



Recommended Books to Read—*Our Family Home – Here in Alberta and Far Away*

From the Author's Desk . . .

As a part of the Alberta Genealogical Society's Project for Children and Youth, here are a number of books that you can use at home to stimulate discussion of family history and genealogy with children ages 9 to 11. By reading and discussing books with your child, you may lead them to ask relevant questions and spark interest in many aspects of their own family and the family home both now and in the past. Below are some titles related in content to *Our Family Home - Here in Alberta and Far Away!* which you can use to start a dialog on family and the concept of "home."

Home... by Carson Ellis. Somerville: Candlewick Press, 2016. ISBN 978-0-7636-6529-6.

This picture book looks at the variety of forms that a home can take. It concentrates largely on structure and suggests through the art some of the causes of these variations. It views home in terms of being a place at a specific location. This book ends with two questions "where is your home" and "where are you." This might be a good point to transition into a discussion about what makes a home. Is a home just the building that houses a family or something more?

A Prairie year... Jo Bannatyne-Cugnet. Tundra Books, 1994. ISBN-13: 978-0887763342.

Covering a year, this book with colourful illustrations describes the everyday life experienced by children living on a Western Canadian farm. It examines many events familiar to those who have lived on farms but that may be totally unfamiliar to urban children who have experienced life in a rural home. The simple story is accompanied by beautiful artwork which can lead to a discussion and questions about home in rural locations. This is especially helpful for cases where a family has transitioned to an urban setting from a rural one which the younger members may not have experienced.

Sidewalk Flowers... by Jon Arno Lawson and Sydney Smith. Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2015. ISBN 978-1-55498-431-2.

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This book has no text, no written story. The story is told solely through its pictures. The child can develop the story to accompany them. This story occurs in a city. The features shown in the illustrations of this book can be used to draw out the story and the features of the cityscape which may similar to the one which is your home. The child can tell you about his/her home in the city with the aid of this book.

Little House on the Prairie... by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Harper Collins, 2008. ISBN-13: 978-0064400022.

Little House on the Prairie is part of the well-loved series of books about family life on the American Frontier. While it is set in the USA, the family experiences are for the most-part similar to those of our ancestors who pioneered the Canadian West. As many families came here from the USA, this book may also serve as discussion starter on life in both locales. It also may be used to discuss those factors beyond a building that are necessary to make a place a home.

Anne of Green Gables... by Lucy Maud Montgomery, Nimbus Publishing, 1998. ISBN - 13: 9781551092492.

Anne Shirley's story is the classic one of an orphan. It tells of her search for family and home as well as the life that she makes once she finds it. This book may be read in its entirety or in parts to examine what qualities a home possesses. It is also part of a series of book dealing with life in Canada over a century ago. This book covers what it means to belong and many other aspects essential to be part of a family and a home. It may lead the child to various questions beginning with "What was it like when...."

Taran Wanderer... by Lloyd Alexander, Square Fish, 2006. ISBN-13: 978-0805080513.

A boy named Taran has lived with the same people and at the same place for a long time. However, he has recently grown discontented. He does not see the people as his family or the place as his home. So, he sets out to look for his parents and his unknown past. His story is an orphan's adventure filled quest for "home." In his journey, he has many challenging and exciting adventures. He meets many new and interesting characters at each stop along his way. At the end, he reaches rather powerful realizations about who he is and what a home truly is.

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Charlie: A Home Child's Life in Canada... by Beryl Young, Ronsdale Press, 2011. ISBN-13: 978-1553801405.

In the United Kingdom over 150 years ago, there were many orphans and waifs who required care and assistance. A plan was devised to send these children who would become known as “Home Children” to places away from the UK including Canada where they might find a home and opportunity. Unfortunately, this did not always happen. This is the true story of Charlie, one “Home Child.” It tells of his migration from the United Kingdom to Canada and the life that he establishes here for himself. This is a family history written by Charlie’s daughter.

Train to Somewhere... by Eve Bunting, Clarion Books, 2000. ISBN-13: 978-0618040315.

In the United States, orphans and children whose parents had fallen on hard times were once sent from overcrowded orphanages in the eastern cities to the American West by train. These children became known as “the riders of the orphan trains.” It was the hope that these children would find families to love them and new homes. This is story of one such child Marianne who makes this journey by train. How does she hope to find in a home? How will her journey end?

A is Alberta : A Centennial Alphabet Hardcover... by Ken Tingley, Simple Truth Publications, 2005. ISBN-13: 978-0973350029.

One of our many homes’ is the province of Alberta. This book through text and art displays the variety of our home province. It presents places that span the alphabet and provides interesting background on them. What makes each of the places presented in the book special? What makes each of them a home? Perhaps, the child may suggest other words to replace those used for each letter in the book which might have been used and what should have been said and shown on the related pages.

Once a Shepherd... by Glenda Millard. Illustrated by Phil Lesnie. Somerville: Candlewick Press, 2014. ISBN 978-0-7636-7458-8.

Change is an integral part of life. This story is that of a simple shepherd named Tom. He has a home and is happy there. This story of the shepherd shows how events acted on his life, changing its course. This book may serve as a great resource for starting on a discussion on how

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events can change a person's life and perhaps even his/her home. It raises many matters related to values and may serve well as a means of starting a discussion on them. The story shows the important events of a life as well as its cyclical nature.

Baba's Babushka a Magical Ukrainian Easter... by Marion Mutala, Regina: Your Nickel's Worth Publishing, 2012. ISBN: 978-1894431705.

Natalia, a young girl, is swept away from her home in Western Canada and magically transported back in time to the Ukrainian village of the past where her ancestors once lived. There, she learns who they are and sees how they once celebrated Easter. She recognizes many features of the celebrations that she has seen practiced at her home in Canada. While this story centers on a single culture, it can be used as a means of opening up the discussion about any ancestors, any culture, and the legacy of any immigrant group.

The Memory String... by Eve Bunting & Ted Rand. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2000. ISBN: 978-0-544-55547-1.

Laura has constructed a memory string from items representing important events in her family history. The buttons that she cherishes most are those that have associations with her late mother. However, one day the string breaks and one of the prized buttons becomes lost. The book serves as a good means to discuss what things about family and home are important to your child. An important part of a home is the relationships that develop between all those who live in that home. This book examines Laura's evolving relationship with her step-mother and the future of the memory string. Laura comes to realize that family histories do not end with the death of a single person but continue and evolve through time.

For more information about Unit 2, or books in this series, please contact us at:

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