

# Local author pens best seller

New children's book showcases life aboard a ferry

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It started with an eagle nearly snatching up a seal pup right in front of her on Fernando Island and just like that, Sara Leach's writing career was born.

"An eagle swooped out from behind us and almost plucked a seal pup off of the rock right in front of us and my husband turned to me and said you should really write a story about this place, and I went 'Hmm,'" recalled Leach. "As we walked back to the cabin I started thinking more about that and by the time I was back at the cabin this story came into my head and I started writing it."

The result of that encounter went on to become 2009's "Jake Reynolds: Chicken or Eagle", Leach's first venture into the world of Children's writing, which was followed up shortly by another children's book, "Mountain Machines".

For Leach, who also works as teacher and librarian at Spring Creek Elementary School, children's literature has always been something that's excited her.

"I read a lot of children's literature and I love children's literature, I would probably read it even if I wasn't a teacher or a children's writer," she laughed. "Because I spend so much time with kids I think that's why I started writing kids books. I think there's some really great children's literature out there."

While her first release was a chapter book for young readers, her latest release is a picture book called "Sounds of the Ferry", which, as the title suggests, is about the sounds experienced during a ride on a ferry.

"What happened is that

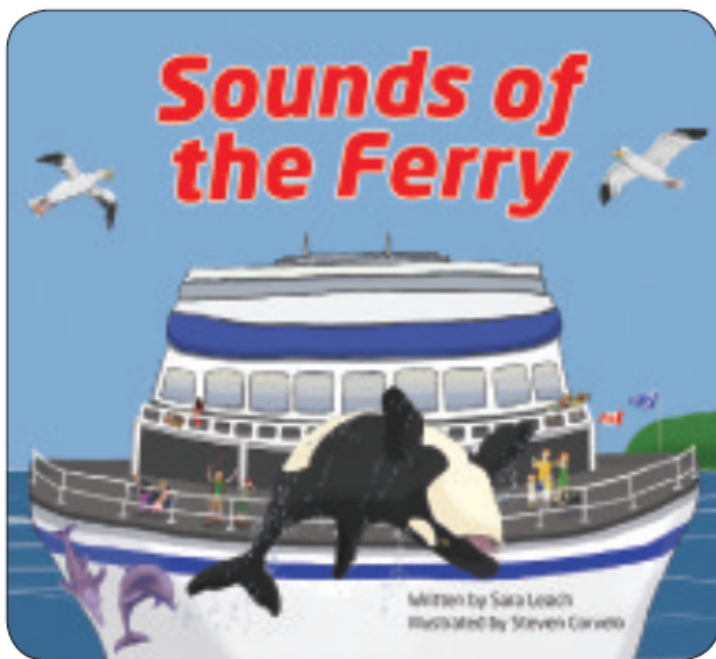


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Sara Leach's latest book "Sounds of the Ferry" is a children's picture book depicting the sounds and activities surrounding each and every ferry ride.

after 'Mountain Machines' was really well received by the kids, I wanted to do a follow-up and a friend of mine said "Why don't you do something about the ferries?" said Leach. "There aren't that many books about ferries, the ones that are out there have been around for a long time and I thought, yeah, I ride the ferry a lot, my kids love the ferry, that would be a great idea."

In researching for the book, Leach organized a special trip with B.C. Ferries where she was allowed to check out the engine room, meet the captain and really get a feel for the ferry life. At the time, Leach wasn't sure what kind of children's book she would be writing about the ferries. A counting book or an alphabet book had crossed her mind, but during her trip, she found herself drawn to another aspect of the ferries.

"What I was really struck by was the sounds and that's why it turned into Sounds of the Ferry," explained Leach.

Soon afterwards Leach got to work on the book, focusing much of her efforts on making use of a rhyming scheme.

"I did a lot of reading about writing rhyme when

I was writing this one and really worked on the rhythm and the meter," explained Leach.

All of the work seems to have paid off as "Sounds of the Ferry" made it to No. 2 on Kidsbooks.ca's best sellers list the second week after it was released in May. Closer to home, the book was also well-received by Leach's students at Spring Creek Elementary.

"They like it, I did a launch at the school this time for all of the primary students and so I went in and I'm usually the one that organizes authors to come in for an author but this time I was the visiting author and they really enjoyed it," said Leach. "They liked talking with me about the process of writing it and it's been a popular book in the library as well."

To purchase "Sounds of the Ferry", or any of Leach's other books, check out [www.saraleach.com](http://www.saraleach.com) or Armchair Books in the Village.

For those heading down to Vancouver for the weekend, catch Leach at a book signing at Blackberry Books on Granville Island on Saturday (June 11). Leach will be signing books and meeting people from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.