

# MASC Young Authors and Illustrators Festival 2020

## Authors ...



**CAROLINE PIGNAT** is the author of eight highly acclaimed books. She twice won the Governor General's Literary Award for her historical fiction novels *Greener Grass* and *The Gospel Truth*. Her books have been honoured with many literary awards including the Red Maple and John Spray Mystery Awards.

*Poetree*, her most recent publication, received the 2019 Gold Medal Moonbeam Award for Children's Poetry. She lives in Ottawa, Ontario. [www.carolinepignat.com](http://www.carolinepignat.com)



**MONIQUE POLAK** is the author of 29 books for young people. Her most recent titles are the historical novels *The Taste of Rain* (2019) and *Room For One More* (2019) and *Princess Angelica, Junior Reporter* (2020). Monique is a two-time winner of the

Quebec Writers' Federation Prize for Children's and YA Fiction. Her novel *Planet Grief* (2018) was nominated for the Ontario Arts Council's Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Award. Monique teaches at Marianopolis College and is an active freelance journalist. She lives in Montreal, Quebec. [www.moniquepolak.com](http://www.moniquepolak.com)



**KEVIN SANDS** is the author of the bestselling *Blackthorn Key* adventure series: *The Blackthorn Key* (2015), *Mark of the Plague* (2016), *The Assassin's Curse* (2017), and *Call of the Wraith* (2018). His books have won numerous awards, including the CCBC's John Spray

Mystery, the Red Cedar, and the IODE Violet Downey. Kevin holds a pair of degrees in theoretical physics, which he mines to create the alchemic potions and ear-splitting explosions that rock his novels. He lives in London, Ontario. [www.kevinsandsbooks.com](http://www.kevinsandsbooks.com)



**JESSICA SCOTT KERRIN** is the author of sixteen books for young readers. Her books have been translated into six languages and have garnered a plethora of literary awards including the Blue Spruce, Red Cedar, Diamond Willow, John Spray Mystery, and New York Public Library's Top 100. When her childhood dream of becoming an astronaut proved improbable, she began writing stories about rockets instead. Still fascinated by outer space, Jessica's latest novel, *Clear Skies*, takes place during the 1960s Space Race to the Moon. Jessica has toured hundreds of schools and libraries across the continent. She lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia. [www.jessicascottkerrin.com](http://www.jessicascottkerrin.com)

## Illustrators ...



**DANIELLE DANIEL** is the author and illustrator of *Once in a Blue Moon* and *Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox*, winner of the 2016 Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award, finalist for the First Nation Communities Read and Blue Spruce awards, and one of New York Public Library's most notable titles. She illustrated *You Hold me Up*, a 2018 Marilyn Baillie Award finalist. She is currently completing two novels; one for children and one for adults. Danielle is Métis and lives in Sudbury, Ontario. [www.danielledaniel.com](http://www.danielledaniel.com)



**KEAN SOO** is the author and illustrator of the Shuster Award-winning graphic novel series *Jellaby* and *March Grand Prix*. He was an assistant editor and contributor to the Harvey Award-winning *FLIGHT* comic anthologies. His most recent book (as illustrator) is *The Fake-Chicken Kung Fu Fighting Blues*, written by Aaron Lam (2018). Kean served as Writer-in-Residence for the Toronto District School Board from 2014 to 2016. Born in the United Kingdom and raised in Hong Kong, he now lives in Toronto, Ontario. [www.keaner.net/comics/](http://www.keaner.net/comics/)