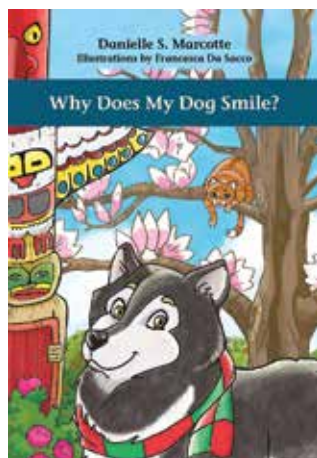


## UNNATURAL SELECTIONS

Wallace Edwards  
Wallace Edwards, illus.

Award-winning author/illustrator of *Alphabeasts* and *The Cat's Pajamas* has once again created a delightful book of fantastical animal portraits. The beasts created by "Professor I.B. Doodling" start off relatively simple (the Whalephant, for example) and then grow increasingly complex, culminating with "Skip" (the moose, pig, swan, zebra, cheetah, bat, fox). Each portrait is accompanied by a rhyming couplet which briefly explains the animal's features. Readers will also enjoy playing "eye spy", as they are encouraged to name 18 additional beasts that surround the twelve main portraits.



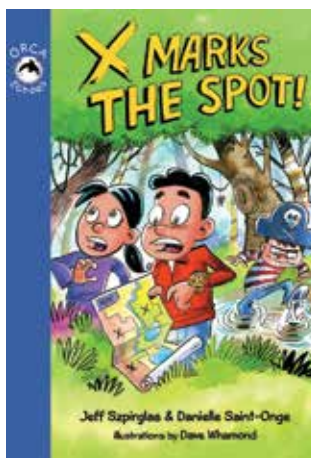
## WHY DOES MY DOG SMILE? / MON CHIEN SOURIT TOUT LE TEMPS (EST-IL BÊTE?)

Danielle S. Marcotte  
Francesca Da Sacco, illus.

Boris the husky enjoys his life spent begging salmon scraps from Dad, walking with sister, and stalking the cat next door. Many of his activities put a smile on his face. The husky's life is described, along with his thoughts. Structured as a very beginning chapter book, the 28 pages are divided into seven chapters. Children will enjoy the cheerful pictures and Boris' activities.

The language level is high for this genre. Challenging words like melancholy, mallet, idiotic, and rhododendron may frustrate beginning readers. This book is available in French from Presses de Bras d'Apic.

**Caution:** *The totem pole depicted on the cover does not accurately represent any style of Northwest Coast First Nations art.*



## X MARKS THE SPOT

Jeff Szpirglas &  
Danielle Saint-Onge  
Dave Whamond, illus.

Poor Leo, he just cannot get a break from his teacher, Mr. Chang. Every time he tries to be helpful it looks as if Leo is slacking off or running late. Finally, a mapping activity and a field trip give Leo, who has a passion for maps, a chance to shine. He ends up winning an award for responsibility when he rescues two classmates who stray off the trail and get into some serious mud. Whamond's humorous full- and partial-page drawings illustrate key points in the plot, making this an excellent bridge from picture books to more substantial chapter books.



## BLANK

Trina St. Jean

Fifteen-year-old Jessica wakes up in the hospital and doesn't know who she is. The people who say they're her family tell her that she was attacked by a bull bison and left with a brain injury that has caused amnesia. She knows it's true but doesn't know who she is. In this compelling and insightful novel, Jessica tries to come to terms with her injury and her new life. She knows she might never remember, and tries to reconcile the new Jessica with what she learns about the Girl—her name for who she was before the accident.

**Caution:** *Some swearing and drinking*

**GRADES:** 2-6, ARTS EDUCATION  
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LANGUAGE ARTS

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