

Willa's New World by Barbara Demers

Coteau Books, 1999

ISBN: 9781550501506

<http://www.amazon.ca/dp/155050150X/?tag=canadianchildrensbookcentre-20>

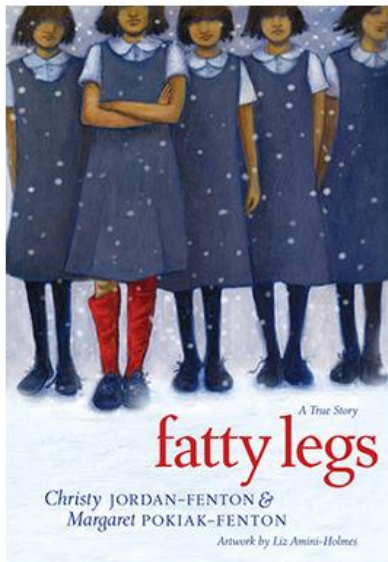
http://coteaubooks.com/assets/HTML/pdfs/teacher_resources/resource_147.pdf

Summary

This is the story of Willa, a 15-year old girl from London England, who winds up at a trading post on the western shore of Hudson's Bay in 1795. She survives on her own, using her wit and resourceful nature to convince the trading post master to hire her as a clerk. She can read and write, so he takes her on happily. She becomes friends with a First Nations woman named Amelia, a young girl who works as the company's cook. Willa begins to fit in to life at the fort, and begins to understand the various roles the Europeans and the First Nations people have in the fur trade. Rather than get married, Willa decides to move on and explore the Canadian interior, eventually travelling as far as Fort Edmonton on the Saskatchewan River.

Math Connection:

Problem Solving - Grade 5 - Patterning & Algebra - investigate the understanding of variables as changing quantities. Since Willa works at the trading post in the story, a problem can be created based on the bartering system in place there. The story also makes a great Social Studies connection for Grade 5 as well.



Fatty Legs

by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton, with Liz Amini-Holmes

Annick Press, 2010

ISBN: 978-1554512461

<http://www.annickpress.com/Fatty-Legs>

Summary:

An 8-year old girl named Margaret wants to learn to read and must leave her home in the arctic in order to attend a residential school. Her father begrudgingly allows her to go, after warning her about the dangers and horrible stories about the residential schools, and she makes a 5-day journey there. The school is run by nuns and Margaret encounters a nun, whom she calls the Raven, that dislikes her enough to make her existence miserable. She humiliates her in front of the school by giving her red stockings that stand out. Margaret stands up to the cruelty by throwing the stockings away and confronts the nun who had tormented her.

Math Connection:

Problem Solving - Grade 5 Number Sense/Measurement - solve problems involving multiplication of whole numbers; Understanding elapsed time given the duration of events

Involve students in Margaret's 5 day journey to calculate the distance and elapsed time traveled each day with a teacher created problem.