**Big Little Brother**
Kevin Kling, Chris Monroe

This charming first children's book by celebrated storyteller Kevin Kling, with whimsical drawings by Chris Monroe, traces a familiar arc from sibling rivalry to brotherly love.

**Summary**
Being an older brother has its benefits, of that there's little doubt. But how would you feel if your little brother grew to be bigger than you? And what if he insisted on touching all your things and following you everywhere you went? It's enough to frustrate the most even-keeled of kids.

The narrator of Big Little Brother wants nothing more than to escape his brother's sticky fingers. Then an encounter at the old Woman in the Shoe play area teaches him that a pesky younger sibling can actually be a pal. Maybe having a brother, big or small, is a blessing after all.

Storyteller Kevin Kling, described as "one of our great national treasures" by public radio personality KristaTippett, has delighted audiences through his performances, plays, and audio and printed collections for decades. Illustrator Chris Monroe brings her witty, slightly subversive artistic sense to this heartwarming tale. The result is a playful, tender look at the familiar pains and joys of being a sibling.

**Author Bio**
Storyteller Kevin Kling is the author of two books and several plays, including the musical *Busytown*, with composer Michael Koerner, based on the classic and amusing picture books by Richard Scarry. Painter and cartoonist Chris Monroe draws the weekly comic strip *Violet Days* and is the author and illustrator of *Monkey with a Tool Belt* and *Sneaky Sheep*, among other books for children.

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**Big Little Mother**
Kevin Kling, Chris Monroe

The first-rate creative team of Kling and Monroe returns with another winning family story, this time celebrating the trials and triumphs of a younger brother as the recipient of his big sister's life lessons.

**Summary**
A younger brother has little choice but to look up to his older sister. She's taller than he is, for one thing. She has many developing talents, ranging from karate to violin. And she knows so many things: How to make the living room into an adventure land. How to dance. How to grow gumdrops. Well, maybe her understanding of the world isn't perfect, but she's pretty impressive, leading Little Brother to call her "Me one" and himself "Me, too."

Big Sister also loves to share her knowledge, particularly with her best friend, Kittywumpus, the family cat. However, after a possibly too vigorous "makeover," Kittywumpus runs away for a much-needed break, leaving Little Brother as the new target for Big Sister's ministrations. And while it's fun at first, the dressing up and the tea parties and the cream cheese on the piano start to make Little Brother think that the cat might have had the right idea.

But then, an impromptu performance in his sister's tap dancing class earns kudos for both siblings, giving them each a new respect for each other that continues even after Kittywumpus returns.

**Author Bio**
Storyteller, essayist, and playwright Kevin Kling is the author of Big Little Brother and The Dog Says How. Artist and cartoonist Chris Monroe, illustrator of Big Little Brother, draws the comic strip *Violet Days* and is the author and illustrator of the Monkey with a Tool Belt series.
Birds in Our Backyard
Say Hello to Minnesota's Feathered Friends
Adele Porter, Bill Marchel

From common loons to white-breasted nuthatches to ruby-throated hummingbirds, whether migrating or nesting or feeding or singing, explore Minnesota's birds through the seasons in this delightful full-color picture book.

Summary
A prairie chicken dancing to the beat, a Red-Winged blackbird flashing his snazzy wing patches to attract a female, a grouse growing its own "snowshoes," and American robins traveling north in the spring share at least one characteristic—they all call Minnesota home at some point during the year. Birds in Our Backyard invites young ones into the lives of these winged wonders.

Season by season, kids discover which birds they might see, how far they have traveled, where they build their homes, and what they like to eat. Able guide Adele Porter and award-winning nature photographer Bill Marchel bring to life the world of birds—the colors, the sounds, the wonder of flight. Learn about wild and urban habitats, clever practices in building nests and caching food, and migrating and mating rituals.

Birds in Our Backyard is the perfect companion for a walk in the woods, a picnic in the park, or breakfast at the kitchen window, encouraging budding birders and naturalists to take a closer look at our feathered friends and the world we share with them.

Check out www.adeleporter.com for more information on the birds in Birds in Our Backyard.

The Creator's Game
A Story of Baaga’adowe/Lacrosse
Art Coulson, Robert Desjarlait

Eleven-year-old Travis Skinaway learns about his American Indian culture and history as he practices the Creator's game, lacrosse.

Summary
The game of lacrosse is a gift from the Creator, given to the American Indians in the long ago. But Travis Skinaway doesn't know the full story of the game: he only knows that he struggles to catch the ball and tends to throw it over the other boys' heads. Maybe he's not built right to run the field. His teammates and coach seem to think he's hopeless, anyway.

