

Author/Illustrator School Presentations Based on:

GROWING UP IN WILD HORSE CANYON

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An Advanced Picture Book Exploring Two Centuries of History in the Okanagan

KAREN AUTIO (AUTHOR) | LORAIN KEMP (ILLUSTRATOR) | SONO NIS PRESS

Okanagan History Like You've Never Seen it Before



Syilx Man on a Quest



Wild Stallion Steals Mare from Cattle Drivers

In a hidden Okanagan canyon, a ponderosa pine tree sprouts and begins to grow. Seasons pass and the tree's growth becomes the measure of human history in the Okanagan Valley, from First Nations quests to fur brigades, horse wrangling, secret wartime commando training, and the firestorm of 2003. Richly illuminated by realistic paintings, maps, and historical images and informed by a timeline and historical notes, this fascinating book interweaves First Peoples history with European settlement and the natural history of animals and plants. While broad in its scope, the story is intensely personal, following the thread of one tree growing in one sheltered and sacred space. This book is a unique approach to history that will delight readers of all ages.

- First book of Okanagan history written for young readers ages 6–12
- Melding of fiction with fact
- Excellent Social Studies resource and tool for:
 - introducing research from a fictional text with historical notes
 - exploring key events and developments in the local community, and local First Peoples communities, addressing how the Okanagan is different now from what it was like before settlers arrived

- sequencing significant Okanagan events, people, and places, looking at changes over time, providing a timeline from pre-contact to current day
- exploring culture, history, and artifacts of the local Syilx people, showing their value of the well-being of self and the land and its resources
- learning how to use legends on maps and timelines to interpret or represent specific information

“The usage of the ponderosa pine as the root of the story ... speaks to what we often take for granted, which is the history of place and all that has taken place before us and leaves us to wonder what may happen afterwards. The absolutely stunning illustrations well represent not just the people but the surrounding environment, making history come alive. This book will really help those who are from this area or are just visiting to appreciate all that the Okanagan has to offer beyond the tourist traps and golf courses. It’s the natural beauty of the land that reverberates what the [Syilx] Okanagan Song speaks of: *We are beautiful because the land is beautiful. We are beautiful because we are Okanagan.*”—**Jordan Coble, Westbank First Nation Member and Curatorial and Heritage Researcher, Sncəwips Heritage Museum**

Author/Illustrator School Presentations for Grades 3 to 6

Karen Autio and Loraine Kemp start with a joint 45-minute presentation on the story behind this picture book collaboration, then separately lead writing and illustration workshops.

Writing Workshop

After sharing examples of turning historical research into fiction, Karen guides students in creative writing exercises inspired by old photographs and the life of a fur trader. She then uses the timeline of *Growing Up in Wild Horse Canyon* for a brainstorming session of making predictions about how the Okanagan might change in the future. Students create their own timeline that explores the history of place. For more information about Karen’s writing, visit www.karenautio.com

Illustration Workshop

During Loraine’s workshops, she shows her drawings from elementary school, and explains how her attention to detail improved as she got older. She guides students through fun drawing exercises using her secrets for accuracy. Children come away enthused about drawing and more confident in their approach. For more information about Loraine’s illustrating, visit www.lorainekemp.com

To enquire about booking author/illustrator presentations, please contact:

Karen at kwautio@telus.net or 250-764-3247 or Loraine at j.l.kemp@shaw.ca or 250-764-7114