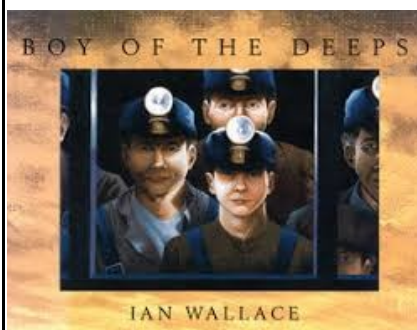


# Coal Mining Communities

Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Picture Books*

\*The IL (Interest Level) and RL (Reading Level) stated for each title are from the publishers. Note that when publishers assign a grade level rating of Gr. 3-6, especially for novels, that reviewers often give a higher grade level rating, i.e., Gr. 4-7, and occasionally Gr. 5-8. If you would like to read the reviews on a title, please let me know.

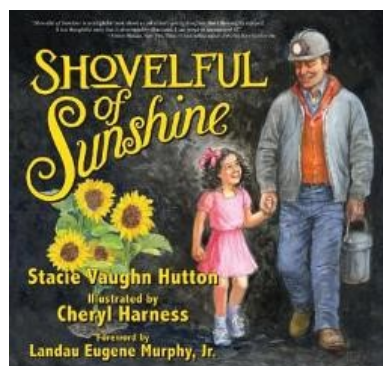


## Boy of the Deeps

by Ian Wallace, c1999

"James, the son of a coal miner, goes with his father for the first time to work in the mines of near his home in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia." - *from Follett*

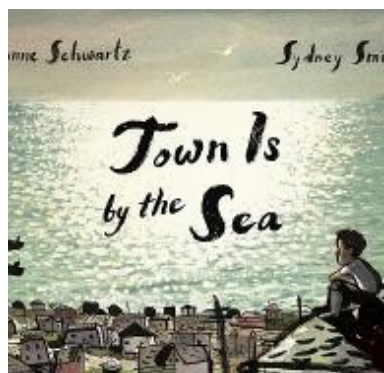
"*Boy of the Deeps* pays homage to the lives of these brave miners and brings the brave lives of miners to children in a vivid concrete way." - *Pub.*



## Shovelful of Sunshine

by Stacie Vaughn Hutton, c2013 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.9)

"Meggie Gwinn's father reminds her of the good things that have come from coal mining after she get upset thinking of the bad things about his job." - *Pub.*



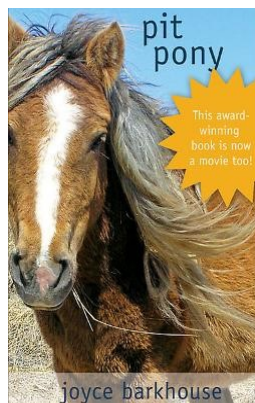
## Town Is by the Sea

by Joanne Schwartz, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.5)  
(Adrienne Gear recommends for Infer.)

"A young boy wakes up to the sound of the sea, visits his grandfather's grave after lunch and comes home to a simple family dinner with his family, but all the while his mind strays to his father digging for coal deep down under the sea. Stunning illustrations by Sydney Smith show the striking contrast between a sparkling seaside day and the darkness underground where the miners dig." - *Pub.*

# Coal Mining Communities

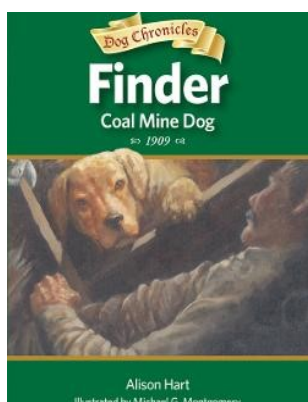
Compiled by Joan Pearce  
**Novels**



## **Pit Pony**

by Joyce Barkhouse, c2011 (IL: 3-6, RL: 4.4)

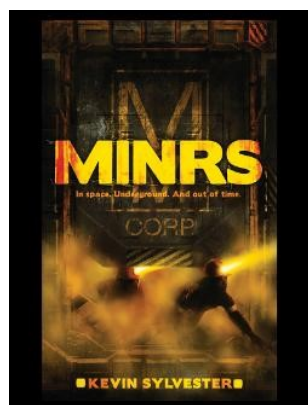
"Eleven-year-old Willie has no other choice but to work in the coal mines of Cape Breton, but his dreary days are brightened when he forms a bond of friendship with Gem, the pit pony." - *from Follett*



## **Finder: Coal Mine Dog**

by Alison Hart, c2015 (IL: 3-6, RL: 4.4)

