

# THE WESTCOAST READER

## TEACHERS' NOTES



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MAY 2013

### REMEMBERING - FRONT PAGE STORIES

The front page story theme is about remembering: a short history of the Métis and the Komagata Maru, and Stompin' Tom Connors, a Canadian icon who recently passed away.

Ask learners if they remember any other Westcoast Reader news about Canada's history (the Chinese Head Tax and the Japanese internment camps) or if they remember reading about other Canadian icons who have passed away (Milton Wong, Lincoln Alexander, Kenojuak Ashevak). One challenging exercise for adolescent and adult learners is to write their own obituaries in the third person. How would learners like to be remembered? What great things would they like to have achieved? You can find many obituary assignments on-line that you can adapt for your students.

### B.C. ELECTION (p. 2)

Hold a mock election in your class. Set up a ballot box; create a booth and ballots. Before holding this election, talk about how to fill in a ballot. Discuss specific vocabulary such as "election", "vote", "ballot", "candidates", "MLAs", the different B.C. political parties and electoral districts.

Explain to learners that in Canada the secret ballot is a voting method. Voters' choices in an election are anonymous. Tally the votes once learners have cast their secret ballot. (Questions can be answered by calling toll-free 1-800-661-8683.) You can find the electoral district map on our website. You can also check out this interactive electoral literacy application: <http://votecompass.ca/>

### COZY CLASSICS (p. 3)

Go to the Cozy Classics website: <http://www.mycozyclassics.com> to see how these books summarize classics in just 12 words.

Ask learners to choose a story in the May *Westcoast Reader*. Have learners try to summarize each paragraph into just two to three words. Ask them to share the words they chose with the class.

### VOLUNTEERS HELP CATS (p. 3)

Tell readers BC SPCA stands for the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Visit a BC SPCA near you. Have your learners volunteer for part of a day. Explain the words "spay" and "neuter".

### ANSWERS TO EXERCISES

#### True or false (TN p. 2)

(1) Example (2) True (3) False (4) True (5) False (6) False (7) True (8) False

#### Numbers (TN p. 2)

(1) over 100 (2) 2 ½ (3) 2 (4) 600,000 (5) 1,800

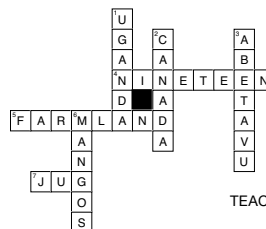
#### Missing verbs (TN p. 3)

(1) died (2) was (3) was (4) played (5) was, had (6) wanted (7) say (8) said (9) stomped

#### Ziggy comic (TN p. 3)

Explain to your learners that a diner is a kind of American restaurant that has counter service. Diner also means a customer in a restaurant. Answers may vary to the second question.

#### Crossword (TN p. 4)



TEACHERS' NOTES BY SHARON CAIRNEY AND NILA GOPAUL  
PHOTO – SIRWISEOWL/FLICHER

## True or false – “Cozy classic books”



PHOTO – JENELLE SCHNEIDER/  
THE VANCOUVER SUN

Choose true or false for each of these sentences.  
If the sentence is true, write “T” beside the sentence.  
If the sentence is false, write “F” beside the sentence,  
and then write the correct answer.

1. Holman and Jack Wang are twins.   T
2. Both brothers went to the University of Toronto.
3. Only Jack makes the felt dolls for the books.
4. Holman became a lawyer.
5. Both brothers have three children.
6. Only Jack takes the photos for the books.
7. The brothers were born in Taiwan.
8. Holman teaches at a college in New York.

## Numbers – “Volunteers help cats”



PHOTO – WARD PERRIN/  
THE VANCOUVER SUN

Circle the correct answer.

1. Volunteers bring        wild cats  
to the animal hospital.  
over 100    over 110    over 140    over 150
2. Wild cats usually only live for        years.  
5    1    2 ½    6
3. A wild female cat has        litters each year.  
1    2    3    4
4. About        wild cats live in Canada.  
600    6,000    60,000    600,000
5. One volunteer saved        wild cats last year.  
18    180    1,800    18,000

## Missing verbs – “Stompin’ Tom Connors dies”



PHOTO — CRAIG HODGE/  
THE VANCOUVER SUN

There are no verbs in parts of the story below.  
Write the correct verb(s) in each sentence.  
Some verbs can be used more than once.

Tom Connors \_\_\_\_\_ on March 6, 2013.  
He \_\_\_\_\_ 77 years old.  
Tom \_\_\_\_\_ a Canadian singer.  
He sang country and folk music.  
He also \_\_\_\_\_ guitar.  
Tom \_\_\_\_\_ married and \_\_\_\_\_ four children.  
He married his wife, Lena, on TV.  
Tom \_\_\_\_\_ all his fans to watch.  
He wanted to share his happiest time.  
People \_\_\_\_\_ he was a true Canadian.  
Tom loved Canada.  
He sang about Canada and Canadian things.  
He \_\_\_\_\_ Canada is “the greatest country  
in the world.”  
People called him Stompin’ Tom.  
Why?  
He played and \_\_\_\_\_ his heel to the music.  
He used his boot to make this sound.

say  
wanted  
was  
stomped  
played  
died  
said  
had

## Ziggy comic

Read the comic. With a partner,  
talk about what is happening  
in the comic.

What is a diner?

Why is the diner closed?



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# Crossword – “Carli’s kids”



PHOTO – THE PROVINCE

Answer the questions below.  
Then fill the answers in the crossword.

1. What country do Carli and Robert live in? \_\_\_\_\_
2. People from what country sent Carli and Robert money for a new house? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What word means “a safe place”? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many children are living with Carli and Robert? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What type of land is Carli and Robert’s house on? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is a sweet fruit that Carli and Robert grow? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What do the older girls use to hold the water? jug

