a country that would appear to be ravaged by war to a more peaceful home. It is the story of him feeling invisible as no one notices him nor does he understand the language around him until one day a girl and her cat help him to not feel invisible anymore.

Like most of Gay’s work – it is a heartwarming, gentle story most suitable for one on one sharing. Although, it would also be a great story to share with a class to discuss how kindness and the smallest gestures can make a difference. Finally, it’s a great title for those working with refugee families or host families.

Marie-Louise Gay has written/ illustrated over 60 books for children which she says are “inspired by my childhood, my own children, my travels and especially by my overheated imagination.” Some of her finest being – the Stella and Sam series, *Rainy Day Magic*, *Mademoiselle Moon*, *Caramba*, and *Any Questions*. She has won numerous awards for her illustrations including the Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Award, the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award, and the Amelia Howard Frances Gibbon Award. Hopefully this beautifully illustrated, charming story will garner her more accolades for she is truly one of Canada’s finest.

In this story both her thoughtful words and beautiful illustrations have created a story that is a treasure to read.

Drop by the library to checkout some of her work and you will become a fan!

Kris Solowy, Library Technician

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