

Maiden of the Mist

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Study Guide Prepared by CanLit for Kids

Curriculum Connections:

- Social Studies: First Nations, legends and mythology
- Language Arts: Listening, reading, predicting, discussing illustrations, appreciating author's use of poetic language

Teacher Tips:

Pre-reading:

- Discuss the compound word, waterfall.
- Show a picture of Niagara Falls and locate it on a map of Canada in relation to where the students live.
- Print the word SENECA and discuss names of tribes.
- Compare with names of tribes in local area. Discuss the word MYTHOLOGY (a made up explanation of a natural event).
- Explain that this story is a part of Niagara Falls mythology and it shows how the IROQUOIS peoples used to live.

Reading:

- Read aloud, pausing for discussion, predictions and interpretations of the illustrations.

Post-reading:

- Show illustrations again and observe the native culture: food, clothing and shelter.
- Compare with a local tribe's early culture. Discuss with illustrations from Native Homes.
- Show the following illustrations and discuss the author's use of poetic language.
 - Page 13. The canoe moved slowly at first. . .
 - Page 14. The thunder from the falls. . .
 - Page 17. Down, down, down she fell. . . .
 - Page 22. In two moons' time. . . .
 - Page 25. The dying monster got wedged. . . .
- Look again at a picture of Niagara Falls to see its shape like a bent bow.
- Have students suggest other reasons which might explain the shape of the falls.