

# Canadian Mini Lessons

## Improving Reading, Writing & Grammar Skills

— Grade 2 —

Written by Eleanor M. Summers

Your emerging reader will enjoy the stories and activities while further developing literacy skills. The stories, concepts and skills are Canadian content, grade appropriate and aligned to the Canadian Language Arts curriculum.

This resource consists of two parts:

### Section 1: Reading Skills

- Uses Canadian content for all stories and activities.
- Offers reading experiences in a variety of genres: fiction, non-fiction, poems
- Provides a variety of activities that are based on skills in the Canadian curriculum.
- Extends the stories with real life applications.
- Answer Key to make checking answers quick and easy.

### Section 2: Grammar and Writing Skills

- Activities to practice and reinforce vocabulary development, spelling, grammar, punctuation and creative writing.
- Skills are based on the Canadian curriculum.
- Answer Key to make checking answers quick and simple.



**Eleanor Summers** is a retired elementary teacher who continues to assist young children with the development of their literacy skills. Her goal is to write creative and practical resources for teachers to use in their literacy programs.

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# At Glance™

<b>Learning Expectations Section 1</b>	Our Country Canada	The Canadian Moose	Sugar from the Trees	Swimming Home	Life in the Pack	Our Canadian Flag	Pumpkins! Pumpkins!	Saving Our Water	Before the White Man Came	The Northern Lights	Groundhog Day	Canadian Money	Fun in Canada	The RCMP and the Musical Ride
<b>Reading Skills</b>														
• Using Context Clues	•							•				•		
• Classify Sentences													•	•
• Following Directions	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
• Classifying Details		•		•										
• Sequential Ordering			•				•							
• Recalling Details					•				•		•			
• Brainstorming						•		•						
• Ordering Words to Make Sentences										•				
<b>Word Study / Language Skills</b>														
• Alphabetical Order	•								•					
• Spelling		•											•	•
• Word Meanings							•				•	•		•
• Syllabication					•							•		
• Rhyming						•								
• Antonyms, Synonyms										•				
• Plural Nouns														•
• Subject/Verb Agreement	•						•							
• Kinds of Nouns		•						•	•					•
<b>Phonics</b>														
• Consonant Blends				•										
• Double Vowels											•			
• Vowel Digraphs						•								
• Consonant Digraphs			•			•								
• Long/Short Vowels					•									



# At Glance™

Learning Expectations Section 2	Busy Beavers	The Snowy Owl	Catch a Lizard	My Dog, Artie	To the Top and Back	How Did Canada Get Its Name?	Dinosaurs	Homes of the Early Natives	The Poppy	Canada Shares Resources	Canada's First Prime Minister	Snow Day!!	Hank the Cowboy	What is Community?	Little Brown Bear and the Honey	Maple Sap
	<b>Language Skills</b>															
• Recognizing Sentences	•															
• Writing Descriptive Sentences		•														
• Capitalization/Punctuation		•	•	•	•					•						
• Spelling Words		•														
• Completing Questions															•	
• Writing Sentences			•	•		•										
• Kinds of Sentences		•		•	•											
• Completing a Story																
• Recognition of Subject/Predicate						•	•	•								
• Matching Subject/Sentence						•	•	•								
• Subject/Verb Agreement								•	•							
• Identify Nouns, Verbs									•		•					
• Recognize Singular/Plural Nouns									•							
• Punctuation										•						
• Pronouns												•	•			
• Subject, Object												•				
• Prepositions														•		
• Adjectives															•	
• Using Connecting Words "and" or "but"																•





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"Long ago, people had to work very hard to make sugar."

Mr. Dixon told us this story about a Native girl who helped her parents.

"Today we are going to hear a story called "Sugar from Trees," said Mr. Dixon. Jack and Jim smiled at each other. Yum! Sweets!

## Sugar from the Trees

1. Shining Star lived a long, long time ago. She lived in a teepee in a village near a great forest. Spring was her favourite time of year.
2. "Winter is almost over," said Shining Star's father. "The snow and ice will soon all be gone away." "Would you like to help me get the log ready?" he asked Shining Star.
3. Shining Star loved helping her father with this job. First, they cut down a big tree. Then they cut off all the branches. Father worked hard to make a big hole in the tree. Shining Star helped to hollow out the tree.
4. Soon, Mother, Father and Shining Star went into the forest. Father made a small hole in each maple tree. They put pails under the holes to catch the sap. When the buckets were full, they put the sap into the hollow log.
5. Mother made a big fire and put some stones in it. When the stones were very hot, Mother put them into the sap. The stones made the sap very hot and brown and sticky.
6. After a while, Mother took some of the sap out of the log. She put the hot, brown sap on the snow. "Come and taste the maple sugar," Mother called. It was delicious!





## Sugar from the Trees



### C. Consonant Digraphs

The letters "ch," "sh," "th" and "wh" are consonant digraphs.

Two letters go together to make one sound.

Consonant digraphs can be at the first, in the middle or at the end of words.

Examples: **chicken, weather, witch**

Read the words in this list. Circle the digraphs.

Write each word under the correct heading.

cheese	shut	thin	whale	teacher	fish
feather	whiskers	church	wishes	brother	wheel
chase	shell	sixth	why		

"ch"

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"sh"

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"th"

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"wh"

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