

Author–Illustrator School and Library Presentations Based on:

GROWING UP IN WILD HORSE CANYON

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A Narrative Nonfiction Picture Book Exploring Two Centuries of History in the Okanagan

KAREN AUTIO (AUTHOR) | LORAIN KEMP (ILLUSTRATOR) | CRWTH PRESS

Okanagan History Like You've Never Seen it Before



Okanagan 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, historical notes, and subject index, 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 appeal to readers of all ages.

- First book of Okanagan history written for young readers
- Joint presentation by author and illustrator, which is rarely done
- Excellent Social Studies resource and tool for:
 - introducing research from a narrative nonfiction 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 First Peoples, showing their value of the well-being of self and the land and its resources
- learning how to use timelines and legends on maps to interpret or represent specific information

“The stunning illustrations interwoven with the historical content breathe life into the people and place this book represents. The message of this story reminds us that the Okanagan is enriched with history, but it remains our responsibility to care for the land and each other to ensure the seeds of new generations are a reflection of the beauty that surrounds us all.”

—**Jordan Coble, Westbank First Nation Member and Cultural and Operations Administrator, Sncəwips Heritage Museum**

Author–Illustrator School Presentations for Grades 3 to 6

In this engaging and informative 45-minute presentation, Karen Autio and Loraine Kemp share the inspiration behind their picture book. They describe their collaborative journey of exploring the canyon and other historical sites and consulting Indigenous and non-Indigenous experts. Based on their discoveries of how First Nations history is interwoven with European settlement, Karen and Loraine show how they authentically portrayed this fascinating research through narrative nonfiction, maps, and illustrations. Making effective use of images and stories, they reveal how the writing, illustrating, and publishing process works from story draft to art manuscript, illustrations, and final proofs. This presentation includes a brief illustrated reading from *Growing Up in Wild Horse Canyon* and time for students to ask questions.

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

For more information about *Growing Up in Wild Horse Canyon* (including the link to order copies), visit <http://www.crwth.ca/growing-up-in-wild-horse-canyon/>