



Adam and Stephen get lost in the woods and have to come to terms with a secret that threatens their friendship. (Grades 8 and Up)

Out in the Open is an honest look at homophobia, friendship, social pressure and navigating the complicated truths of teenage relationships.



Out in the Open pictured: Gaelan Beatty and Raes Calvert (photos: Dennis de la Haye, 2011)

B.C. Tour: Spring 2012

National Tour: Fall 2012

"[...]a realistic portrayal of a relevant issue which would have the students sit up and take notice"
-Runa Bjarnason-Wilson, Teacher, BC SD 6

"Tremendously clever, well-written and humorous [...] It was very well-received by staff and students and led to some meaningful classroom discussions in the days following the viewing of the play"

-Roger Wiebe, Vice-Principal, BC SD 39

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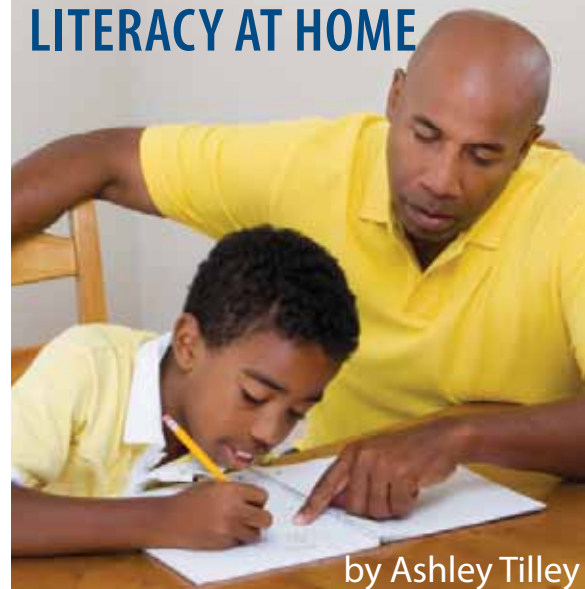
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ENCOURAGE LITERACY AT HOME



by Ashley Tilley

Children raised in literate households are likely to enter grade one with several thousand hours of one to one pre-reading experience behind them. But what about children who have limited access to learning opportunities at home?

Approximately nine million adult Canadians suffer from low literacy; hundreds of thousands of these individuals have children. Unfortunately, some of these children end up falling behind in school because they are not given the same opportunity as their peers to read at home and engage in early learning activities.

Encouraging parents to take time every day to read or do a learning activity with their children is crucial to a child's development. Even just fifteen minutes a day can improve a child's literacy skills dramatically, and can help parents improve their skills as well.

We know that parents lead busy lives and may not have time to read to their children. Add to that parents who have low reading confidence, and the result is that some children almost never enjoy a bedtime story.

Teachers have an opportunity to remind parents about the benefits of learning at home and at school. To ensure both children and adults are improving their literacy skills, encourage parents to do fun activities that are part of daily routines or that don't feel like learning—playing a board game, writing out a shopping list, counting out change at the grocery store or following a recipe all incorporate literacy and learning.

Alternatively, assign homework that involves the whole family to get parents involved in their children's learning. Ask children to write a story with a parent or guardian, or perhaps create a family tree together.

Family Literacy Day, taking place across Canada on January 27, is the perfect opportunity to encourage learning at home. There are so many learning opportunities in daily life—we just have to embrace them!

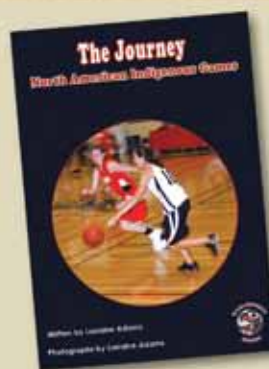
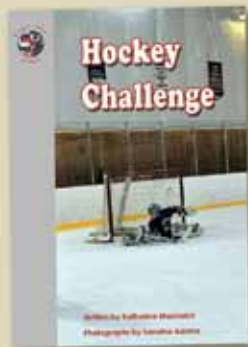
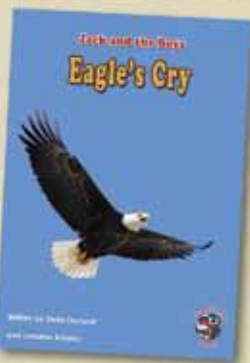
For more information on Family Literacy Day, including tips, activities and event ideas, visit www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca.

Ashley Tilley is the Communications Coordinator at ABC Life Literacy Canada.



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Classroom Energy Diet CHALLENGE

FEBRUARY 6 – MARCH 30, 2012

TIPS AND TRICKS TO REDUCE YOUR ENERGY USE

With these great energy saving ideas, you can make a real difference in your classroom, at home and for your planet!

AT SCHOOL

1. Ask your parent/guardian for permission to carpool, take public transportation, walk or bike to and from school.
2. Use reusable lunch bags and containers.
3. Use a refillable water bottle rather than a disposable one.
4. Make sure to use both sides of a piece of paper. Create a bin for paper that is still blank on one side.
5. See how you can reuse non-recyclable items for art projects, pencil holders, textbook covers, etc.

AT HOME TOO

1. In the summer, keep your windows covered during the day to reduce the need for air conditioning. In the winter, allow the light to shine through and save on heating.
2. Turn off all lights when not needed.
3. Unplug electronic devices when not in use. This will reduce wasted power.
4. Take short showers instead of filling the bathtub.
5. Try eating a vegetarian or vegan meal one day a week, or follow a vegetarian diet for one week a month.

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