

# TEACHER'S GUIDE

Grades 7 & 8



Teacher Resource Guide developed by  
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# I BOOK SUMMARY

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Author Merna Forster has created the ultimate guide to cool Canadian women from every corner of the country, featuring famous and forgotten faces in science, sport, politics, war and peace, arts and entertainment, and many other fields. Meet remarkable women in Canadian history, from the adventurous Gudridur the Viking to murdered Mi'kmaq activist Anna Mae Aquash.

This book is full of amazing facts and fascinating trivia about intriguing heroines:

**Elsie Magill** became the first woman in the world to design an airplane and supervised production of the Hawker Hurricane fighter plane – but was never able to fly herself because she'd been crippled by polio.

**Lady Aberdeen** founded the Victorian Order of Nurses to improve health care for women and children and devoted much of her life to the intellectual advancement of women in all walks of life.

**Maude Abbot's** research on congenital heart disease revolutionized that field of medicine.

**Anna Mae Maloney Aquash** devoted her life to improving the quality of life for aboriginal people. Her efforts allowed many native people to receive bicultural education to find jobs and she protested against treaties broken by the government.

**Henrietta Muir Edwards** used the proceeds from the sale of her art work to help women prisoners, the homeless, to found organizations to help women and headed delegations in support of laws protecting women and children.

The actions and contributions of these and many other remarkable women have shaped the Canadian society we know today.

## About the author

Merna Forster developed public education programs for national parks and national historic sites across Canada for twenty years while employed by Parks Canada. She also worked in the field of Canadian Studies. An arts and sciences graduate from the University of Alberta, the author received her M.A. in History at Laval University as a Richard J. Schmeelk Canada Fellow. A recipient of the Canada 125 Commemorative Medal from the Governor General, the native of Alberta has been discovering historical heroines from coast to coast during her travels in Canada. Merna now lives in Victoria with her husband and two sons. She can be contacted through her website at [www.heroines.ca](http://www.heroines.ca).

## II CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

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*100 Canadian Heroines Famous and Forgotten Faces* may be used to study the elements and features of biographies, components of non-fiction text, how a society may be irrevocably changed on many levels because of the actions and contributions of one person (activism), characteristics and qualities of a hero/heroine, and writing and speaking in role.

### Language, Social Studies, History (Intermediate level)

- Examine the features of non-fiction text (O.C. Gr. 7/8: Reading 2.1)
- Examine big ideas/questions such as: How might we change undesirable social issues that exist in our society? Why do we have a responsibility to help those who cannot help themselves? ( O.C. Gr. 7/8 : Reading 1.5)
- Conduct a literature or information circle (online or face-to-face) to discuss the questions, issues, and perspectives this book addresses as well as issues that exist in our community, city, and the world at large. (O.C. Gr. 7/8: Reading 1.1 – 1.9; Oral Communication 1.1 – 1.8 and 2.2 – 2.4; Social Studies Gr. 6 – Canada’s Links to the World; History Gr. 7 – Conflict and Change; Gr. 8 Canada: A Changing Society)
- Write a persuasive argument/speech supporting the perspective of one of several points of view that existed regarding one of the issues addressed in the biographies. Present your argument in the role of the heroine. Convince the audience why you took on the cause and what you hoped to accomplish. (O.C. Gr. 7/8: Reading 1.7, 1.9; Writing 1.1 – 4.3; Oral Communication 1.1 – 3.2)

### OR

- Select a person you believe could be considered a Canadian hero/heroine. Follow the Research Process outlined in *Imagine the Learning*. Gather information about that person including why they took on the issue or problem, what they accomplished, and how it influenced/changed Canadian Society. Present your case to the audience and convince them to accept your person as a Canadian hero/heroine. (O.C. Gr. 6 Social Studies – Canada’s Links to the World; History Gr. 7 – Conflict and Change; Gr. 8 Canada: A Changing Society)
- Write a news or magazine article related to the contributions made by one of the Canadian heroines or one of the issues they worked to overcome/change.(O.C. Gr. 7/8: Reading 1.7, 2.2; Writing 1.1 – 4.3; Media Literacy 3.1 – 4.2; Gr. 6 social Studies – Canada’s Links to the World; History Gr. 7 – Conflict and Change; Gr. 8 Canada: A Changing Society)

- Develop questions and a script for conducting an interview with one of the Canadian heroines. Videotape the interview(s) to create a media work. This could also be a forum for a televised debate relating to one of the social issues of the time. (O.C. Gr. 7/8: Reading 1.7, 2.2; Writing 1.1 – 4.3; Media Literacy 3.1 – 4.2; Oral Communication 1.1 – 3.2; History Gr. 7 – Conflict and Change; Gr. 8 Canada: A Changing Society)
- Create a comic strip or graphic novel about someone that could be considered a Canadian hero/heroine using Comic Life software. Include the social issue or problem that needed/needs to be changed/solved, how this was/might be accomplished, and how it affected or how you predict it would affect Canadian society as we know it today. (O.C. Gr. 7/8: Media Literacy 3.1-4.2; Writing 1.1-4.3; History Gr. 7 – Conflict and Change; Gr. 8 Canada: A Changing Society)

# III CHARACTER EDUCATION

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Compare and contrast some of the Canadian heroines. Determine the qualities that characterize a hero/heroine. In view of this, discuss the following statement: “One person can change the world”. (O.C. History Gr. 7 – Conflict and Change; Gr. 8 Canada: A Changing Society)

## IV RELATED RESOURCES

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- Education Department of Western Australia. *First Steps Writing Resource Book*. Australia: Addison Wesley Longman, 1994.
- Harvey. S. *Nonfiction Matters: Reading, Writing, and Research in Grades 3-8*. Markham: Pembroke Publishing Limited, 1998.
- Koechlin, C., and S. Zwaan. *Info Tasks for Successful Learning*. Markham: Pembroke Publishers, 2001.
- Kuhlthau, C., L. K. Maniotes, and A. K. Caspari. *Guided inquiry: learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century*. Westport: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 2007.
- McCloud, Scott. *Making Comics*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2006).
- Ministry of Education of Ontario. *The Ontario Curriculum Grades 1 – 8: Language*. Ministry of Education of Ontario, 2006
- Richards, Will. *Blogs, Wikis, Podcasts, and other Powerful Web Tools for Classrooms*. Thousands Oaks: Corwin Press, 2009.
- Toronto District School Board. *Genre Gems*. Toronto District School Board, 2006.
- Toronto District School Board. *Just the Facts*. Toronto District School Board, 2003.
- Toronto District School Board. *Media Studies*, Toronto District School Board, 2006.
- Toronto District School Board. *Imagine the Learning*. Toronto District School Board, 2007.