Travis is ready to hang up his gear, but then his grandfather appears in a dream, explaining to him that lacrosse is a spiritual quest, just like a prayer, a song, or a dance. Mom doesn't believe Travis's story, but Grandma knows: she says dreamtime is just as real as awake time.

Grandpa continues to visit Travis, sharing details about the different styles of play, the types of equipment, the various traditions among the tribes. Wearing his grandfather's gear, Travis gains confidence as he practices with the team. When opportunity strikes at the big game, he carries the durable weight of tradition onto the field with him, celebrating skills handed down through generations.

Author Bio
Co-owner of Redbird Media and Design, Art Coulson (Cherokee) is an award-winning writer and editor with decades of experience playing lacrosse. Robert Desjarlait (Anishinaabe, Red Lake), cofounder of Protect Our Manoomin, is an artist and activist who illustrated Meridel LeSueur's Sparrow Hawk.
**Dred and Harriett Scott**  
*A Family's Struggle For Freedom*  
Gwenyth Swain

A biography for young readers that humanizes the people behind the famous Dred Scott decision, the first legal test of slavery in the United States.

**Summary**

The landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision Dred Scott v. Sandford, in which the slave Dred Scott was denied freedom for himself and his family, raised the ire of abolitionists and set the scene for the impending conflict between the northern and southern states. While most people have heard of the Dred Scott Decision, few know anything about the case's namesake. In this meticulously researched and carefully crafted biography of Dred Scott, his wife, Harriet, and their daughters, Eliza and Lizzie, award-winning children's book author Gwenyth Swain brings to life a family's struggle to become free.

Beginning with Dred's childhood on a Virginia plantation and later travel with his masters to Alabama, Missouri, Illinois, and the territory that would become Minnesota, this "family biography" vividly depicts slave life in the early and mid-nineteenth century. At Fort Snelling, near St. Paul, Dred met and married Harriet, and together they traveled with their master to Florida and then Missouri, finally settling in St. Louis, where the Scotts were hired out for wages. There they began marshall...

**Author Bio**

Gwenyth Swain is the author of over twenty books for children, including the novel Chig and the Second Spread, the picture book I Wonder As I Wander, and Bookworks: Making Books by Hand, winner of a Minnesota Book Award.

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**The Four Hills of Life**  
*Ojibwe Wisdom*  
Thomas Peacock, Marlene Wisuri

Each hill of life has its own challenges and opportunities. Written by an Ojibwe elder, this learning and activity book describes the journey taken through life by previous generations of Ojibwe living on Madeline Island and its relevance today.

**Summary**

The Four Hills of Life tells the wise and beautiful Ojibwe story about the path we walk through the seasons of life, from the springtime of youth through the winter of old age. The hills we climb along the way are the challenges we face and the responsibilities we accept. The path is not always easy; some of us lose our way. We question the meaning of life. But when we walk the Good Path-when we commit to values and fulfill our goals-the meaning of life finds us.

With text and activities developed by Ojibwe elder and educator Thomas Peacock and heavily illustrated with photographs by Marlene Wisuri, The Four Hills of Life describes the journey taken by previous generations of Ojibwe and the relevance of these life lessons for young readers today.

**Author Bio**

Thomas Peacock, a member of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, is an associate professor of educational leadership at the University of South Florida. Marlene Wisuri's photographs have been exhibited regionally and nationally. Peacock and Wisuri are additionally the authors of *Ojibwe Waasa Inaabidaa: We Look in All Directions* and *The Good Path*. 
**The Good Path**
Ojibwe Learning and Activity Book for Kids
Thomas Peacock, Marlene Wisuri

Kids of all cultures journey through time with the Ojibwe people as their guide to the Good Path and its universal lessons of courage, cooperation, and honor.

**Summary**

Kids of all cultures journey through time with the Ojibwe people as their guide to the Good Path and its universal lessons of courage, cooperation, and honor. Through traditional native tales, hear about Grandmother Moon, the mysterious Megis shell, and the souls of plants and animals. Through Ojibwe history, learn how trading posts, treaties, and warfare affected Native Americans. Through activities designed especially for kids, discover fun ways to follow the Good Path's timeless wisdom every day.

**Author Bio**

**Thomas Peacock**, a member of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, is an associate professor of educational leadership at the University of South Florida. **Marlene Wisuri's** photographs have been exhibited regionally and nationally. Peacock and Wisuri are additionally the authors of *Ojibwe Waasa Inaabidaa: We Look in All Directions* and *The Four Hills of Life*.

