

Canadian Author Month

Saskatchewan School Library Association



2008

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November is Canadian Author Month. Using the study of our country's novelists and writers, students are encouraged to pack their bookbags to voyage across Canada to celebrate their favorite authors, including the Willow Award nominees.

Setting the Scene

Feature Canadian authors using creative displays. A comprehensive list of Canadian authors and illustrators can be found at the [Canadian Children's Book Centre's Web site](#). Create an interesting bulletin board using book covers, Canadian maps, coins, and maple leaves for letters. Surround the bulletin board with posters depicting the nation's major landmarks, tourist attractions, currency, heroes, animals, and symbols.

Display books about Canada - geography books, travel guides, biographies of famous Canadians, arranged around the national and provincial flags. Add a camera, binoculars, maps, imitation passport, and perhaps a small suitcase or two. Set out a jigsaw puzzle of Canada with a few pieces assembled to entice kids to complete.

Spotlight the current Willow Award nominees (<http://www.willowawards.ca/>). *Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice - The Willow Awards* promote reading by granting a Willow Award to the Canadian books voted by students to be the best of those nominated in three categories: *Shining Willow (K-3)*, *Diamond Willow (4-6)* and *Snow Willow (7-9)*.

Reading Promotion

Entice classrooms to participate by introducing the contest *The Canadian Challenge*. Broadcast a question related to a Canadian author in the morning announcement. Two sets of questions are appended; one set is designed for a primary and middle level audience and the second set is designed for the secondary level audience. Students in each classroom work collaboratively to solve each question. Answers are recorded and submitted at the end of the theme. Classrooms with all the answers correct earn a prize and the title: *We Answered The Canadian Reader Challenge*.

Invite a Canadian author to visit the school. *The Writer's Guild* provides a list of Canadian authors and illustrators.

Host a student reading promotion focused on Canadian authors and illustrators for middle level and secondary students. Students track their reading and participation using the appended Canadian Reader Passport. To entice students to participate, discuss the requirements needed to be invited to the culminating gala. Readers obtain a stamp (Canadian flag sticker) in their passport at the completion of each reading task. The passport can be modified to accommodate different grade levels or individual needs.

Canadian Reader's Travel Log: Use the reproducible pattern to create a travel log. Print 8½ x 11" sheets on both sides, quarter fold, cut through the top fold to make eight-page booklets, and staple the left edge.

To obtain stamps, students must follow these steps:

1. Read at least one book, fiction or nonfiction, about Canada.
2. In the passport, write the title and author of the book.
3. Complete one of the choice of products.

Celebrate Canada Party

For each reader who has obtained the required level of passport stamps, distribute a ticket to the Celebrate Canada culminating party. Another option would be to have the readers play a game of Canada's favourite sport, hockey, against the teachers.

Regardless of the party format, ensure all readers who have read the required the minimum number of books required, vote for their favourite nominated Willow Award book. Individual ballots or class tallies of individual votes may be submitted. Instructions and ballots for voting for the current Willow Awards can be found at <http://www.willowawards.ca/ballots-and-forms>.

THE WILLOW AWARDS

The featured authors are Willow Award nominees – stories that celebrate Canada’s contribution to literacy. The mission of The Willow Awards is to promote reading by granting a "Willow Award" to the Canadian and/or Saskatchewan book(s) voted by Saskatchewan students to be the best of those nominated in designated categories for a specific year.

In an effort to encourage participation by all children, regardless of the level at which they are reading, three awards have been established:

- The Shining Willow Award for books written for young readers.
- The Diamond Willow Award for titles written for upper elementary readers (grades 4-6).
- The Snow Willow Award for books for young people in grades 7 - 9.

Students may vote in any category in which they have read the minimum number of books required. Individual ballots or class tallies of individual votes may be submitted. Participation in the Willow Awards is free to Saskatchewan students.

The SYCRA Willows Web site (<http://www.willowawards.ca/>) provides sample booktalks for each of the nominated Willow award books.

Primary Level Storytime

To share the ten nominated Willow award nominees with younger readers, invite older students to be the guest readers. Place primary students in groups. Two older students should be part of each primary group. One older student holds the book with the illustrations facing the primary audience. The second older student reads the text. The primary students rotate to hear each of the stories.

To vote for their favourite Willow nominated book, create polling stations similar to an election. Behind each polling station, place a ballot for students to mark a X beside their choice. Ballots are available on the Willows Awards Web Site (<http://www.willowawards.ca/ballots-and-forms>) and contain screenshots of the book covers to help the younger readers identify their choice. Once primary students have made their choice, their ballot is placed in the secret box. Tally the results and submit to the Willow Awards using their Online Summary Form.

Booktalks for the Middle and Secondary Novel

Create dynamic booktalks using VoiceThread (<http://voicethread.com/#home>). VoiceThread is a free tool for having asynchronous collected group conversations about the Willow nominated novels. Upload images related to the nominated novels and create a coordinating audio narrative.

Once a photo, video, graphic or document related to the novel is posted, students can comment using a computer microphone, telephone, text, audio file, and webcam. Encourage students to comment on the booktalk by responding to posed questions, documenting their connections, or inquiring about unanswered questions inspired by the novel.

