

# Examining Multiple Perspectives to Develop Critical Literacy



**Yellow Mini**  
Lori Weber  
Cycles I and II

Stacey used to be friends with Annabelle and Mary, but now she's busy with a cool new boyfriend, Mark. Annabelle is a dedicated student who discovers social justice and activism.

## Purpose for reading:

“By considering textual details in light of their own experience and knowledge, as well the ways readers are situated or positioned by a text, students begin to develop critical judgment.”

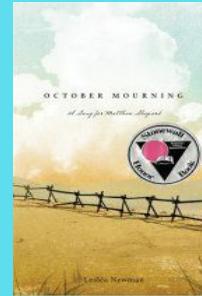
Québec Education Program, Secondary School Education, Cycle One, English Language Arts, p. 110

“As students construct interpretations of different texts, by examining the context in which they were created and in which they are read, they learn to exercise critical judgment.”

Québec Education Program, Secondary School Education, Cycle Two, English Language Arts, p. 32

## October Mourning

Lesléa Newman  
Cycle II



This response to the murder of Matthew Shepard is a personal, powerful and creative compilation of 68 poems that capture the incident from a multitude of viewpoints.

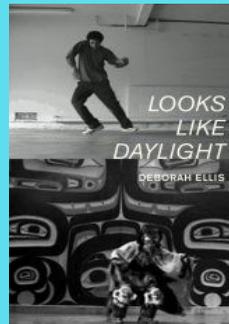


**Lost & Found**  
Shaun Tan  
Cycle II

In all three stories, language is spare, but always deliberate and inventive. The surreal illustrations, integral to the stories, depict imagined worlds and important messages using collage and snippets of text.

## Looks Like Daylight

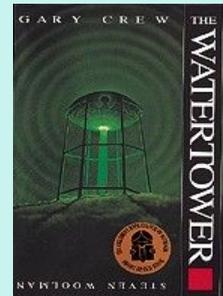
Deborah Ellis  
Cycles I and II



Indigenous youth across North America discuss their life history, hopes and advice based on their own experiences.

## The Watertower

Gary Crew  
Cycle I



Two boys go for a swim at a deserted water tower. The language portrays their very different characters and backgrounds in a few deft strokes, while building an ominous and disturbing tone.

## Sample Questions to Guide Discussion:

What is perspective? Reflect on, revise and add to your definition as you read.

Discuss the way perspective affects the reading experience.

How do the illustrations convey multiple perspectives?

Continue to explore the concept of multiple perspectives in the context of social justice.

Explore the different ways texts position the reader by offering ideas that aim to change the reader's perception and elicit a certain response.

## Sample Activities to Complement Discussion:

Use a graphic organizer to note the perspectives that are included in each story.

Write a quickwrite about a text, excerpt or illustration. Share ideas in a small group. Use a production process to develop ideas into a spoken, written or multimodal text.

Use a response process to create a written response to the text.

Discuss the issue and ideas stemming from the text(s) during literature circle discussions.

## Social Justice Texts for Further Reading:

*I Am Not a Number* by Jenny Kay Dupuis

*Secret Path* by Gord Downie and Jeff Lemire

*The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander

Books that matter

Québec Reading Connection

Éducation et Enseignement supérieur Québec

Literature hand-picked for today's students by Québec educators