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**Hungry Johnny**
Cheryl Minnema, Wesley Ballinger

At the community feast, observing the bounty of festive foods and counting the numerous elders yet to be seated, Johnny learns to be patient and respectful despite his growling tummy.

**Summary**

"I like to eat, eat, eat," choruses young Johnny as he watches Grandma at work in the kitchen. Wild rice, fried potatoes, fruit salad, frosted sweet rolls—what a feast! Johnny can hardly contain his excitement. In no time, he'll be digging in with everyone else, filling his belly with all this good food.

But wait. First there is the long drive to the community center. And then an even longer Ojibwe prayer. And then—well, young boys know to follow the rules: elders eat first, no matter how hungry the youngsters are. Johnny lingers with Grandma, worried that the tasty treats won't last. Seats at the tables fill and refill; platters are emptied and then replaced. Will it ever be their turn? And will there be enough?

As Johnny watches anxiously, Grandma gently teaches. By the time her friend Katherine arrives late to the gathering, Johnny knows just what to do, hunger pangs or no. He understands, just as Grandma does, that gratitude, patience, and respect are rewarded by a place at the table—and plenty to eat, eat, eat.

**Author Bio**

Writer and beadwork artist **Cheryl Kay Minnema** is a member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Artist **Wesley Ballinger**, also a member of the Mille Lacs Band, works for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission.
Keystones of the Stone Arch Bridge
Carolyn Ruff

In order to earn money to bring his mother and sisters from Sweden to America, 10 year old Fritz gets to work as the youngest stonemason on the Stone Arch Bridge.

Summary
Ten-year-old Fritz and his poppa have made a life for themselves in the Bohemian Flats along the river in Minneapolis in 1883, but what they really want is for their family to be whole again.

In order to earn money to bring Fritz's momma and sisters from Sweden to America, the determined Fritz sets out to master a new skill, working as the youngest stonemason on the crew building the Stone Arch Bridge across the Mississippi River.

Along the way, Fritz, always eager to learn, unlocks secrets of his new homeland, from details of the river's geology and the area's animals to stories of brave stands against slavery and the dangers of flour milling. He befriends Margaret, a Métis girl whose family has called the region home for generations, and meets notable early settler Emily Goodridge Grey. Applying his developing stonecutting skills, he records these many lessons in the keystones of the bridge.

Working through the summer, Fritz grows in responsibility and stature. Best of all, soon after the bridge is complete, he is able to show off his handiwork to Momma in person.

An interpret...

Author Bio
An interpreter at Mill City Museum for ten years, Carolyn Ruff has owned an art gallery in the Minneapolis Warehouse District, has served as a reading consultant in Minnesota, Japan, and Germany, and celebrates her own Swedish heritage in this, her first book.

Latino Minnesota
Leigh Roethke

A warm and fascinating history of a people who today are changing the face of Minnesota!

Summary
Latino Minnesota is the story of a vibrant, diverse community whose contributions to the history of this state have been many. Migrants, immigrants, and their Minnesota-born children have added to the economic, cultural, and social fabric of this state for nearly a century. Like every immigrant group, Latinos have come to Minnesota in search of opportunities to better their lives. Since the 1910s, Latino workers have provided the backbone for this state's agricultural, food processing, manufacturing, and service industries. Today, Latino Minnesota includes a variety of people from many nations contributing to every sector of society.

Creatively conceived, with lively text, photographs, and artwork, Latino Minnesota traces the Latino journey north, from the earliest settler, musician Luis Garzon; to the Mexican colonia that grew up in St. Paul after World War I; to recently arrived immigrants from Central and South America. It highlights individual achievements, a tradition of mutual aid, and the ongoing Latino struggle to retain a cultural heritage while adjusting to life in el nor...
Little Crow
Leader of the Dakota
Gwenyth Swain

A compelling biography for young readers that traces the life of the Dakota leader Taoyateduta (Little Crow) and his role in the U.S. - Dakota Conflict of 1862.

Summary
The Plains Indian Wars of the nineteenth century garnered enduring fame for certain Indian leaders, their names echoing powerfully even today: Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, Red Cloud. Just as significant but less often mentioned is Taoyateduta, known to whites as Little Crow, the reluctant leader of Dakota warriors during the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, the opening salvo of the U.S.-Indian Wars.

In this carefully researched biography of the Dakota leader, the first ever written for children, author Gwenyth Swain presents a compelling portrait of the leader, warrior, and politician at the center of the Dakota War of 1862.

