



## Kids' Lit Quiz Canada Annual Report August 2017

### A Record-Breaking Year!

Kids' Lit Quiz Canada hosted the world's largest heat in February at Ryerson's Mattamy Athletic Centre in Toronto. There were hundreds of big readers vying for a spot at the National Final being cheered on by hundreds of fans. Read on for more details.

KLQ British Columbia was hosted by Simon Fraser University. It was the largest held in BC so far. There were 21 teams from independent and public schools. Our judge's panel included Dr. Beth Marshall from Simon Fraser's Faculty of Education, Teacher Stephanie Yorath and Tess Prendergast from Vancouver Public Library. Susin Neilsen, John Wilson and Dan Bar-el formed our esteemed author team, *The Blank Pages*. They added an entertaining element to the day's events and spent their break autographing books! **Kidsbooks** provided the prizes and a wonderful array of books for purchase. St. Michael's University College School advanced to the National Final.

KLQ Alberta heat was hosted at Mountain Park School. The competition was a close fought one but Rundle College prevailed. Many thanks to our convenor Jackie Flowers and host Joan Green.

KLQ Ottawa was hosted by Ashbury College. We were joined by our first teams from Quebec- Edgewater Elementary from Pincoort and our first teams from the Kingston region: Leahurst College. Author team, the *Pen-Ultimates*, consisted of Kate Jaimet, Don Cummer, Catherine Austen, Jo Rioux and Katherine Battersby. We had spectacular prizes from **Kaleidoscope Kids**.

Fisher Park Public School won the heat and advanced to the National Final.

KLQ Hamilton was loads of fun as Hillfield Strathallan College's staff fielded a team- *The Literary Luminaries*. They gave the author team

*Writerly* (Jennifer Mook-Sang, Joanne Levy and Gillian Chan) lots of laughs along with the rest of us.

Lee Academy won by a convincing margin.

**A Different Drummer** provided wonderful prizes and a terrific selection of excellent reads.

KLQ Toronto was record breaking in so many ways!

Ryerson's Volleyball coaches- the *Ryerson Rams* pitted their book knowledge against the author team, *Better Read than Dead* consisting of Richard Scrimger, Melanie Florence and Karen Crossing. There were many highly imaginative costumes at the heat. We were delighted to have teams from all parts of the city--mostly TDSB schools but many independent school teams too. Teams also travelled from Bluewater District, Peel and Durham regions to take part in the Quiz.

The kids were thrilled to be addressed by **Toronto Raptors'** Courtney Charles. He had a meaningful message for the students and encouraged them all to keep reading.

Carolyn Madonia and Varsha Malhotra coordinated the day with a terrific team of volunteers.

**Mabel's Fables Bookstore** supplied prizes and a wonderful array of books at the pop-up shop.

Bowmore Public School, Queen Victoria Public School Team One and Queen Victoria Public School Team Two, Royal St. Georges College and University of Toronto Schools all advanced to the National Final.



Toronto Heat, Ryerson's MAC February 6, 2017

The 2017 KLQ National Final was hosted by Branksome Hall. Livestream provided by Omni Media was truly appreciated by families and friends tuning in to the National Final across the country. Many thanks go to Dr. Larry Swartz from OISE for serving as our adjudicator. As ever, Quiz Master Wayne Mills challenged and rewarded these big readers. The competition was tight--there were 5 teams within 3 points of each other! **Lee Academy** from the Hamilton area prevailed and became our new **Team Canada**.

Things just kept on getting better after the National Final!

Kids' Lit Quiz Canada hosted the 2107 World Final!

KLQ launched an appeal to "*Be Part of the Story*" to find sponsors for our first ever **Kids' Lit Quiz World Final**.

In addition to the 32 students from eight countries, 15 coaches and 3 national coordinators, KLQ Canada welcomed about 65 additional family members who travelled to Toronto to support their children. Teams were housed at Appleby College in Oakville, and spent a remarkable week exploring our country and sharing their love of books.

KLQ had an outpouring of support from Canada's literary community during the World Final. Linda Granfield, Ruth Ohi, Sang Kim, and Kenneth Oppel each spent some time with the group, sharing their expertise in an intimate setting. Deborah Ellis wrote a touching letter to all the World Finalists, and Jonathan Auxier had the audience spellbound as he spoke passionately about how stories impact our lives, as our keynote speaker at the Gala Dinner in Celebration of Young Readers. At the Gala Dinner, every child had the thrill of sitting with an author or illustrator. Guests included Jonathan Auxier, David Booth, Philippa Dowding, Melanie Fishbane, Natale Ghent, Linda Granfield, Maureen Jennings, Sang Kim, Kyo Maclear, Kenneth Oppel, Kevin Sands, Richard Scrimger, Mary Sheppard, Emil Sher, Sydney Smith, Larry Swartz, Kevin Sylvester, Vikki VanSickle, and Frieda Wishinsky.

Alec Morley, Hamida Sachedina and TD Bank Group made this evening possible.

Several “KLQ Alumnae”, students now too old to participate in the Quiz, shared their passion for the Quiz by coming out to help as volunteers during the week.



Alec Morley, Wayne Mills, and Jonathan Auxier

The World Final Quiz itself was held at the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts. Kevin Sylvester was, as expected, an entertaining and energetic Master of Ceremonies. Professor Emeritus David Booth was on hand to make some difficult judgment calls as our Adjudicator. Congratulations go to South Africa, first place winners of the 2017 World Final. Every team made an impressive show, not only for their book knowledge, but also for their teamwork and for the fantastic demonstration of support they gave to one another.

The rest of the week was an exhausting but thrilling exploration of the best Canada has to offer. The children were treated to tours of the Bata Shoe museum, Niagara Falls, the CN Tower, and the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books. They watched a performance of *Treasure Island* at Stratford. They went canoeing, listened to Native storytelling, learned to carve soapstone with carver Lloyd Stonehouse, and met Mayor John Tory. Lee Academy hosted a wonderful picnic dinner, Valhalla Quidditch team members came out to teach them how to play



A week like this could not have come together without the generous support of sponsors. Our World Final supporters included TD Bank Group, Indigo, The Vandewater Foundation at Toronto Foundation, The Midloch Foundation, BMO, The Jackman Foundation, Toronto Public Library, Bata Shoe Museum, Lee Academy, RSGC, UTS, Pizza Pizza, Esri Canada, Mabel's Fables, the Anderson-Clarke family, the Davidson family, and the Hamilton family.

TD Bank Group committed funds to our annual program as well as sponsorship of the KLQ World Final Gala. Several other foundations found a way to support this entirely volunteer run program as well as many individuals and in-kind donors.

KLQ Canada has grown and thrived over the last 8 years under the leadership of Nancy Davidson. On August 31, Nancy Davidson retired as President and National Coordinator of KLQ Canada. The board will continue to grow the program across Canada and look for ways to share Kids' Lit Quiz with more young people in new regions across the country.