

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

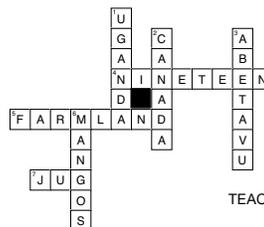
Missing verbs (TN p. 3)

(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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