

Canadian Story Starters

Grades 7-8

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Photos by S&S Learning Materials**

About the author:

Ruth Solski was an educator for 30 years. She has written many educational resources and is the founder of S&S Learning Materials. As a writer, her main goal is to provide teachers with a useful tool that they can implement in their classrooms to bring the joy of learning to children.

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At Glance

Learning Expectations

Through the meaningful context of creative writing, students will:

- ✓ Generate, gather, and organize ideas and information to interpret a variety of photographs
- ✓ Apply evidence from the images and their own knowledge and personal experience
- ✓ Develop the ability to think creatively and independently and to order ideas in a logical manner
- ✓ Communicate ideas clearly and effectively
- ✓ Communicate ideas for specific purposes and specific audiences
- ✓ Apply previously learned basic skills of grammar, spelling, punctuation, and conventions of style and form
- ✓ Identify and order main ideas and supporting details and group them into units that could be used to develop a multi-paragraph piece of writing
- ✓ Practise proofreading and editing skills





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Canadian Story Starters



Introduction

The collection of 58 engaging and detailed photographs will inspire students to reflect on aspects of their own country and to write creatively about it. Images will stimulate critical thinking and writing abilities in order to be engaged in a meaningful activity. The photographs may be used as “starters” for a variety of forms of writing, and can be used to augment any writing program. They may also be used to teach different forms of sentence writing to ESL students or for students who have difficulty brainstorming ideas on a topic. The worksheets may also be used as a meaningful “filler” activity when students have extra classroom time.

Organization of the Book

This resource is divided into six sections based on the primary story genre of the photographs:

1. Canadian Nature
2. Canadian Symbols
3. Canadian Places
4. Canadian People
5. Canadian Sports
6. Canadian Machines

Each story starter includes a photograph pertaining to an aspect, place or activity seen in Canada, a blank word box, a blank line for the story’s title, and numbered blank lines for the story itself.

The photograph should be discussed and key words brainstormed and written in the word box.

The blank lines are numbered so that you may easily give students instructions on how long their creative writing piece should be. They may also be used for brainstorming ideas and sentences pertaining to the photograph. Sentences could then be edited, changes and arranged in sequential order and in paragraphs to create a meaningful piece of writing on Canada. The story could then be recorded neatly on the blank reproducible activity worksheet found on page 64.

For easy reference, the story genre and photograph number are listed at the bottom of each page.

Students may be given the Editing Checklist and Proofreader’s Marks (page 5) either before or after writing a story. The checklist is a useful guide for proofreading their stories, and the chart of proofreader’s marks lists the commonly used symbols, or shorthand, and their meanings.

How to Use the Photographs

The Canadian story starters may be used as springboards for a variety of forms of creative writing. The most common use is for a short story. Students who would benefit from other writing challenges may enjoy using the story starters to write any of the following:

- Poetry
- Biography or autobiography of a person in the photograph
- Newspaper article or editorial about the event, issue, person or thing represented in the photograph
- Diary or personal journal entry of a person in the photograph
- Travel magazine description of the place in the photograph
- Research activity on the Internet to locate information for writing a description



Name: _____



**Brainstorm
Word List**



(Title)

1 _____

2 _____

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14 _____

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Name: _____



**Brainstorm
Word List**



(Title)

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Name: _____



**Brainstorm
Word List**



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