Featuring: Unforgettable students in children’s literature

**Edwina the dinosaur who didn’t know she was extinct** by Mo Willems: We’ve all encountered students like Reginald Von Hoobie-Doobie: he’s the kid who could coach you in the art of persuasion and persistence. At the heart of this picture book is a boy who just wants to be heard and an extinct dinosaur with a great ear. (Grades K-2)

**Dear Mr Blueberry** by Simon James: What would you do if you found a whale in your pond and you wanted to find out how to best care for it? If you’re like Emily, you might write your teacher for more information. Told in a series of letters, this little picture book is a fun one to share with students and their teachers. (Grades K-1)

**Love that dog** by Sharon Creech: Written as the poetry journal of Jack to Miss. Stretchberry, this book acts like a case study in how to teach reluctant writers. Written in verse, this is a quick read with a lot of impact. (Grades 3-7)

**Matilda** by Roald Dahl: A preschooler reading Dickens? A kindergartener able to calculate multiplication tables in her head? Matilda is more than a brilliant student for Miss Honey, she is an inspiration. (Grades 4–6)

**Fatty legs** by Christy Jordan-Fenton & Margaret Pokiak-Fenton: This true account of Margaret’s experiences in a residential school is wildly popular with our pre-service teachers and students right now. In many ways this is a story of good versus evil—and has that folklorian element of the hero’s journey. This book reads as a hybrid text, especially when you see the marriage between story and reality via the photographs of Margaret and her family. (Grades 4 - 8)

---

The Curriculum Library—UVic Libraries

University of Victoria Libraries

MacLaurin Building, D Wing
3800 Finnerty Road (Ring Road)
Victoria, BC V8P 5C2

Tel: 250-721-7900 Fax: 250-853-3718

Website: www.uvic.ca/library/locations/curric/
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CurriculumLibraryUVic

http://voyager.library.uvic.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=2021008
http://voyager.library.uvic.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=452511
http://voyager.library.uvic.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=2181863
Home of the brave by Katherine Applegate: See North American culture through the eyes of Kek, a recent immigrant from a refugee camp in Sudan. Written in verse, this novel is a powerful read aloud and commentary on our culture. (Grades 5 – 8)  
http://voyager.library.uvic.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=3248459

Dear Mr. Henshaw by Beverly Cleary: Written in 1983 but still relevant today, this book provides insights into the emotional challenges and wellbeing of our students who are children of divorced parents. (Grades 4 – 6)  
http://voyager.library.uvic.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=164458

The view from Saturday by E.L. Konigsburg: Experience the power of extracurricular activities in helping to bring students together with a common goal – in this case, the Academic Bowl. (Grades 3 – 7)  
http://voyager.library.uvic.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=687887

Schooled by Gordon Korman: Gordon Korman throws a lot of homeschooling/hippy commune stereotypes at protagonist, Capricorn Anderson, but this is a great middle-grade novel to read with students. Korman’s humour will win over reluctant readers, and Capricorn Anderson’s sincerity will be a model for them. (Grades 6 – 8)  
http://voyager.library.uvic.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=1970672

Absolutely true diary of a part-time Indian by Sherman Alexi: Arnold Spirit Jr. is a loveable narrator/student and his story is told with humour and heart. Two aspects that stand out are Mr. P’s apology to Arnold about his previous manner of teaching (mistreating) Aboriginal students; and the portrayal of Arnold’s grandmother. (Grades 9 – 12)  
http://voyager.library.uvic.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=1719831

A note about this list from Carol Nahachewsky

In working closely with pre-service teachers in the UVic Faculty of Education, I like to recommend stories featuring student-teacher relationships. Through such narratives, our future teachers can find inspiration for the type of teachers they want to be, while being exposed to a variety of potential K-12 students and experiences. While this list is not exhaustive, it does represent those stories that resonated with me as both an educator and lover of children’s literature.

For more information, please contact:  
Curriculum Library Educator—Carol Nahachewsky (caroln@uvic.ca) 250-721-7794, or  
Head, Curriculum Library—Pia Russell (prussell@uvic.ca) 250-721-8259