

— Writing a Review — of a Dear Canada Diary

You have been asked to write a review of a Dear Canada diary for the magazine, *Canadian History Today*. Your task is not only to discuss whether the diary is good literature, you also need to comment on its value as history. Make sure you answer the following questions:

- Who is the real author of the diary? What other books has she written?
- Does the author have a personal or family connection to this story or this event in history? If so, what is it? Do you think such a connection would make it easier or more difficult to write about the event?
- What important event in Canadian history is featured in this story? Why is this event worth writing a book about? What kinds of things does the diary tell us about that are often missing from non-fiction history books?
- After reading about the life of a fictional girl in this period of history, do you think life was better or worse then? Defend your answer.
- In what ways has life stayed the same?
- Do you think the author of the diary has presented a “realistic” sense of what life was like then? How?
- If you could travel to that time, what do you think would be the most difficult thing about living then? What would be the best thing?
- What makes the fictional author of the diary seem real? Is she someone you would like to get to know?
- What questions do you have for the real author of the diary? What questions do you have about the time or event in Canadian history portrayed in the diary?