

Although he espouses a philosophy of integrating group process activities with curriculum content, at no time does he really develop an example. Instead, many isolated, game-oriented possibilities are listed for each stage, leaving this rather difficult task up to the teacher. For the creative educator this would present no problem, but for others it might tend to promote a random and direct application of the suggestions without consideration as to the specific curriculum needs of the particular classroom situation.

This potential problem could have been alleviated if Stanford had devoted more time to developing one example at each stage, demonstrating how it specifically met both the group development and curriculum needs. The remaining examples could then have been organized in an appendix. In addition, this approach would have made the reading of the text more fluid and cohesive.

The more sophisticated teacher might prefer to be exposed to some other theories (for example, the work of Shutz, Parson and Bales, Gibbs) if only briefly; this would mesh Stanford's sequential development into an overall theoretical framework. As it stands, though, the book still provides a useful focus for this type of teacher. It can be used as a form of checklist for the teacher's performance, gives the encouragement to pursue one's beliefs, and sparks one's interest in reading further. Furthermore, it definitely offers a challenge to a teacher to use Stanford's ideas as a springboard, from which to develop other creative, relevant applications and experimentations for a particular classroom situation.

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George Woodcock.
GABRIEL DUMONT.
Ontario: Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 1978.
64 pp. \$2.95.
Martin Spigelman.
WILFRID LAURIER.
Ontario: Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 1978.
64 pp. \$2.95.

Gabriel Dumont and *Wilfrid Laurier* are two books in a ninety-volume series of biographies of Canadian men and women designed to be used in Canadian Studies at the secondary school level.

Gabriel Dumont will be known to most readers as the person appointed by Louis Riel to lead the Métis against the Canadian militia in the North West Rebellion of 1885. In this biography, however, the author tells the story of Dumont against a wider time frame: the transformation of life on the prairies from a hunting economy to a market economy in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

The reader learns about the way Dumont was socialized into Métis society, how he became a crack marksman and head of the Saskatchewan buffalo hunt, his emergence as a negotiator of peace treaties with the Sioux and Blackfoot, his election as head of the community of St. Laurent, and his appointment by Riel as Adjutant General of the Métis Nation.

The book naturally focuses attention on the later events in which the partly nomadic Métis are pushed from the south by American cavalry and hemmed in from the east by the advancing frontier of settlement. In his role as military leader of the rebellion, Dumont was an extremely clever strategist: his men won over incredible odds at Fish Creek. Unfortunately, Dumont's astute military plans were frequently vetoed by Riel, who lacked both a sense of timing and a detailed knowledge of the terrain. It is quite possible that, if Dumont had had his own way, Ottawa might have been persuaded to negotiate a just settlement with the Métis rather than to crush them coldly by force.

In this biography, Dumont emerges as a man of great courage, as a practitioner of the democratic process and, essentially, as a man who deeply believed in peaceful methods of settling disputes but who ultimately resorted to violence when all other alternatives had failed.

It is coincidental that Wilfrid Laurier, the subject of Martin Spigelman's biography, spoke eloquently in defense of the Métis cause in the House of Commons in 1885. Laurier, who later was to become Canada's eighth prime minister, was raised by his family as a bilingual and bicultural young man. Despite strong pressures from the community, Laurier was sent for a time to live with an English-speaking, Protestant family and began to appreciate English culture and to understand that people of different backgrounds could be generous towards each other. Later, Laurier attended Collège de l'Assomption and McGill University.

Laurier's initiation into provincial and federal politics, the growth of his belief in Liberalism, and the development of his political acumen are clearly and interestingly analysed. These aspects of his personal development help the reader to understand Laurier's later fight against ultramontanism in Quebec, his stand on the Manitoba schools question (1896), his government's posture towards the Boer War (1899) and, as well, its handling of the Naval Service Bill (1910).

In the course of his career, Laurier is shown to be a highly skilled politician, who handled divisive issues with great tact, and who was always strongly committed to the goal of national unity. Yet the author reveals both his strengths and weaknesses realistically and explains Laurier's eventual fall from power.

Both books have a pleasing format, and they are extensively illustrated. *Gabriel Dumont* suffers, to some extent, from the lack of suitable maps, and the reader must refer to an historical atlas to follow some parts of the text intelligently. *Wilfrid Laurier* could have included more documentary quotations: there is little evidence of Laurier as the persuasive, silver-tongued orator. On balance, however, both books will add an important human dimension to the study of Canada's military and political history.

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Ivon Owen and Morris Wolfe, ed.
THE BEST MODERN CANADIAN SHORT STORIES.
Edmonton: Hurtig, 1978
318 pp. \$12.95.

James H. Pickering, ed.
FICTION 100.
New York: MacMillan, 2nd edition, 1978.
1086 pp. \$5.95 paper.

Two recent short story books, *The Best Modern Canadian Short Stories* and *Fiction 100*, show in contrast just how much Canadian literature has come of age.

The American-edited book is a typical short story anthology, ordered alphabetically and including most of the well-known British, U.S., and foreign language (in translation) writers: Poe, de Maupassant, Chekhov, Kipling, Joyce, among many others. It contains not one Canadian story, despite the editor's association with a university in the border state of Michigan.

The Owen and Wolfe collection by its excellence emphasizes this omission, which I can attribute only to ignorance of the existence of any quality Canadian short stories. An oral reading of one of them, "A Broken Globe" by Henry Kreisel, impressed my class of students training to teach high school English, even those who seemed prejudiced against Canadian literature. All the stories are different: different in authors (all the famous Canadian fiction writers