

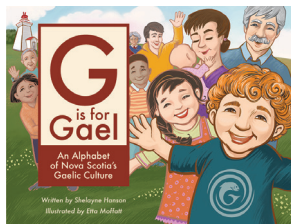
Gaelic Resources for Nova Scotia Educators

Updated 20 August 2025

ENGLISH

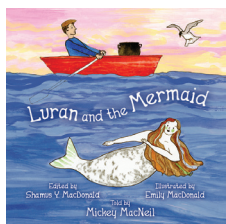
PICTURE BOOKS FOR GRADES P-3

G is for Gael: An Alphabet of Nova Scotia's Gaelic Culture – NSSBB #1004775



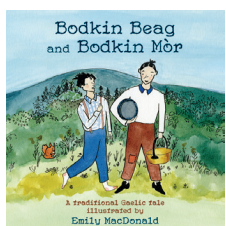
An alphabet book focusing on the Scottish Gaelic language and culture of Nova Scotia. Each letter of the alphabet features an English word and illustration relating to an aspect of Gaelic culture and history. A simple explanation is given, and the Gaelic word with a pronunciation. Free teaching resources for this title at: bradanpress.com/books/g-is-for-gael/
10077332 - G airson Gàidheal

Luran and the Mermaid – NSSBB #2002776



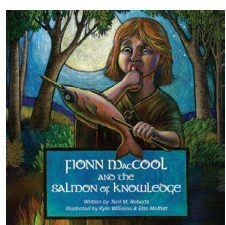
200 years ago, the Gaels brought this folktale from the Isle of Barra in Scotland, to Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia. A favourite of Cape Breton Gaelic tradition bearer Michael "Mickey John H." MacNeil, this tale tells the story of Luran, a farmer and fisherman. Luran had cattle, sheep, and horses, and a good boat too. But one thing was bothering him: the fairies kept coming every night and stealing his animals. He didn't know what to do. But one day when he was out fishing, a mermaid came to his boat... More info: bradanpress.com/books/childrens/luran-and-the-mermaid/

Bodkin Beag and Bodkin Mòr – NSSBB #2400248



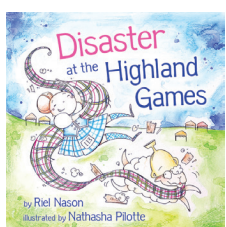
In this first-ever English translation of a traditional Gaelic folktale which every child once knew by heart, Bodkin Mòr ("Big Bodkin") sets out to teach a lesson to his greedy friend Bodkin Beag ("Little Bodkin"). He pursues one magical errand after another, unleashing unintended consequences for himself and his friend. Illustrated by Cape Breton artist Emily MacDonald. Free teaching resources for this title at: bradanpress.com/books/bodkin/

Fionn MacCool and the Salmon of Knowledge – NSSBB #1007730



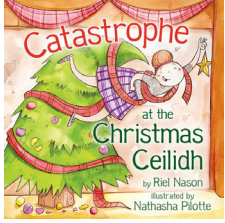
This is the story of why the great Gaelic hero Fionn MacCool sucks his thumb, in a revised and expanded 2nd edition with engaging new illustrations. The 1000-year-old Gaelic tale, retold by a Nova Scotian trained educator, tells the story of the Salmon of Knowledge on Nova Scotia's official Gaelic flag. It also teaches Gaelic linguistic awareness. Free teaching resources for this title at: bradanpress.com/books/fionn/

Disaster at the Highland Games – NSSBB #1006149



Kate loves going to Highland dance class each week and is thrilled when her teacher suggests she compete at the Highland Games for the first time. Kate agrees to practice, but quickly changes her mind when she finds out that dancing at home by herself is not as much fun as dancing with friends in her class. Besides, she figures her dancing is already good enough. Everything will be fine. Or will it? A single misstep sets off a hilarious chain of events across the whole Highland Games field in this over-the-top tale. bradanpress.com/books/childrens/disaster-at-the-highland-games/

Catastrophe at the Christmas Ceilidh – NSSBB in review



Kate the Highland dancer is back in the sequel to *Disaster at the Highland Games*! It's December and Kate is excited to perform her first solo in the Christmas ceilidh. But as she waits her turn backstage, Kate's imagination runs wild picturing every possible mishap. Will she remember the advice of her teacher in time to prevent a Christmas ceilidh catastrophe? Whimsical watercolour illustrations complement rhyming verse with a reassuring message for every student performer. *bradanpress.com/books/childrens/catastrophe/*