Beginning with Taoyateduta's childhood along the Mississippi River near present-day St. Paul, this biography explores his life in the Big Woods, his wanderings west from the Mdewakanton Dakota's traditional home, his leadership of his people when they were forced to sign over their land to white settlers, and his role during the war of 1862. Hemmed in on a narrow reservation, frustrated by broken treaties, angered by dishonest agents and traders, and nearly starved because o...

Author Bio
Gwenyth Swain is the author of over twenty books for children, including Dred and Harriet Scott: A Family’s Struggle for Freedom (MHS Press), the novel Chig and the Second Spread, the picture book I Wonder As I Wander, and Bookworks: Making Books by Hand, winner of a Minnesota Book Award.

Minnesota Bug Hunt
Bruce Giebink, Bill Johnson

Join Bruce the Bug Guy on a hunt for the most interesting insects in Minnesota-through the forest, across the prairie, and even in your own backyard.

Summary
Insects are everywhere and easy to find-if you know where to look. Minnesota Bug Hunt puts you on the trail for insects big and small, fierce and friendly. Explore habitats as near your own backyard and as focused as an oak tree or as populated as a swath of forest, and use your senses to discover the bugs who share our world. See those bright flowers? If they're goldenrod, you might find a Locust Borer Beetle feeding there. Listen carefully in a patch of prairie for the rasping of a male Broad-winged Katydid as he "sings" to find a mate.

Bruce Giebink introduces you to creatures familiar, like an earwig or firefly, and fascinating, like the Cecropia Moth or the Acorn Weevil. He shares fun facts about where they live and what they eat and how they protect themselves. Astonishingly detailed photos by Bill Johnson bring beetles and bumblebees, dragonflies and water bugs up close and personal so you can marvel at their unique body parts and vibrant colors.

Step outside with your eyes wide open and a net or magnifying glass in hand to discover these insects and many more on your own Minnes...

Author Bio
Entomologist Bruce Giebink—better known as Bruce the Bug Guy—offers activities for children of all ages through his entertainment company the Bug Zone. Award-winning photographer Bill Johnson's work is featured in the Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America and in his Horticulture Magazine column, "Insect ID."
Minnesota's Hidden Alphabet
Joe Rossi, David LaRochelle

A turtle's shell, an etched rock, a false morel, a trout lily—all inspire a closer look, a chance to see A to Z in Minnesota's natural scenes.

Summary
Look at the natural world around you. Closer now. Can you find the letter "A" in a jumble of tree roots, the letter "I" in a cattail, the letter "O" in a bird's nest? Joe Rossi traveled the state in search of all the letters of the alphabet, photographing scenes from Granite Falls to Chippewa National Forest, from Bemidji to St. Paul. Turn these pages and see what he found: does his imagination match yours?

The plants and animals and rocks in Joe's pictures can teach us a lot about Minnesota's natural world: Did you know that Native Americans used the fluffy down from cattails to pad diapers and moccasins (here, the letter "I")? Or that the American white pelican (letter "J") teams up to herd fish—its dinner—into shallow water? Or that the name Minnesota means "sky-colored water" (letter "H")?

Celebrated children's book author David LaRochelle takes readers on an adventure inspired by this natural alphabet and encourages everyone to look more closely at what treasures the outdoors holds.

All across this wondrous state
Letters A through Z await! . . .
Zig and zagging, great and grand
Lette...

Author Bio
Award-winning photographer Joe Rossi worked at the St. Paul Pioneer Press for more than twenty years. He lives in northern Minnesota. David LaRochelle is the award-winning author of The End and The Best Pet of All. He lives in White Bear Lake.

Ojibwe Shoulder Bag Kit
Minnesota Historical Society, Mille Lacs Indian ... 

Celebrate the culture of the Ojibwe people while decorating your own shoulder bag.

Summary
In Ojibwe culture, the bandolier bag is an elaborately beaded shoulder bag historically used to carry tobacco or personal items. Today, these bags are often displayed at public events such as dances and powwows. The beading on a bandolier bag follows patterns inspired by nature and requires hundreds of hours of work and a great deal of skill. You can learn more about this art form with the Ojibwe Shoulder Bag Kit.

Included in the kit:
- 2 preprinted bags for you and a friend
- crayons
- glitter glue
- 24-page guidebook describing Ojibwe traditions and art
- 4-video DVD with step-by-step instructions, an interview with contemporary bead artist Cheryl Minnema, and more.

