

Dear Educators,

Welcome to fall and to integrating Canada into your curriculum! This year our National Resource Center (NRC) partnered with the Northeast NRC on Canada to offer *Canada and the American Curriculum* in Washington, D.C. The conference, organized by Dr. Christopher Kirkey, Director of Canadian Studies at SUNY Plattsburgh, brought together over 50 state social studies supervisors, superintendents, heads of national educational organizations, and representatives from the U.S. Department of Education. Andre Lewis, Deputy Assistant Secretary, International and Foreign Language Education, provided the keynote address, "Canada and International Education in the U.S."

Will Linser, President, Washington State Council for the Social Studies, and Kelly Martin, Social Studies and International Education Program Supervisor, Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, attended. Will noted in the WSCSS Newsletter that, "We are fortunate in Washington State that we have the UW's Canadian Studies Center and the Center for Canadian-American Studies at WWU."

We appreciate the positive feedback and positive attitude towards learning about Canada. The 32nd annual STUDY CANADA Summer Institute for K-12 Educators teacher

evaluations gave the workshop an A+ (99%) grade! Registration for next year has begun and we are excited about the new theme ("A Capital View of Canada: Nations within a Nation") and locations (Ottawa and Montréal).

Our NRC also regularly partners with the other NRCs and Outreach Centers in the Jackson School of International Studies. Last June, a two-day workshop for educators

on the politics of food was offered. Brandon Born, Urban Design and Planning, and Lucy Jarosz, Geography, both provided a North American perspective on food issues that comparatively included Canada.

In October, both of us were pleased to accept special invitations by educational organizations. Nadine was keynote speaker for the local chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) as part of an effort to build a stronger relationship between AATF and our NRC. Tina was invited by the National Council for History Education to write a regular "Connecting History Classrooms to Canada" column in *History Matters!*

We hope that these opportunities – and materials posted at [www.k12studycanada.org](http://www.k12studycanada.org) – will help lead to more positive results in your classroom and bridge educational gaps in social studies topics.

**Nadine C. Fabbri**

Canadian Studies Center  
Henry M. Jackson School  
of International Studies  
University of Washington

**Tina Storer**

Center for Canadian-American Studies  
Western Washington University



From left: Tina Storer; Nadine Fabbri; Will Linser, Kelly Martin, Social Studies and International Education Program, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington State; Don Alper, Center for Canadian-American Studies, Western Washington University; and Amy Wilson, International Programs Service, U.S. Department of Education.

## Canadian Children's Literature —by Kathleen Collins

Using Canadian children's literature is an excellent way to introduce your students to the study of Canada. By reading and discussing Canadian books, your students can gain insight into how Canadians see themselves and develop a nuanced understanding of the similarities and differences among and between different Canadian regions and groups.

### What is "Canadian children's literature"?

Canadian children's literature incorporates Canadian themes, settings, viewpoints, and characters, is usually written by Canadian authors, and is aimed at a pre-K to Grade 12 audience. Until fairly recently, there were few books that could actually fit the definition. In 1967—the Canadian centennial year—two important developments changed the landscape of Canadian children's literature: Sheila Egoff's *The Republic of Childhood*, the first history of Canadian children's books, drew new attention to the scarcity of the national literature for a juvenile audience; and, in Montréal, writer and editor May Cutler founded Tundra Books, the first publishing house devoted to producing Canadian books for Canadian children and to nurturing Canadian children's authors and illustrators.

The wave of nationalism following the 1967 centennial was echoed by a surge of new attention to children's books produced by Canadian authors and illustrators exploring the Canadian experience. The 1970s saw new publications devoted to Canadian children's books, *In Review* and *Canadian Children's Literature*; the founding of the Canadian Children's Book Centre and its French-language counterpart Communication-Jeunesse; the establishment of the Children's Literature Service as part of the national government's Library and Archives Canada; and the introduction of new awards and prizes for children's authors and illustrators in Canada. While the output of Canada's children's book publishers remains small in comparison to that of their counterparts in the United States, the attention paid to the production of Canadian books for children and young adults during the past decades has resulted in a varied and diverse body of national literature.

### Canadian Children's Literature in the Classroom

Today, books for Canadian children run the gamut of age ranges, genres, regions, and topics. Moving beyond maple leaves, hockey, and other familiar Canadian tropes, contemporary Canadian children's literature puts a uniquely Canadian slant on folklore, animal stories, alphabet books, poetry, realistic fiction, fantasy stories, graphic novels, and historical fiction. Whether you are teaching literature, history, French, or another subject, there is likely a Canadian book that can fit into your curriculum.

