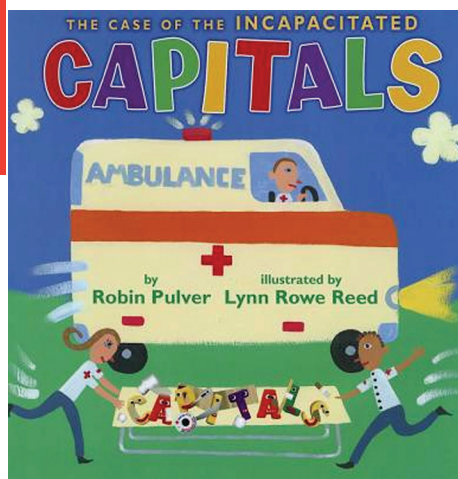


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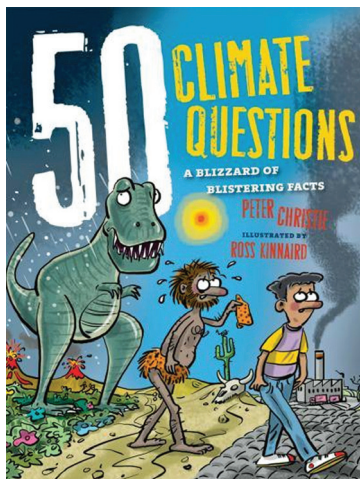
400 – Language

Do we “[p]rovide opportunities for students to see themselves reflected in what they read”? (TfL 16)

The Case of the Incapacitated Capitals

by Robin Pulver
illustrated by Lynn Rowe Reed
New York: Holiday House, 2012
ISBN 9780823424023

As the world googles and IMs its way to case insensitivity, Robin Pulver offers an entertaining story to persuade students in junior grades to capitalize on the uses of upper case letters. Although I work in a secondary school, I can identify with the despair experienced by Mr. Wright, the teacher in the *The Case of the Incapacitated Capitals* who is trying to persuade his students to pay attention to neglected capital letters. As the word play in the title suggests, Pulver adds a dimension of fun to learning about grammar by setting his story in a familiar school setting. The story is supplemented with an explanation of the origins of the terms “upper case” and “lower case” as well a list of rules for capitalization.



500 – Science

Do we “[T]ake on the challenge of learning about and taking a position on an issue (local, national or global)”? (TfL 31)

50 Climate Questions: A Blizzard of Blistering Facts

by Peter Christie
illustrated by Ross Kinnaird
Toronto: Annick Press, 2012
ISBN 978-1554513741

50 Climate Questions: A Blizzard of Blistering Facts is not the handy reference tool that the title suggests. This is not to say that the “blistering facts” lack scientific credibility. The book takes scientific facts and presents them with a supermarket tabloid approach emphasizing gaseous emissions (of the biological sort), excrement and weather-related events of a catastrophic scale. This is not a criticism! The approach, complemented by colourful and entertaining illustrations makes the book a great tool for creating curiosity and opening up discussions about serious issues confronting the planet. It may also help to unenthusiastic readers to discover the entertaining and informative experience that reading can be.



600 – Technology

Do we “[L]ook for real world contexts for curriculum based expectations”? (TfL 31)

Social Smarts Privacy, the Internet and You

by Mark Slutsky
illustrations by Daniel Buller
Ottawa: Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, 2012
ISBN IP54-43/2012E

This twelve page graphic novel (http://www.priv.gc.ca/youth-jeunes/fs-fi/res/gn_e.pdf) from the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada depicts the role of cell phones and social networks in the lives of typical teenagers. A cute cell phone character provides warnings regarding the perils of sharing personal information on cell phones and through gaming and social networking. The language and narrative are simple but the format is attractive and this free graphic novel could act as a good starting point for a discussion of safe behaviour in a wireless world. Perhaps this example could inspire students to rise to the challenge of developing their own cautionary graphic narratives. The great news for French teachers is that this resource is also available in French (http://www.priv.gc.ca/youth-jeunes/fs-fi/res/gn_f.pdf).