

Using historical fiction and film to understand history

Our next unit will focus on using primary and secondary material to understand history. We will begin by watching a film *Bon Cop, Bad Cop* to determine what can be learned about political, social and economic circumstances.

As you watch the film, consider the following questions:

1. How does the film portray the differences between French and English communities?
2. What does the film say about crime and justice in Canada? Cite examples to prove your point.
3. What do you learn about the role of hockey in Canada?
4. How would you describe the socio-political circumstances of the community? Use examples relating to who has power, how people relate to each other (ethnic minorities, women/men). How are institutions or systems portrayed? (family, education, church, work, school)
5. Is the film an accurate depiction of Canada? Justify.

This film assignment is to prepare you for the novel study in April. The novel assignment will be to read a Canadian novel and then in a group of no more than 3 students create a booklet with the following components:

1. What is the novel about? (plot synopsis) ____4 marks (knowledge & skills k & s) 150 word **maximum**.
2. What can the reader learn about the following:
 - a. social relations (family, gender, communities) ____4 marks (k & s)
 - b. economic circumstances (work, wealth, poverty) ____ 4 marks
 - c. politics (Who has power or authority? Why? How is it used?) ____4 marks
3. What kind of physical representations (images) are presented of the time? Describe the people (clothing, conflicts, attitude) and the physical environment (homes, cities, streets, transportation, battlefields). Not every novel will contain all of the above representations; focus on what your novel does best. Provide full descriptions with quotations used for emphasis. ____/ 4 marks (Knowledge and skills)
4. Find actual pictures and descriptions from the time period (decade surrounding) to compare to the novel representations you provide above. Evaluate the author's ability to accurately convey the physical world. ____/4 marks
5. Research the time period and provide brief summaries of the three most important events that occurred during the time that relate to the novel's theme or subject matter. Discuss whether the novel provides adequate and appropriate context. ____ /4 marks (Knowledge and skills)
6. Write a 250 word evaluation of the value of the novel to history students. ____/4 marks (Skills)
7. Properly cite your sources using footnotes and a bibliography. All sources must be cited including your novel. ____/3 marks