For example, in a unit on the American Revolution, the children's novels *The Hollow Tree* by Janet Lunn, *George Johnson's War* by Maureen Garvie and Mary Beaty, *Letters for Elly* by Stephen Eric Davidson, and *The Way Lies North* by Jean Rae Baxter all put a Canadian spin on events by incorporating tales of the Loyalists, Mohawks, and other groups often left out of the dominant textbook narrative. For Black History Month, *Underground to Canada* (published in the US as *Runaway to Freedom*), by Barbara Smucker, follows a young girl from Mississippi to Canada on the Underground Railroad, *Elijah of Buxton*, by Christopher Paul Curtis, tells the story of the first free child born in a haven for runaway



Kathleen Collins with two popular Canadian children's books, *The Hollow Tree* by Janet Lunn and *The Flying Canoe* retold by Roch Carrier, in the children's stacks of UW's Allen Library.

slaves in Canada, and *Grease Town*, by Ann Towell, set in a similar black community, stands as a reminder that escaping to the North did not end hardship and racism.

In units on immigration or on different ethnic groups, suggested reading lists could include *Obasan* by Joy Kagawa, examining the internment of Japanese-Canadians during World War II; *Ghost Train* by Paul Yee, which deals with Chinese immigrant labor on the Canadian railways; *My Name is Sepeetza* by Shirley Sterling, in which a Salish girl is forced to live in a residential school in British Columbia; *Angel Square* by Brian Doyle, which deals with an anti-Jewish incident in Ottawa in 1945; and *Breakaway* by Paul Yee, in which a Chinese-Canadian family struggles in Depression-era Vancouver. Spend some time exploring what Canadian children's books have to offer – you might be surprised at the ways they lend themselves to what you are already doing in your classroom!

(Several of the titles listed above are also included in the "K-12 STUDY CANADA Student Novel Collection" available to teachers nationwide for loan periods of three weeks. For additional information or booking, visit [www.k12studycanada.org/resources\\_novel\\_collection.asp](http://www.k12studycanada.org/resources_novel_collection.asp).)

**Kathleen Collins is the children's and young adult literature librarian at the University of Washington Libraries and lived in Canada for four years while pursuing her library degree at Nova Scotia's Dalhousie University. While not herself Canadian, she has a Canadian husband, Canadian children, and two Canadian grandparents and so takes a special interest in our neighbors to the north. You can reach her at [collinsk@uw.edu](mailto:collinsk@uw.edu).**



## Upcoming Educator Workshops & Activities

**11 November 2010**

**Canada Clinic: Looking Beyond the 49th Parallel**  
8am-4pm, Consulate General of Canada, Denver  
Information/Registration:  
[www.socialstudies.org/conference](http://www.socialstudies.org/conference)

**12-14 November 2010**

**Vistas, Visions & Voices**  
90th Annual NCSS Conference (Denver, CO)  
Information/Registration:  
[www.socialstudies.org/conference](http://www.socialstudies.org/conference)

**11-13 March 2011**

**WSCSS Leadership Retreat (Lake Chelan, WA)**  
Dr. Paul Storer, "Teaching about the World's Largest Trade Relationship"  
Information/Registration: <http://wscss.org>

**4 March 2011**

**UW World Languages Day**  
Information/Registration:  
[www.pce.uw.edu/course.aspx?id=3895](http://www.pce.uw.edu/course.aspx?id=3895)

**31 March 31 – 2 April 2011**

**The Causes & Consequences of Civil Wars**  
National Council for History Education Annual Conference (Charleston, SC)  
Information/Registration: [www.nche.net/conference](http://www.nche.net/conference)

**20 April 2011**

**Métis, Mixed-ness & Music: Aboriginal-Ukrainian Encounters & Cultural Production on the Canadian Prairies**  
Talk by Marcia Ostashewski, Canada-US Visiting Fulbright Chair (UW)  
7 pm, Kane Hall, UW campus (no registration required)

**21 May 2011**

**Annual Québec/French in Canada Workshop**  
University of Washington campus - Conducted entirely in French.  
Information/Registration: [canada@uw.edu](mailto:canada@uw.edu)

**3-8 July 2011**

**STUDY CANADA Summer Institute for K-12 Educators**  
Westin Hotel (Ottawa, ON, Canada with daytrip to Montréal, QC)  
Information/Registration:  
[www.k12studycanada.org/scsi.asp](http://www.k12studycanada.org/scsi.asp)

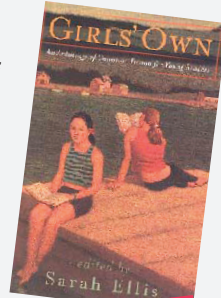
Additional events at  
[www.k12studycanada.org/calendar\\_2010.asp](http://www.k12studycanada.org/calendar_2010.asp)

## Canada in the Classroom: K-12 Resources

Consider these books and Internet sites when offering curriculum connections to Canada and incorporating Canadian literature in your classrooms (Grades 4 – 12 as specified).