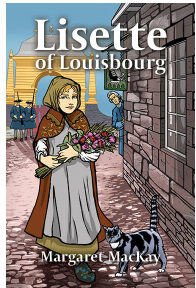
MIDDLE-GRADE NOVELS FOR GRADES 4–9

Iain of New Scotland – NSSBB #2002757



Thirteen-year-old Iain Robertson is homesick for the Highlands of Scotland. It's September 1773, and he has just arrived in Nova Scotia with his parents and little sister after the long, disastrous, Atlantic voyage of the ship Hector. They wanted a new life in New Scotland—but the land agent lied to them. With no money, no food, no shelter, and winter fast approaching, how will they survive? Author Margaret MacKay of Pictou County, Nova Scotia, draws on the experiences of her ancestors to weave a tale of the first Gaels to settle in Nova Scotia. Suitable for Grades 4+ and historical fiction lovers of all ages. Foreword by Diana Gabaldon, author of *Outlander*. More resources: *bradanpress.com/books/childrens/iain-of-new-scotland/*

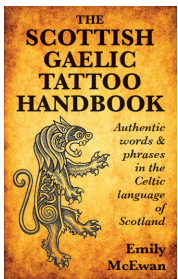
Lisette of Louisbourg – NSSBB in review



2025-26 Hackmatack Award Nominee. Historical fiction by the author of *Iain of New Scotland*, set in 1749 when the British have handed the Fortress of Louisbourg back to the French. When the convent where she has been living burns down, 12-year-old orphan Lisette barely escapes with her life. The nuns think she died in the fire; Lisette sees a chance to escape the drudgery of lacemaking under a cruel, greedy Mother Superior. She sets out alone to find a long-lost uncle, and through twists and turns finds a new life as an indentured servant at the Fortress in New France. But is someone following her? More resources: *bradanpress.com/books/childrens/lisette-of-louisbourg/*

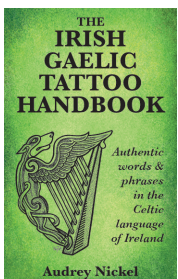
NONFICTION FOR GRADES 10–12

The Scottish Gaelic Tattoo Handbook – NSSBB #2002810



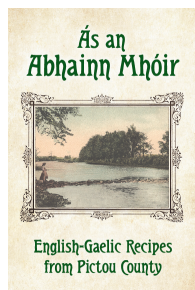
A guide to choosing an appropriate word or phrase in the Scottish Gaelic language for a tattoo, jewelry, art, or crafts. Includes a brief history and description of the Gaelic language, illustrations of real-life Gaelic tattoos that went wrong, advice on how to avoid making common mistakes, insights on how to incorporate Gaelic words into a tattoo design that honours and supports the culture, and a glossary of 400+ Scottish Gaelic words and phrases and English translations. More resources: *bradanpress.com/books/gaelic-tattoo-handbook/*

The Irish Gaelic Tattoo Handbook – NSSBB #2002809



A guide to choosing an appropriate word or phrase in the Irish Gaelic language for a tattoo, jewelry, art, or crafts. Includes a brief history and description of the Irish language, illustrations of real-life Irish tattoos that went wrong, advice on what mistakes to avoid, tips on how to incorporate Irish words into a tattoo design that honours and supports the culture, information about the Irish language writing system and popular Irish symbols; and a glossary of 400+ authentic Irish words and phrases and their English translations. More resources: *bradanpress.com/books/irish-tattoo-handbook/*

Às an Abhainn Mhóir: English-Gaelic Recipes from Pictou County – NSSBB in review



This bilingual cookbook contains over 50 recipes both modern and traditional, in English and Scottish Gaelic, from Pictou County, Nova Scotia. Interspersed with the recipes are traditional Gaelic proverbs, tales, and songs, along with photos of the region's natural beauty and Gaelic cultural heritage. The contents are presented in a bilingual format with English on one side and Gaelic on the facing page. "Às an Abhainn Mhóir" means "From the Big River." *An t-Abhainn Mhór*, the Big River, is the Gaelic name of the East River which flows through New Glasgow. More info: bradanpress.com/books/nonfiction/as-an-abhainn-mhoir/

