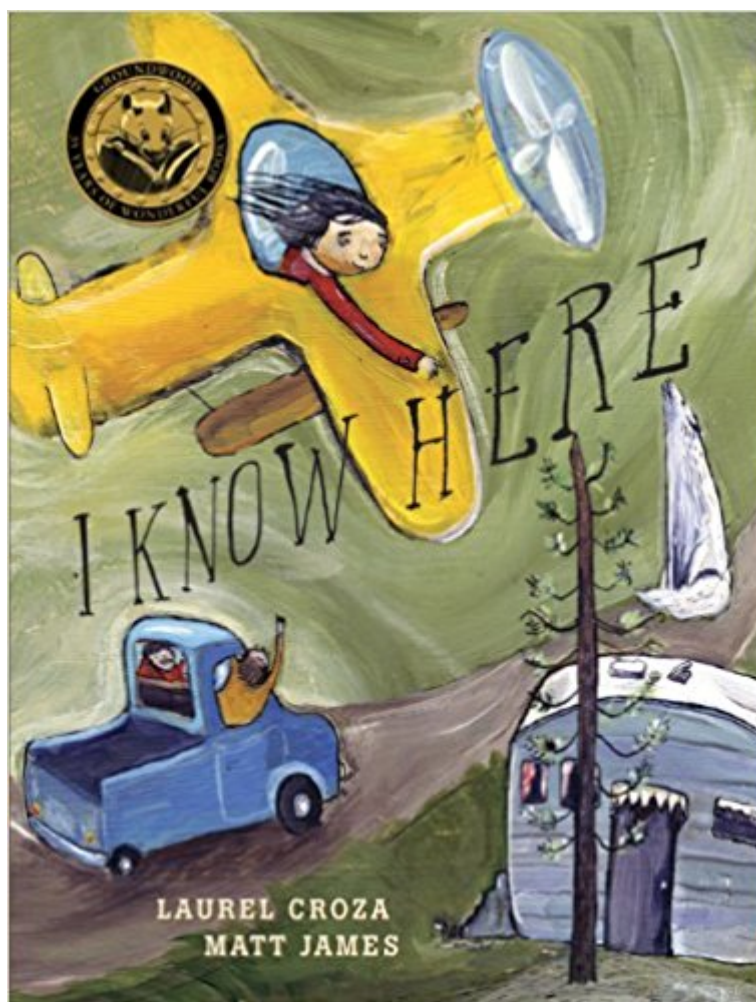


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# I Know Here



## Synopsis

The little girl in this story lives in a trailer near a forest in Saskatchewan, where her father is building a dam. She knows and loves everything about the place, but the dam is nearly finished, and when summer comes the family will move to Toronto – a city marked by a big red star on the map at school. “Have the people in Toronto seen what I’ve seen?” the little girl asks, thinking of her road, her school, the forest where she plays hide-and-seek and where the wolf howls at night, the hill where she goes tobogganing in winter. And with her teacher’s help, she finds a way to keep everything she loves about home. This simple, beautifully written story, complemented by Matt James’s vibrant, imaginative illustrations, will resonate deeply with anyone who has had to leave their home for a new place.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 44 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars – See all reviews (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,256,785 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #146 in Books > Children’s Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Canada #560 in Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Moving #2100 in Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

A little girl watched as her brother Doug excitedly raced down the stairs of their trailer shouting, "We're moving, we're moving to Toronto. When summer comes." Their father, who had been working on a dam in eastern Saskatchewan, would be leaving because its construction was almost complete. She really didn't know anything about Toronto, she only knew about where she was. The road she lived on had eight trailers. That she knew. The forest had lots of pine trees and she could recognize "the howling sound a wolf makes when it calls out at night in that very same forest." That

she knew. She could smell the "fox's damp fur" before she smelled him, where a "good tobogganing hill" was, a creek that wound around the hill, and "the squishy spot by the beaver dam" where her sister caught frogs. That she knew. Toronto was something she didn't know anything about. It was the big red spot on the map and that was all she knew. She knew that the big yellow truck delivered groceries, that she was in grade three, that the dam was "built right across the North Saskatchewan River," and where her baby brother, Michael, was born. Did the people in Toronto know about where she lived? What could she take there that would remind her of her home? This is a beautifully touching story of a little girl who has to leave her home to move to Toronto, a place that doesn't know her. Sometimes it is difficult for children to move to another place, especially if they have lived in one home all their lives. As the little girl so aptly states, "I know here." She didn't know Toronto, but would be taking memories with her. This is one of those sweet happy/sad things that has happened to a lot of us.

Due to my military career, by the time my son was 8 years old he had known four homes in three cities across two states. Selfishly, I thought that at such a young age the moves wouldn't have too much of an impact on him. Sadly, I was wrong. The first move took him away from the beautiful Texas Gulf Coast beaches where he literally learned to walk barefoot in the sand. The second move took him away from his doting grandparents, and the final move removed him from the hustle and bustle of New York City. The announcement of every move was met with tears and the refrains of "I like it here. I don't want to go." When it came time to leave, he unwillingly entered the family van and sadly waved goodbye to everything he had grown to love. Perhaps this is why Laurel Croza's "I Know Here" struck so close to home with me. It's a children's book with a poignant story about a third-grade girl who lives in Canada's remote Saskatchewan region. One day, out of the blue, she learns that upon completion of her father's job working on a dam, the family will move across the country to Toronto. "This is where I live. I don't know Toronto. I know here," is her immediate reply when informed by her brother of the news. She then goes on to describe with passion and underlying heartache all the things she knows and loves: the forest, the howling wolf, the squishy spot by the beaver dam where her little sister catches frogs and her school, which is in a trailer at the end of the road. To help her cope with the move, her teacher has her draw a picture of something she has seen, something she would like to remember and take with her when she leaves.

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