

CanLit for Kids Can Help

Saskatchewan School Library Association

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SASKATCHEWAN SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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“Studies show that qualified teacher-librarians have systematically sought out Canadian books and other media to ensure that the Canadian experience forms a significant part of each child’s education. But as teacher librarians decline in number, there’s been a drop in the proportion of Canadian books, magazines, videos and electronic resources in school library collections. We are giving up our children’s heritage without even realizing it.” Ken Haycock, Ed.D.- The Crisis in Canada’s School Libraries: The Case for Reform and Re-Investment, June 2003”

“CanLit for Kids Books Ltd. is an all Canadian company specializing in the selection and distribution of Canadian book packages for school libraries. CanLit has been helping schools across Canada meet individual school curricular needs for over 12 years.

CanLit is different from all other book wholesalers and book stores, offering much more than a wide variety of single book titles. It offers a quality library book selection service to assist busy school library staff in building a collection rich in reading materials reflecting on our Canadian heritage and culture.” Glen Turnbull, via email from CanLit for Kids.

A Review Of One Teacher Librarian’s Experience

<http://www.canlitforkids.com/>

With more demands on my teacher librarian time than ever this fall, I was not finding the time I wanted to read reviews and shop for new fiction titles for my library. Although I had been aware of CanLit for Kids for a number of years, this was the first time I ordered from them. The experience has been very positive.

After receiving my account and password, I was able to scan the reviews of books selected for my grade level. I could customize my order by adding or deleting titles if, for example, I already owned some of the titles or wanted to purchase multiple copies or titles from another package. My order was quickly placed online with payment by credit card and within days my order arrived at my high school. In error, one title in my order was not included and two copies of one title were sent. An email fixed the situation: I was told to keep the extra copy and the missed book arrived immediately in the mail. I downloaded MARC records for my order so my central technical department did not have to spend time cataloguing the books. A few of the records wouldn’t open for us, but the rest were well done and meant I could immediately put the books out for students to borrow. I am very pleased with the quality and appeal of the books. They have been circulating continuously and are receiving favourable student comments.

The CanLit for Kids website is extremely clear and user friendly. Information is included about who works with the company and their qualifications, its history, goals and policies, instructions on how to use this service, testimonials and FAQ. There is even a quick video to instruct the downloading of MARC records. An explanation of possible discounts is given. Packages are offered three times a year, Fall, Winter and Spring and include recently released books from a variety of publishers. Packages are tailored for Elementary (Grades K – 5/6 or K – 7), Middle (Grades

6 – 8), and Secondary (Grades 9 – 12). Books with sensitive content or language issues are “flagged” to alert purchasers. I have made contact via email and received a reply the same day. However, there is a toll free phone number and fax number available on the website. Although I used a credit card, other payment options are offered. Multiple copies of several novel studies are available with teacher resources.

I am especially pleased that all the materials available through CanLit for Kids are Canadian. I read many journals containing reviews of books for young people but they are predominantly American. These quality Canadian books relate directly to the experience of our students and promote Canadian authors, illustrators and publishers.

The mandate of CanLit to support school libraries by saving time for busy library staff certainly played out in my situation. The previewing and selecting was done for me by qualified educators who know Canadian young people and provincial curriculum requirements in our schools. The qualifications of the people behind CanLit for Kids are well documented in the About Us section of the website. My dealings with them have echoed the same personal tone set there. My positive experience leads me to recommend this valuable service to you.

Why Order From Canlit For Kids/Teens?

(Thanks to Glen Turnbull @ CanLit for Kids for supplying these reasons.)

- Newly published books by Canadian authors, Canadian illustrators and/or Canadian publishers.
- All books previously reviewed by CanLit professional staff. Each title selected (Elementary Grades) will include teacher notes and lesson ideas created and provided at no extra cost.
- CanLit provides affordable books (in some cases discounted up to 25%) often within weeks of publication date and shipped directly to your school.
- Basic book packages identified by CanLit can be customized for primary, elementary, middle or secondary schools. Substitute titles can be selected if you find you already have a particular book in the shipped package.
- CanLit provides free MARC records for all the books, along with free bookmarks, free posters, free Canadian flag spine labels.
- CanLit selected books and book summaries can be previewed on our website prior to shipping, so as to minimize returns of duplicates or unwanted books and to also meet your needs exactly.