POETRY FOR GRADES 10-12

Ràithean airson Sireadh / Seasons for Seeking Paperback – NSSBB # 2002047



Lewis MacKinnon's fourth Scottish Gaelic poetry collection features translations of selected poems by Coleman Barks, interpreter of the renowned 13th-century Persian poet Rumi, alongside MacKinnon's own original poems. The poems in this bilingual collection are grouped thematically in sections. Also

available as an audiobook (see below). More resources: bradanpress.com/books/raithean/

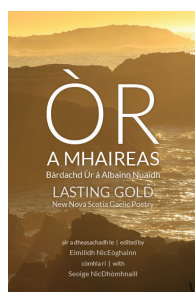
Ràithean airson Sireadh / Seasons for Seeking Audiobook – NSSBB # 2400249



This double-CD audiobook features Nova Scotia poet Lewis MacKinnon's journey through the Celtic year with the Sufi mystic Rumi. Scottish Gaelic translations of Rumi's poetry, read

aloud by the author in Gaelic and English, are accompanied by his original poems for the Gaelic seasons and holidays of Nova Scotia. More resources: bradanpress.com/books/raithean-audiobook/

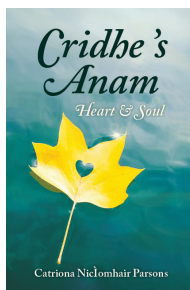
Òr a Mhaireas / Lasting Gold: New Nova Scotia Gaelic Poetry – NSSBB in review



This collection features new Gaelic poetry from eleven writers with Nova Scotian connections. In formats both modern and traditional, the authors explore joy and loss, connection and disconnection... and cookies! The poems demonstrate the tenacity of the Gaels and their language in the diaspora. Poems are presented

in Scottish Gaelic with parallel English translations. More resources: bradanpress.com/books/poetry/or-a-mhaireas/

Cridhe 's Anam / Heart & Soul – NSSBB in review



Catriona NicIomhair Parsons' poems take us from her upbringing in Scotland to North America and New Zealand, with a focus on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia where she has made her home. Her poems are about emigration, the endurance of Gaelic language & culture, Christianity, aging, nature, and the changing seasons.

Hymns and translations of Canadian, Nova Scotian, and Cape Breton songs round out the collection. Poems in Scottish Gaelic with parallel English translations. More info: bradanpress.com/books/poetry/cridhe-s-anam-heart-and-soul/

RESOURCES IN FRENCH (FRANÇAIS) & GAELIC (GÀIDHLIG) ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES

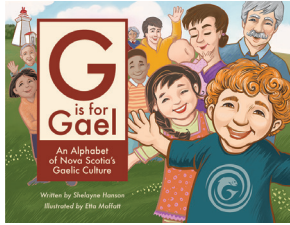


Scan the QR code to access additional **free teaching resources** to go with our Gaelic books, as well as our most up-to-date list of ALR Gaelic resources! Or go directly to our website:

bradanpress.com/gaelic-resources-for-ns-teachers/

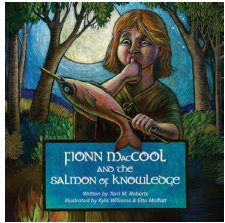
FRENCH PICTURE BOOKS FOR GRADES P-3

G comme Gaël : L'alphabet de la culture Gaélique en Nouvelle-Écosse – NSSBB #3002409



An alphabet book focusing on the Scottish Gaelic language and culture of Nova Scotia. Each letter of the alphabet features a French word and illustration about an aspect of Gaelic culture and history. A simple explanation is given, and the Gaelic word is also given with phonetic pronunciation. Free teaching resources for this title at: bradanpress.com/books/g-comme-gael/

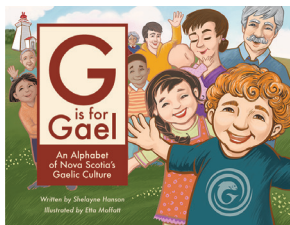
Fionn MacCool et le saumon de la sagesse – 2nd ed. #1007731



French-language edition suitable for French immersion and *langue maternelle* French instruction. This is the story of why the great Gaelic hero Fionn MacCool sucks his thumb. In a revised and enlarged 2nd edition with engaging new illustrations. This 1000-year-old Gaelic tale, retold by Nova Scotian educator Terri M. Roberts, tells the story of Nova Scotia's official Gaelic flag and teaches Gaelic language awareness. Free teaching resources for this title at: bradanpress.com/books/fionn_fr/

