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# Island Kids: Courageous Kids (Courageous Kids)



## Synopsis

This is a history of British Columbias island children, told in their voices, from their perspectives. Composed of twenty-two stories, Island Kids is a snapshot of a period and place in time. The topics range from quintessentially coastal experiences, like a day at the beach, to stories that deal with serious issues, such as BCs history of residential schools, but they all remain true to the experience of the children telling the story. At the end of each chapter is a section called What do we know for sure? that gives the reader greater depth and context. The stories are written in a dynamic and authentic voice and are aimed at readers aged eight to twelve. Unlike history that has either been fictionalized or told from an adults perspective, the Courageous Kids series brings history to kids in their own words. Truly original, Kidmonton, Rocky Mountain Kids, and Island Kids strive to communicate the events and emotions of kids. Please visit [www.courageouskids.ca](http://www.courageouskids.ca) for more information on the whole Courageous Kids series.

## Book Information

Series: Courageous Kids (Book 3)

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

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## Customer Reviews

Tara Saracuse is a graduate of the Creative Writing program at the University of Victoria, and plans to continue her education by pursuing a Masters degree. Island Kids is Taras first book and she hopes it is the first of many. She is passionate about childrens literature, and plans to continue writing both non-fiction and fiction.

Have you ever wished that you could turn back the time and live in a place two hundred, or even two thousand, years ago? Tara Saracuse fulfills this wish by giving us a peek into the lives of

children living on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, in earlier times. *Island Kids*, written for children, but equally interesting for this adult, shows how children lived before Europeans arrived in North America and on through the years of colonization, industrialization, and commerce, up to the present day. Saracuse relies on first-person sources whenever she can locate them to construct stories based on these reports. The result is a collection of short, easy-reading fiction accompanied by a map showing the locations for each story. But even more, Saracuse follows each story with a section called "What do we know for sure?" that explains her source for the story, what historical facts surround the story, and how she wove first-person sources into the narrative. Each well-crafted story shows a child experiencing life in his or her environment. The first story, "The Raven, the Clam, and the Kids: Two Haida Cousins in Ancient Times," relates a tale from the First Nations Haida people's oral traditions of how human beings came to live on Vancouver Island and the nearby Gulf Islands. "Escape from Alcatraz" shows how Delmar and Murphy Johnnie and another boy escaped from an island residential school in a leaky canoe and paddled and hiked their way back to their grandmother's home in search of a good meal, for a change. Twenty-two stories make up this collection showing how children lived during the time that Vancouver Island has been inhabited. These stories offer suspense, creativity, and age-appropriate adventures for children.

by Susan M. Andrus for Story Circle Book Reviews reviewing books by, for, and about women

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