CANADIAN CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

Questions for Daily Announcements (K-8 Level)

1. What are the names of the two detectives in Linda Bailey's *Stevie Diamond Mysteries*?
Answer: Stevie and Jess
Sticker: British Columbia
2. What is the title of one of Hazel Hutchins' books featuring the character TJ?
Answer: *TJ and The Quiz Kids*, *TJ and the Haunted House*, *TJ and the Rockets*, *TJ and the Sports Fanatic*, and *TJ and the Quiz Kids*
Sticker: Alberta
3. What is the name of a Canadian author who lives in your town, city, or province?
Answer: Answers will vary.
Sticker: Saskatchewan
4. What is the name of one of Franklin the Turtle's friends from the books authored by Paulette Bourgeois?
Answer: Answers may vary. Bear, Beaver, Fox, Goose, or Snail are common correct responses.
Sticker: Manitoba
5. What is the name of the Canadian author/illustrator that uses Plasticine to create the illustrations in her books?
Answer: Barbara Reid
Sticker: Ontario
6. What is the name of the Canadian author who wrote a hockey story about a young boy who orders a Montreal Canadiens sweater, but receives a Toronto Maple Leafs jersey instead?
Answer: Roch Carrier
Sticker: Quebec
7. What is the name of the spunky red-haired orphaned girl in the series authored by Lucy Maud Montgomery?
Answer: Anne
Sticker: Prince Edward Island
8. What is the name of the author/illustrator living in the Yukon Territory whose book about the Aurora Borealis is a 2008 Shining Willow award nominee?
Answer: Lynn Blaikie
Sticker: Yukon
9. What is on the spine of library books to indicate that the book's author is Canadian?
Answer: A maple leaf or Canadian flag
Sticker: Canadian flag

CANADIAN CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

Questions for Daily Announcements (Secondary Level)

1. What is the name of a former teacher who penned historical fiction stories about Terry Fox and Arctic expeditions?
Answer: Eric Walters
Sticker: British Columbia
2. What is the title of Kit Pearson's novel nominated for the 2008 Snow Willows award?
Answer: *A Perfect Gentle Knight*
Sticker: Alberta
3. What is the name of a Saskatchewan author whose novel won the 2007 Shining Willows award?
Answer: Arthur Slade
Sticker: Saskatchewan
4. What is the name of one of Carol Matas' novels set during World War II?
Answer: *Lisa*, *Daniel's Story*, *Whirlwind*, *Jesper*, *After the War*, *The Garden*, *Greater Than Angels*, *In My Enemy's House*, or *Turned Away*
Sticker: Manitoba
5. What is the name of the Canadian humanitarian who wrote a trilogy about the plight of women in Afghanistan and is the only author to be nominated in two of the 2008 Willow award categories?
Answer: Deborah Ellis
Sticker: Ontario
6. What is the name of the Montreal born author whose 2008 Shining Willow nominated book involves a boy's first foray into a middle school?
Answer: Gordon Korman
Sticker: Quebec
7. What is the novel penned by Kevin Major about the Beothuk Indians of Newfoundland?
Answer: *Blood Red Ochre*
Sticker: Newfoundland
8. What is the name of the author/illustrator whose painting style illustrates his love of the land and the people of Yukon?
Answer: Ted Harrison
Sticker: Yukon
9. What is on the spine of library books to indicate that the book's author is Canadian?
Answer: A maple leaf or Canadian flag
Sticker: Canadian flag

CHALLENGE CANADA MAP



Listen to the announcements and try to solve each question.

Record your class's answer to each question below and hand it in at the end of the contest.

Classes that answer all the questions correctly have won the Canada Challenge and will be awarded a prize.

Classroom: _____

1. _____

4. _____

7. _____

2. _____

5. _____

8. _____

3. _____

6. _____

9. _____

CANADIAN READER'S TRAVEL LOG

Canadian Reader's Travel Log

Place
Stamp
Here

Title: _____

Author: _____

Choice of Product:

Canadian Reader's Travel Log

Place
Stamp
Here

Title: _____

Author: _____

Choice of Product:



Canadian Reader's Travel Log



CANADIAN READER PASSPORT

Read Canadian books – Earn Prizes!

To participate,

Read a book from the Canadian Reader booklist.

In the passport, write the title and author of the book.

Complete one of the choices of products to answer the following questions:



Is the novel an accurate representative of Canadian culture and history?

How is the perspective of the author and/or main character different from your own, a Canadian living in a different geographical area or historical period?

(e.g. ranchers and Atlantic fishermen)

What do the novel's characters tell us about Canada's culture, history and people?

What were the five most distinguishing characteristics of the protagonist and how did they contribute to her/his success or failure?

1. Book response – Post on Amazon or your school library blog
2. Digital Story – Create a video of your connections to the novel.
3. Audio recording – Use Audacity or VoiceThread to record your connections to the novel.
4. Book conference – Set a time to discuss the book with the teacher-librarian
5. Artistic representation of your favourite part of the story
6. Other – Arrange with teacher-librarian

Students who submit a product will receive a Canadian treat.

Readers obtain a stamp (Canadian flag sticker) in their passport at the completion of each reading task.

Students who obtain at least three stickers are invited to the culminating gala.