GAELIC PICTURE BOOKS FOR GRADES P-3

G is for Gael: An Alphabet of Nova Scotia's Gaelic Culture – NSSBB #1004775



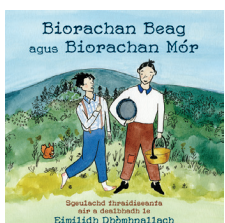
This is the Gaelic-language edition of G is for Gael. This picture book is a first step for children and adults looking to understand and connect with Gaelic history, culture, and identity in Nova Scotia. Through joyful illustrations and creative concepts, readers will have the opportunity to explore and celebrate what it means to be a Gael. More resources: bradanpress.com/books/childrens/g-airson-gaidheal/

Luran agus a' Mhaighdeann-mhara – NSSBB #2002775



Long ago, the Gaels brought this folktale from the Isle of Barra, Scotland, to Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. A favourite of Cape Breton Gaelic tradition bearer Michael "Mickey" MacNeil, this tale tells the story of Luran, a farmer and fisherman. Luran had cattle, sheep, and horses, and a good boat too. But one thing was bothering him: the fairies kept coming every night and stealing his animals. He didn't know what to do. But one day when he was out fishing, a mermaid came to his boat... More info at: bradanpress.com/books/childrens/luran-agus-a-mhaighdeann-mhara/

Biorachan Beag agus Biorachan Mór – NSSBB #2400247



In this traditional Scottish Gaelic folktale, translated into English for the very first time, Bodkin Mòr sets out to teach a lesson to his greedy friend, unleashing a long chain of unintended consequences. "Mòr" means "big" and "Beag" means "small." Illustrated by Cape Breton artist Emily MacDonald.. More info at: bradanpress.com/books/biorachan/

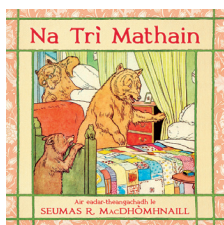
GAELIC PICTURE BOOKS FOR GRADES P-3

Bana-phrionnsa a' Phoca Phàipeir – NSSBB # 2400246

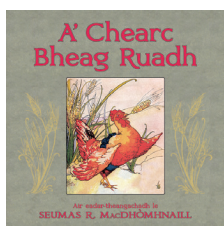
The authorized Scottish Gaelic translation of the beloved Canadian classic *The Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch. Gaelic summary: Nuair a tha an dràgon as fiadhaiche air an t-saoghal a' briseadh caisteal na Bana-phrionnsa Ealasaid na bhleideagan, a' losgadh a h-uile stiall aodaich a th' aice, agus a' falbh leis a' Phrionnsa Raghannall, a tha i am beachd pòsadh, tha Ealasaid a' gabhail ghnothaichean os làimh. Resources at: bradanpress.com/books/bana-phrionnsa/

Mòr-thubaist aig na Geamannan Gàidhealach – NSSBB # 1006163

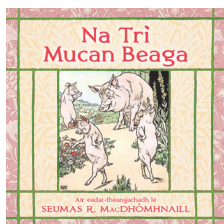
The Gaelic translation of *Disaster at the Highland Games* by award-winning Atlantic Canadian author Riel Nason. Kate loves going to Highland dance class each week and is thrilled when her teacher suggests she compete at the Highland Games for the first time. Kate agrees to practice, but quickly changes her mind when she finds out that dancing at home by herself is not as much fun as dancing with friends in her class. And, besides, she figures her dancing is already good enough. Everything will be fine...or will it? Resources at: bradanpress.com/books/g-is-for-gael/

Na Trì Mathain – NSSBB in review

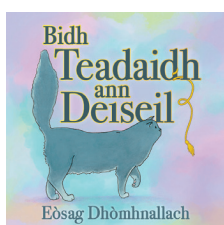
The Gaelic translation of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. Once upon a time, a family of three bears lived in a house in the woods. One day while the bears were out, a girl named Goldilocks walked into their house... The formulaic repetition naturally teaches basic points of Gaelic grammar while expanding vocabulary. Accompanied by the charming Edwardian vintage illustrations of Leonard Leslie Brooke and William Morris. Resources at: bradanpress.com/books/childrens/na-tri-mathain/

