

Greetings! A recent NEA study indicated that half of new American teachers quit teaching within their first five years due to low pay and poor working conditions. In case any of you are feeling undervalued as the school year ends, I'd like to personally tip my hat to you with **thanks for all you do!!!** As a former secondary-level English teacher, I'm aware that, at this time of year, green spaces and blue waters are beckoning both you and your students to play outdoors. With that in mind, I thought it appropriate to offer a "green" teaching focus to this issue.

Did you know that while it takes 10 liters of water to manufacture *one* liter of gasoline, it only takes one liter of oil to contaminate *two million* liters of water? Did you know that BC's Lower Fraser Valley is one of the three areas in Canada most prone to urban smog, that more than half of all Canadians live in areas where ground-level ozone reaches unacceptable levels during the summer and that 8% of non-traumatic deaths in Canadian cities are attributable to air pollution caused by burning fossil fuels?

Canadians **do** recognize the need to reduce human impact on the environment for a sustainable future and the first item below tells you what they're doing about it. You'll discover that even Canada's biggest cities are finding innovative and effective ways to improve the balance of things: Toronto was the first North American city to legislate green roof technologies; Montreal uses biodiesel as its fuel for mass transit; Vancouver has become such a model for urban sustainability that urban planners worldwide use it as a model.

It's an "old school" lesson but, this summer, we can literally make our world a better place by getting out from behind the wheel and traveling by foot, bicycle or bus. The average Canadian urban resident uses public transit 2.7 times more than the average U.S. urban resident and the average trip distance traveled by car in a U.S. city is twice the distance traveled by a car in Canada's largest city. Let's lessen the differences between us.

I hope you have a wonderful summer and I'll be back in touch with you in September. Tina Storer

What is the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on? — Henry David Thoreau

Reply with "Please remove my name from the Canada Listserv" should you no longer wish to receive this email. This resource notice is also available on the K-12 STUDY CANADA website under "K-12 News". K-12 STUDY CANADA represents shared outreach by WWU's Center for Canadian-American Studies & UW's Canadian Studies Center that jointly form the Pacific Northwest National Resource Center for Canada, funded by the USDOE (Title VI). Additional support is given by the Government of Canada.

1) GOING GREEN IN CANADA - The May/June 2006 publication of **Canadian Geographic** is their annual environmental issue and this year it delves into Canada's efforts to integrate urban and natural environments to promote sustainability. Without even buying a copy of the magazine, you can view much of it online at <http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/magazine/MJ06/indepth>. After going through the feature stories, be sure to check out the multimedia games, surveys and quizzes at the "interactive midway". I hope you learn as much as I did while exploring their terrific site with your students!

2) EXPLORING CITIZENSHIP - The Canadian Education Association created a new website meant to encourage educators and the wider community to explore questions and issues surrounding citizenship and to assist students acquire global perspectives. The resource is divided into sections on citizenship and education, challenges & strategies, research resources, and "stories of citizenship". The last section drew most of my attention and I found the personal stories to be valuable teaching tools for discussing "cultural mosaic" versus "melting pot" approaches to immigration and acculturation. Visit <http://www.cea-ace.ca/foo.cfm> if this will assist your curriculum.

3) CANADAWIKI - The Civics Channel has announced the launch of *Canadawiki* (<http://canadawiki.org/index.php>) a new portal designed for students of Canada's History, Politics, Geography, Provinces, Places, Economy, Population, Aboriginal, Biography and Culture. Canadawiki is a collaborative site for teachers and learners, experts and interested Canadians and Canadianists. Users are welcome to add value to this portal by building and managing their own national, provincial, civic and local content. For example, a classroom might want to make a list of all their town's mayors, or create a census, or produce a community timeline, or create a hockey team history. Any school, or teacher, or expert who wants to contribute can do so if they ask for a password. Contact: Alastair Sweeny, PhD, Executive Director, The Civics Channel, Inc., Suite 3, 291 Kirchoffer Ave., Ottawa ON K2A 1Y1. Tel: (613) 725-1956.