Author Bio
Established in 1849, the Minnesota Historical Society collects, preserves and tells the story of Minnesota's past through museum exhibits, libraries and collections, historic sites, educational programs and book publishing. Using the power of history to transform lives, the Society preserves our past, shares our state's stories and connects people with history. The Mille Lacs Indian Museum offers exhibits dedicated to telling the story of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.
**One Frozen Lake**
Deborah Jo Larson, Steve Johnson, Lou Fancher

Grandpa introduces grandchild to the art of ice fishing--sharing a cozy ice shack, sorting colorful tackle, and finding ways to pass the time. But where are the fish? Will they ever catch a fish?

**Summary**
Seven hours pass.
Not one fish.
Has anyone seen a fish?

On the surface, it might seem like ice fishing, with its hours in a tiny shack awaiting an elusive crappie or pike, would not be a great match for kids. However, as scores of grandparents and parents know, this unique northern pastime holds special magic for a child.

One Frozen Lake tells the story of a grandfather and grandchild on several ice-fishing adventures. Ramshackle ice towns sprout up. Ice shack neighbors share piping-hot cocoa and humorous stories. Eye-catching lures and jigs dance at the end of the fishing line. And mysterious, silvery ice tunnels connect the community above with the one below.

Will they ever catch a fish? Perhaps that's beside the point.

Deborah Jo Larson's engaging narrative, a celebration of her childhood spent on frozen lakes, comes alive with appealing scenes expertly crafted by award-winning children's book artists Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher, who create shimmering worlds above and below the ice. One Frozen Lake tells of a tradition being passed from one generation to the next, a tradition that enc...

**Author Bio**
This is Deborah Jo Larson's first picture book. Her fiction has appeared in Stories for Children online magazine. Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher have collaborated on over thirty books for children, including Dr. Seuss's My Many Colored Days and Garrison Keillor's Cat, You Better Come Home.

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**Powwow Summer**
A Family Celebrates the Circle of Life
Marcie R. Rendon, Cheryl Walsh Bellville

Life is a circle, just like the seasons, from youth through old age. The circle of the year brings seasonal rituals: a winter of preparation followed by a summer of powwows.

**Summary**
Sharyl and Windy Downwind and their children travel from their home on the Red Lake Reservation in Minnesota to powwows all around the region. For the past year, their oldest daughter, Shian, has been honored as junior princess for Bug-o-nay-ge-shig School. At the Leech Lake Memorial Day gathering, Shian will hand over her crown to the next princess. Later that summer, the family attends the Red Lake Fourth of July powwow seeking healing and comfort. Windy is mourning his mother, who recently passed away, and also honoring her by dancing at the powwow. At ceremonies and in daily life, Windy and Sharyl celebrate Anishinaabe culture by teaching their children traditional skills, dance steps, and lifeways, all part of the circle of community and the seasons and life.

"Clear, informative photographs help clarify the text and leave readers with the sense that they have accompanied the Downwinds. An ideal choice for classroom units on contemporary Native American life."

--Booklist

Award-winning poet, playwright, performance artist, and activist Marcie R. Rendon (White Earth) is the creator/pr...

**Author Bio**
Award-winning poet, playwright, performance artist, and activist Marcie R. Rendon (White Earth) is the creator/producer for Raving Native Productions. Cheryl Walsh Bellville, a professional photographer for more than forty years, also writes and illustrates books for young readers.
Wanda Gag
Storybook Artist
Gwenyth Swain

A lively biography for middle readers about the bohemian artist who authored such children's classics as *Millions of Cats* and *Snippy and Snappy*.

Summary
Famous for her elegantly written and whimsically illustrated children's books *Millions of Cats*, *The Funny Thing*, *Snippy and Snappy*, and *Tales from Grimm*, Wanda Gág (1893-1946) lived a life not unlike that of the characters in the German fairy tales that her grandparents told her as a girl.

In a new biography for young readers, award-winning author Gwenyth Swain brings the visionary and eccentric artist to life. Swain takes readers into Wanda's girlhood in rural Minnesota, where, from an early age, her artistic talents flourished. Yet Wanda, the eldest of seven siblings, was pushed abruptly into adulthood when her father's untimely death left her in charge of the household. After years of struggle, Wanda Gág was finally able to go to New York to pursue her passion. Her art was eventually featured at top galleries and her books, influenced by her love of nature and animals, became wildly popular among children and critics across the United States.

Complemented by Wanda's illustrations, letters, and diary entries, *Wanda Gág: Storybook Artist* illuminates for young readers the amazin...

Author Bio
Minnesota Book Award-winner **Gwenyth Swain** is the author of over twenty books for children, including the biographies *Dred and Harriet Scott* (Borealis Books) and *Little Crow* (Borealis Books). She lives in St. Paul, Minnesota.