A' Chearc Bheag Ruadh – NSSBB in review

The Gaelic translation of *The Little Red Hen*, with vintage illustrations from 1918. Once there was a little red hen in a barnyard who spent most of her time looking for worms to feed her chicks. One day, she found a grain of wheat. She wanted to plant it in order to grow wheat and make bread, but would any of the other animals help her? Resources at: bradanpress.com/books/childrens/a-chearc-bheag-ruadh/

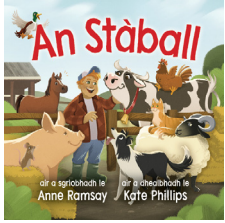
Na Trì Mucan Beaga – NSSBB in review

The Gaelic translation of *The Three Little Pigs*. Once there were three little pigs who left their mama to build new houses of their own. The first little pig built a house with straw, and the second little pig built a house with gorse twigs, but the Big Bad Wolf blew them down and ate up the little pigs! The third little pig built a house with bricks, and the Big Bad Wolf couldn't blow it down. So he started playing tricks on the third little pig in order to catch him and eat him—but the pig was just as cunning as the wolf... Resources at: bradanpress.com/books/childrens/na-tri-mucan-beaga/

Bidh Teadaidh ann Deiseil – NSSBB in review

This is the Gaelic translation of *Teddy Is Ready* by Cape Breton author-artist Joanne MacDonald. A soft, fluffy, grey cat lives on the Campbells' farm in Centreville, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. Teddy is always ready to help with the chores. He's starting seeds and pulling weeds, he's picking beans and chasing leaves. This book is a cute little love poem all about that silly kitty, Teddy! Resources at: bradanpress.com/books/childrens/bidh-teadaidh-ann-deiseil/

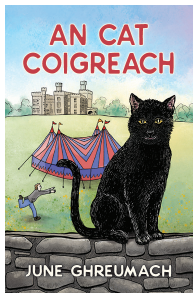
An Stàball – NSSBB in review



An Stàball [The Stable] is the first original board book written in Gaelic, not translated from English. Each 2-page spread of this board book has a stable door flap to lift. Perfect for ages 1–3 or beginner Gaelic learners. This Scottish-Canadian collaboration was written by Anne Ramsay who developed and tested the story with pupils at Sgoil-Àraich Lacasdail in the Isle of Lewis, Scotland. It was illustrated by professional artist Kate Phillips of Baddeck, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. *Cò tha anns an stàball aig Iain an tuathanach? Tog gach flap gus fhaicinn!* Who is in farmer Iain's stable? Lift each flap to see! Resources at: bradanpress.com/books/childrens/an-staball/

GAELIC NOVELS FOR GRADES 10–12

An Cat Coigreach – NSSBB in review



This children's novel is entirely in Gaelic, at a middle-grade or intermediate level. Pangur is a black cat living happily with his family in Bern, a beautiful city in Switzerland – until the day they decide to return to Scotland! Now he is a foreign cat in Stornoway in the Isle of Lewis, and the other cats are not kind to him. Pangur decides to leave the island and return to Bern. Surely his family will return too when the autumn storms start... won't they? Follow Pangur's adventures across the country, escaping from one danger after the next, until he learns the importance of friends and family. Resources at: bradanpress.com/books/childrens/an-cat-coigreach/

Anna Ruadh – NSSBB #2003192



The Gaelic translation of *Anne of Green Gables*. L.M. Montgomery's fictional story of the red-haired orphan Anne Shirley is beloved by generations of children and adults worldwide. First published in 1908, the story is set in the Maritime provinces of Canada. From an orphanage in Nova Scotia, Anne is sent by mistake to rural Prince Edward Island, to aging brother and sister Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert who wanted to adopt a boy to help on their farm. Gaelic is the language with the closest cultural and historical connections to L.M. Montgomery and Prince Edward Island after English. *Anna Ruadh* means "Red-haired Anne," a typical Gaelic nickname. Resources at: bradanpress.com/books/anna-ruadh

FREE TEACHING RESOURCES



Many of our books have **free teacher resources** available on our website and YouTube channel. Access the links through the QR code at the left.

Resources differ by title and may include:

- Gaelic pronunciation YouTube videos
- Read-aloud videos
- PDF teacher guides
- Printables or colouring pages



Bradan Press Ltd.
PO Box 23108
Dartmouth, NS B3A 4S9
Canada
info@bradanpress.com
www.bradanpress.com