4) CANADA'S HISTORY IS ON SALE AT THE CBC! - The excellent docudrama that took two years for the CBC to produce, *Canada: A People's History*, is on sale at their online store. Only the VHS series is on sale and one of the sets isn't available! Nonetheless, it's a bargain to pay only \$9.99 per set instead of \$49.99 each! Visit the "history" section of the VHS/DVDs at <http://www.cbcshop.ca> to order it for your classroom or school!

5) CANADIAN RECIPE OF THE MONTH - To stay with the green theme, I planned to include a Canadian salad recipe but discovered that was the name of a concoction of Canadian whiskeys, etc. Instead you'll be treated to a sweet Canadian treat -- butter tarts. At <http://pie.allrecipes.com/az/CanadianButterTarts.asp> it states, "This recipe ... has been made and perfected many times over the years. The tarts are the classic runny type, one of the few true Canadian concoctions. (You can add walnuts and coconut, if you like, but it's more common to just have raisins.)"

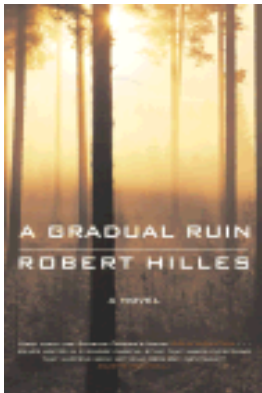
Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour	1 egg
1 cup shortening	1/2 tablespoon butter
1/2 teaspoon salt	1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
5 tablespoons ice water	1 tablespoon hot water
1 cup packed brown sugar	1/2 cup raisins

Directions:

1. Fill a cup with ice and water. Sift the flour and salt into a bowl. Cut in the shortening to make pea-size pieces. Add the tablespoons of ice water from the cup until dough holds together. Form the dough into a ball. The dough is now complete. Put it into a plastic bag or wrap it up and refrigerate for at least 15 minutes.
2. Roll the dough between two sheets of waxed paper. Cut the shells using a large glass or your smallest pot. You should have about 12 shells when finished. Put these shells into a greased muffin or tart pan.
3. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C)
4. Fill the bottom of each tart shell with about 10 raisins each.
5. Whisk together sugar, egg, butter, vanilla & hot water. Pour mixture into tart shells, filling 2/3 full and no more.
6. Bake in 450 degrees F (230 degrees C) oven for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool before attempting to remove. Makes 12 tarts.

6) RUTH WRITER'S REVIEW OF ADULT FICTION - Robert Hilles. *A Gradual Ruin*. (Toronto: Anchor Canada, 2004.) ISBN # 0 385 65962 8



The Montreal Gazette describes Robert Hilles' novel *A Gradual Ruin* as a *Cold Mountain*-type story. Whatever the description, award-winning poet Robert Hilles certainly captures the essence of two families in two very different parts of the world. One family lives in rural Manitoba. Readers learn of the dilemmas facing the toughened family with two surviving daughters who take off to live on their own. Through this family we learn Manitoba farm life during the depression and world wars. Shirley and Alice move to Winnipeg only to discover a new type of dilemma, one which will alter their lives forever. Alice moves from Winnipeg, marries and has two children. Judith, her eldest, also discovers the dilemmas of living in a home without the luxuries of the Canadian middle class.

The second focus of *A Gradual Ruin* is Tommy Armstrong. He is also from Manitoba and joins the armed forces during World War II. In richly descriptive passages, one becomes involved in the lives of the Canadians at war. He is caught behind enemy lines in Germany during the last stages of the war. He meets a young girl who becomes his friend and travel companion only to lose her. Later in a quest to find the young girl's family, he is captured again but this time by the Soviets. After years in a prison work camp, Tommy escapes. Again he meets a young woman who assists in his escape to the Canadian Embassy in Moscow. After a second loss, Tommy returns to Canada.

These two seemingly different stories join together years later on a desolate highway near Winnipeg. The lives of Tommy and Judith become one story in a fascinating twist of fate. This is an enjoyable read and gives interesting insight into life in both Canada and Europe over a half century ago.

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