"When Thomas's family needs money, he's forced to go to work in the coal mines, even though neither of his late parents wanted that for him. His only comfort is his dog Finder, a failed hunting dog who now pulls a cart in the mines. When disaster strikes, can Thomas and Finder escape from the fires deep below ground?" - *Pub.*



## **MINRS (Book 1)**

by Kevin Sylvester, c2015 (IL: 3-6, RL: 4.5)

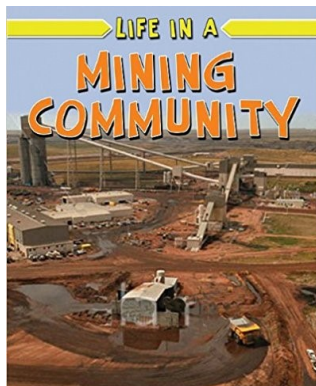
Note: This is a Young Adult novel with some graphic & sensitive sections. This is the first title in the series.

"Twelve-year-old Christopher Nichols and his family live on a new planet, Perses, as colonists of Melming Mining's Great Mission to save the earth. When Landers obliterate the colony to steal the metal and raw ore, Christopher and a small group of survivors are forced into the maze of mining tunnels below the surface of Perses." - *from Follett*

# Coal Mining Communities

Compiled by Joan Pearce

**Non-fiction**

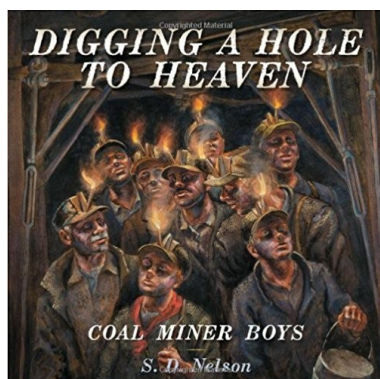


## Life in a Mining Community

by Natalie Hyde, c2010 (IL: 3-6, RL: 4.9)  
(Series: Learn About Rural Life)

"Gillette, in Wyoming, is the coal-mining capital of the USA. Nearby is the small community of Moorcroft. The community developed from an old wild west cattle-ranching center and is now largely based on oil and coal-mining. About 900 people live in the small town."

- Amazon.ca

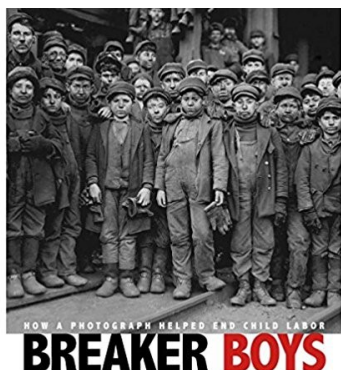


## Digging a Hole to Heaven: Coal Miner Boys

by S.D. Nelson, c2014 (IL: 3-6, RL: 6.2)

"At 12 years old, Conall has already worked in the coal mines of West Virginia for two years. He spends his days deep underground with his faithful mule, Angel, carting loads of coal back and forth between the coal seams and the main shaft, where elevators take the coal up to the surface. One day a tunnel collapses, and his brother is trapped with others on the wrong side! How can Conall and Angel help to save them?"

- Amazon.ca

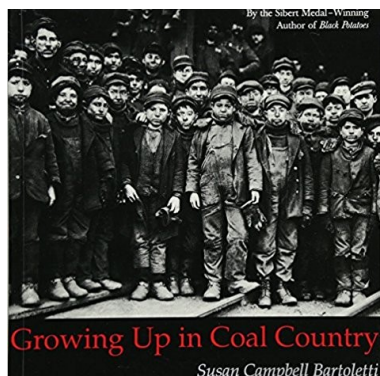


## Breaker Boys: How a Photograph Helped End Child Labor

by Michael Burgan, c2011 (IL: 5-8, RL: 7.2)

"Can a photograph change the world? The answer is yes! *Captured History* explores how a single moment captured on film can influence society and change the course of history. Combining art, history, and media literacy, this series looks at some of the most famous photographs and details how and why these images resonate today and what effect they had when they were published."

- Amazon.ca



## Growing Up in Coal Country

by Susan Bartoletti, c1999 (IL: 5-8, RL: 7.3)

"The book is incredibly thorough, going through all the different jobs involved in working at the mine. Then moving on to the company village and day-to-day life for the women... Then the book moves on to recreation after working hours. A chapter on dangers and tragedies and common accidents prefaces a final chapter on the beginning of unionization and the big strike in Pennsylvania. A conclusion then follows up with the reasons coal mining ended as such a big industry." - Amazon.ca