### Fundamental Fiction

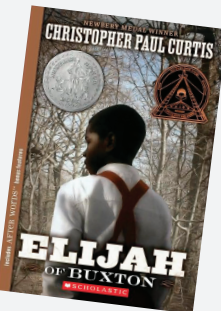
**Girls' Own: An Anthology of Canadian Fiction for Young Readers** edited by Sarah Ellis, 2001. A collection of 13 stories by award-winning authors who are popular with pre-teen girls. (Grades 6-9/Ages 11-14)



**The Way Lies North** by Jean Rae Baxter, 2007. Set in 1777, 15-year old Charlotte and her Loyalist family face the strain of divided loyalties and numerous hardships as they flee rebels as well as warring Oneida and Mohawk nations during the American Revolution. (Grades 5-9/Ages 10-14)



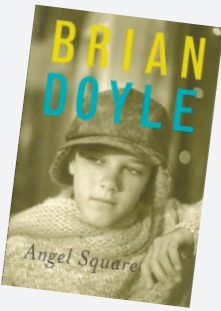
**Elijah of Buxton** by Christopher Paul Curtis, 2007. Buxton, Ontario was established as a settlement for freed and escaped slaves who traveled along the Underground Railroad from the US. Elijah, 11, helps readers bear witness to the tears and triumphs of the times. (Newbery Medal winner - Grades 4-7/Ages 9-12)



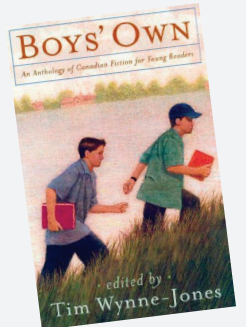
**The Oxford Book of Canadian Short Stories in English** Selected by Margaret Atwood and Robert Weaver, 1996. This book features 45 of the finest short stories written by Canada's leading writers. According to the publisher, the collection reflects "the growing reputation of a new generation of Canadian writers. (Grades 10+/Ages 15+)



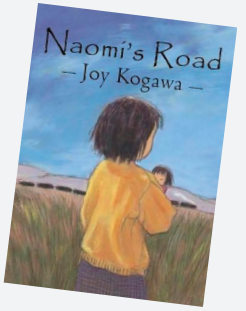
**Angel Square** by Brian Doyle, 1984. Lower Town Ottawa, 1945, sets the stage for this well-paced mystery that revolves around themes of racial prejudice and tolerance using characters and humor appreciated by young readers. (Grades 7-9/Ages 12-14)



**Boys' Own: An Anthology of Canadian Fiction for Young Readers** edited by Tim Wynne-Jones, 2001. Many of Canada's best known writers and favorite stories are included in this anthology. (Grades 6-10/Ages 11-15)



**Naomi's Road** by Joy Kogawa. Illustrated by Ruth Ohi, 2005. Like the award-winning adult novel *Obasan* on which it is based, this children's version tells the moving story of Naomi who, at age 5, is separated from her parents in Vancouver and sent to an internment camp in the interior of BC and then to a farm in Alberta. (Grades 4-7/ Ages 9-12)



### Worth-the-Visit Websites

**Canadian Books and Authors**  
[www.canadianauthors.net](http://www.canadianauthors.net)

**Canadian Children's Book Centre**  
[www.bookcentre.ca](http://www.bookcentre.ca)

**Canadian Children's Literature: A Genre Approach to Reading Your Way through Canada** (PowerPoint Presentation created by Betsy Arntzen, Canadian-American Center, University of Maine) <http://umaine.edu/canam/files/2009/10/Canadian-literature-powerpoint4.ppt>

**Canadian Review of Materials**  
[www.umanitoba.ca/cm](http://www.umanitoba.ca/cm)

**Children's Literature Service (LAC)**  
[www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/childrenliterature](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/childrenliterature)

**Communication-Jeunesse**  
[www.communication-jeunesse.qc.ca](http://www.communication-jeunesse.qc.ca)

**PIKA - Canadian Children's Literature Database (LAC)**  
[www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/pika](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/pika)

**100 Best Canadian Books for Children (Toronto Public Library)**  
<http://kidsspace.torontopubliclibrary.ca/genCategory15785.html>

K-12 Study Canada layout and design by Alessandro Leveque.



University of Washington  
**Canadian Studies Center**  
Jackson School of International Studies  
Box 353650  
Seattle, WA 98195-3650

**K-12 STUDY CANADA** is a biannual publication of the Pacific Northwest National Resource Center for Canada (NRC) - a joint center linking the Canadian Studies Center, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington to the Center for Canadian-American Studies, Western Washington University. The NRC offers quarterly workshops on specific Canadian topics; the annual, week-long STUDY CANADA seminar held the last week of June, and; an extensive Resource Library for the use of local educators. The NRC is funded through a Title VI Grant from the U.S. Department of Education and an annual Program Enhancement Grant from the Canadian Embassy, Washington, D.C.

Return Service Requested



Teachers and presenters at the Annual K-12 STUDY CANADA Summer Institute (Whistler, BC)