

"There were a few rhymes that brought back memories of when I was younger and my mom and grandma would sing certain rhymes to me."

LINDSAY CYR, MOM OF NINE-MONTH-OLD KATIE, GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD, N.B.

BOOK
GUIDE

CF'S 7TH ANNUAL

GREAT SUMMER READS

family
tested

Warm up to this summer's fabulous family-tested reads

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY CARLO MENDOZA

AGES 0-2 rhyming reads for little ones

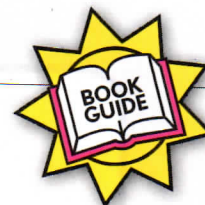
Sweet photos and illustrations combined with lyrical language keep even the smallest book lovers engaged

1 *Busy Elephants* by John Schindel and Martin Harvey (Tricycle Press, \$8) With photographs of the animals in their natural habitat, this charming board book shows just how active elephants are. The accompanying words make it easy for little ones to follow along. With all the romping, stomping, splashing and dashing, this one is sure to keep them entertained. —SB

2 *Lucy Cousins' Nursery Rhymes Collection* by Lucy Cousins (Pan Macmillan, \$7) The beauty of nursery rhymes is that they're timeless. This mini boxed set is a sampling of old favourites, with appearances by a family of piggies, an itty bitsy spider and Mary and her lamb. Plus, its compact size makes it ideal to throw in your diaper bag for reading on the go. —SB

3 *Ones and Twos* by Marthe Jocelyn and Nell Jocelyn (Tundra, \$18) This book is great for introducing very young readers to early concepts of counting. Follow the story of two friends enjoying their day and count all the singles and pairs of familiar sights they find along the way. The detailed layered-paper-style illustrations complement the simple text. —SB





AGES 13-16 teen reads on relationships

These stories explore the elements of different connections in a way that teens can appreciate

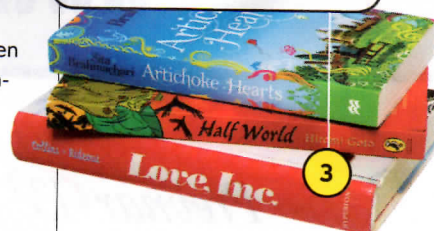
1 Artichoke Hearts by Sita Bramcharai (Pan Macmillan, \$10) Mira comes from a loud and eccentric family. Her life changes when her grandmother becomes sick and Mira learns some of her family's secrets. She soon discovers the value of family, friendship, culture and life. —KO

2 Half World by Hiromi Goto, illustrated by Jillian Tamaki (Puffin, \$13) Melanie is struggling in school and dealing with a caring but neglectful mother. One day Melanie comes home to find her mom has been lured into Half World, a dark fantasy realm where souls go between life and death. And Melanie's the only one who can save her. —KO

3 Love, Inc. by Yvonne Collins and Sandy Rideout (Disney-Hyperion, \$19) Zahra is a fun-loving teen. After her parents' separation though, she's pushed into group therapy where she meets Kali and Syd, only to discover the three are being triple-timed by the same charming guy. Through a mutual desire for revenge, they start a love-advice service called Love, Inc. —KO

"I liked how revenge on Eric, the cheater, leads to the creation of Love, Inc. The characters are determined and are strong-hearted."

SAIMA, 16, MARKHAM, ONT.



"[I liked] the suspense of their dad leaving...it doesn't matter how busy you are, there's always something on your mind."

MATTEO, 12, NEWMARKET, ONT.

AGES 9-12 growing up

The preteen protagonists in these stories are all faced with experiences that lead to new relationships, growing responsibility and self-discovery. Readers are bound to find a character they can identify with

1 The Summer of May by Cecilia Galante (Aladdin, \$20) Maeve (May) O'Toole is always in trouble and holds grudges. Her biggest target: "Movado the Avocado," the teacher she's stuck with for one-on-one summer-school classes. Despite personal issues at home—an unhappy grandmother and an overworked father—as she spends more time with her most hated teacher, she begins to see how much they have in common. —KO

2 The Great Wall of Lucy Wu by Wendy Wan-Long Shang (Scholastic, \$21) Meet Lucy Wu, an 11-year-old Chinese-American girl who takes pride in her individuality. When her parents invite her great-aunt to stay with them, Lucy is not pleased to have to share her room. To make matters worse, she's forced to spend time with a know-it-all kid and deal with a bully. Lucy quickly learns, however, that every grey cloud has its silver lining. —KO

3 The Railway Children by Edith Nesbit, introduction by Jacqueline Wilson (Puffin U.K., \$6) This one is a classic, first published in 1906, and now a well-received stage production. After their father leaves under mysterious circumstances, a mom and

her three kids must leave behind their comfy life in London for a humble cottage in the countryside. The children spend their days at a nearby railway station where they befriend the porter and meet the person who can help bring their dad home. —SB

4 The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making by Catherynne M. Valente, illustrated by Ana Juan (Macmillan, \$20) A young girl named September is carried to a whimsical place called Fairyland by a mysterious creature called Green Wind. Here, September encounters absurd and extraordinary characters. Turns out she may also be the key to maintaining peace in the land. —KO