

## **Kids' Lit Quiz Canada Annual Report October 2018**

Kids' Lit Quiz Canada experienced a 14% growth over last year as news of the quiz spreads primarily by word of mouth. Once teachers see the quiz in action, they are hooked. We are again able to boast the world's largest heat, which took place in Toronto with 94 teams competing in one room.

KLQ British Columbia: BC held its largest heat ever with 32 teams at Waverly Elementary School in November. BC Convenor Joyce Chong ran the day with our first-ever Guest Quizmaster, local author of *Cozy Classics*, Holman Wang. Our generous BC sponsor Kidsbooks provided the prizes. St. Michael's University College School advanced to the National Final for the second year in a row.

KLQ Alberta: There was no heat in Alberta this year for a few reasons. Our regional coordinator Jackie Flowers stepped down in September with no one identified to take her place. There has been some interest from Wordfest and the Calgary Public Library, but the main issue for Alberta is the student travel restriction. Children in grades 5 and 6 are not permitted to travel out of province and out-of-province travel requires 3 months advance notice to process permissions and financing.

KLQ Ottawa: Turnbull School hosted the Ottawa Heat under the direction of Nicola Whitehouse and our new regional convenor Kimberly Senf. 20 teams competed vigorously with a tense three-way tie-breaker deciding the winner: Rockcliffe Park Public School. Authors Don Cummer, Caroline Pignat, and Jo Rioux shared in the fun. Sadly, local bookstore Kaleidoscope Kids closed this year, so prizes were purchased from Mabel's Fables in Toronto.

KLQ Hamilton: 18 teams took part in our Hamilton Heat this year where we launched a special partnership with Telling Tales. The author team, the Telling Tales Tale Tellers, consisted of Joanne Levy, Gillian Chan, Linda Granfield, and Aimee Reed. Susan Jasper was on hand to present the Telling Tales Spirit Award to the school that demonstrated great enthusiasm and teamwork: John T. Tuck. They welcomed Joanne Levy to

their school for an author visit later in the year. Lee Academy moved on to the National Final for the second year.

Thank you to our generous prize sponsor, **A Different Drummer**, for providing wonderful prizes and books at its pop-up store. Linda Hamilton and Hillfield Strathallan College ran a smooth show, and donated funds raised at the pay-what-you-can snack bar to Kids' Lit Quiz Canada.

KLQ Toronto:

Ryerson's Mattamy Athletic Centre was packed with avid young readers – 94 teams in total, and our biggest audience yet. Our enthusiastic author team of Kevin Sands, Kevin Sylvester, Natale Ghent and Richard Scrimger were affectionately called Book 'em Dano! There were many highly imaginative costumes at the heat, including some Scaredy Squirrels who volunteered to run around collecting papers. Mabel's Fables set up a fabulous pop-up bookstore and generously awarded prizes for the event. Thank you to Carolyn Madonia who coordinated the day with a small army of volunteers.

Five teams advanced to the National Final: Bowmore Public School, Hodgson Middle School, McMurrich Public School, and two teams from the University of Toronto Schools.



Kevin Sands, Richard Scrimger, Kevin Sylvester, Natale Ghent and Eleanor LeFave of Mabel's Fables

The 2018 Canadian National Final was hosted by St. Clements School on a stage where teams fittingly shared space with a giant ship from the school's production of *Treasure Island*. Many thanks go to Dr. Larry Swartz from OISE for serving as our adjudicator again. Quiz Master Wayne Mills created a challenging competition, and our adjudicator was called on several times. **Lee Academy** had the honour of winning the National Final for a second time.

The World Final took place in Auckland New Zealand on July 4, 2018. Before travelling, Grace, William, Aanya and Eve had a chance to explore graphic novels and comic books with Andrew Woodrow Wilson at Little Island Comics. They also spent time with Martha Scott at the Osborne Collection where they were immersed in fairy tales. Team Canada represented our country with wonderful grace and good humour in New Zealand. The 2018 World Final title went to Team Australia.

Kids' Lit Quiz participated in two festivals this year, The Word on the Street and the Telling Tales, where we met many young readers. We had a booth at the BC Teachers' Superconference in October, where several teachers expressed interest in joining the quiz in 2019.

TD Bank Group continues to help fund our programs, as does The Vandewater Foundation, and we are very grateful to them for their ongoing generosity. Funds were used to create regional-specific advertising and promotion, and to cover printing costs for our larger heats, and prizes in regions that do not have local sponsorship.

There have been several personnel changes this year. Board members Erin Grittani, Jana Meerkamper, and Rebecca Woods stepped down for personal reasons, and our Ottawa convenor Jane Clark also retired. The board has devoted a great deal of time to streamlining processes and standardizing elements of the heats. Forms and documents are now available online for regional convenors to access, and rules have been clarified. This streamlining has resulted in lower costs across the country.

We look forward to expanding the quiz further in 2019, and hope to see a record number of young readers compete in The Sport of Reading next year!  
Tara Steele, Kids' Lit Quiz Canada