

## LANGUAGE SUPPORT FOR READINGS

### Section 2

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**LANGUAGE SUPPORT** by Marlene Wurfel

#### **“I AM HALF-CANADIAN”**

Pamela Swanigan

#### **Prereading Vocabulary**

indoctrination	rigorous conditioning of people to accept a particular set of beliefs, especially political or religious ones, at the exclusion of all other belief systems
inoculation	immunization, protection from a disease by vaccination
pox	contagious disease
amorphous	having no particular, definite shape or features
callow	young and lacking in experience
propagation	mating, creating offspring
sedition	actions that encourage disobedience of a government
crenellations	notches, indentations that serve as battlements
aggregate	composed of the sum of more than one part
proximate	closest

#### **Idioms and Expressions**

expat Americans	an expatriate of the U.S.A., someone who no longer lives in the U.S.
minor burbles	small, harmless disruptions of the normal flow
footsy-playing	flirting with in secret, suggestive touching of feet or legs together under a table
stick to it	to never deviate from the original commitment

the big bugaboo	persistent problem generating obsessive and exaggerated fear or anxiety
Canadian brain-drainees	Canadian-trained professionals such as doctors who leave their native country when their education is complete to work in the U.S. (or other countries) for more money

## References

Air Canada	Canada's national airline, known for management scandals, poor management, debt and delayed flights
hospital waiting lists	Long lists of people waiting for often essential medical services are considered symptomatic of the degradation of Canada's once exemplary national health care system, which provides free medical care to every Canadian. Inadequate Government funding is resulting in the deterioration of the health care system and resulting in problems such as crowded doctor's offices and waiting rooms, and hospital waiting lists. Waiting lists are an oft-sited argument to support the privatization of Canadian Health Care. The majority of Canadians support Universal Health Care and do not consent to cuts in Government funding or privatization of health services.
Robert Fulford	a Toronto-based Canadian journalist, editor, and radio host
Kraft singles slice	an individually wrapped thin palm-sized square of processed cheese, used by fast-food restaurants on cheeseburgers, widely consumed throughout the U.S. and Canada
the antebellum years	the pre-civil war years (1820-1860) , characterized by rapid development as well as political, social and economic chaos
San Luis Obispo	a city in California
the Tories <i>and</i> the Alliance	Tories is the colloquial term for Canada's long-standing (Progressive) Conservative political party. The Alliance party was a right-wing opposition party. It has since merged with the Conservative party, which is currently in power and led by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, one-time leader of the Alliance.
central Canada	region consisting of Canada's largest and oldest provinces, Ontario and Quebec

## Language Pointers

### 1. *First-person pronoun use*

Para. 1: "...I tend to think there's nothing wrong with being Canadian..."

Para. 1: "We expat Americans..."

Para. 8: "I myself used to find them the most mysterious and seductive questions of identity in the world."

Para. 8: "I can't speak for central Canada..."

Para. 8: "...we swim around in our fluid identities..."

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## LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Veronica Baig

### "NEWFOUNDLANDESE, IF YOU PLEASE"

Diane Mooney

<b>Idioms and Expressions</b>	a given	something that is accepted as natural; taken for granted
	all over	everywhere
	come up with	develop

### References

Newfoundland	the most recent province to join Canada (1949); now called Newfoundland and Labrador
Baldwin	James Baldwin (1924-1987); a famous Black-American writer
Black English	The English spoken by some black Americans—it has a distinct vocabulary and grammatical structure
Catholic	Roman Catholic, a Christian denomination led by the Pope
Anglican	Church of England (Episcopalian); a Protestant denomination
Mainlanders	people from the rest of Canada
eh	the expression used by Canadians at the end of a sentence that serves a variety of functions and which identifies stereotypical Canadian speech

## Language Pointers

### *Adjective clauses*

The punctuation used in adjective clauses depends on whether or not the clause is used to identify the noun being modified. If the clause is needed to identify the subject, no comma is needed. This type of clause is called a restrictive clause; it is sometimes called an “essential” or “identifying” clause. If, however, the information provided in the clause is not needed to identify the subject, i.e. the information can be omitted without changing the meaning of the sentence, then that clause is set off by commas. This type of clause is called a non-restrictive, non-essential, or non-identifying clause. There are some good examples of non-restrictive adjective clauses in this reading.

### *Non-restrictive clauses*

In these examples, the information given in the clause could be omitted without altering the meaning of the sentence.

Para. 1: ... every little nook and cranny, *of which there are many*, has it's own specific sound.

... it seems as though our ancestors, *who came from many different areas*, never quite lost their own speech.

Para. 2: Starting with the Avalon Peninsula..., *with which I am most familiar*, it is easy to tell who first settled...

Para. 6: The Northern Peninsula, *which is very large and stretched out, but not heavily populated*, seems to be in a world of its own. Some others on the tip of the Northern Peninsula, *which is so close to Quebec*, have a tendency ...

### *Restrictive clauses*

In these examples, the information given in the clause could not be omitted without altering the meaning of the sentence.

Para. 1: I learned recently that people *who visit Newfoundland* become fascinated with our unique dialect.

Para. 4: Mainly fishermen *who moved inland in winter to hunt and log when they couldn't fish* settled in these areas.

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## **LANGUAGE SUPPORT** by Marlene Wurfel

### **“THE OTHER CANADIANS AND CANADA’S FUTURE”**

Habeeb Salloum

#### **Prereading Vocabulary**

epithets	a term used to characterize a person or thing; a descriptive substitute for a person’s name; an insulting nickname or slur
coercion	force or threats in order to make people do something they do not want to
interned	Imprisoned, especially in wartime, often for political reasons without trial or the charge of a crime
legitimizing	to make allowable by law
pluralist	people of multiple races, religions and political beliefs living together harmoniously in one society
mélange	(French) a mixture
evangelism	persuasive presentation of one’s doctrines or beliefs, often of a religious nature, with the objective of converting others
gimmick	a trick
resort	a place where people go to vacation
circumnavigate	to travel completely around
satellite	a smaller group that has developed next to a larger one
assimilation	the process of becoming a usually indistinguishable part of a larger group
backlash	strong negative reaction by people against a new political or social development

#### **Idioms and Expressions**

in the cards	a possibility, foreseeable
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## References

1759 on the Plains of Abraham	an historic Canadian battle in which English and French armies fought for control of New France (now Quebec), part of the Seven Years' War
Quebec separation	a contemporary separatist movement, urges that the Canadian province of Quebec should separate from the rest of Canada to form its own country
“Anglo” society	English-speaking Canada
Lac La Biche	a small Canadian town named after the lake by which it stands, in the province of Alberta; the community is supported by logging, oil, and tourist industries and boasts one of the oldest mosques in Alberta
Caravan and Caribana in Toronto	Founded in 1969, Caravan is a large cultural festival featuring pavilions showcasing the ethnic foods, music, dances, and pageantry of diverse nationalities. Caribana is a festival celebrating Caribbean culture that features a parade and concerts. Both festivals occur annually in Toronto and are attended by hundreds of thousands of people.
Dragon Boat Races in Vancouver	annual festival celebrating multi-cultural heritage with diverse performances, food, and visual arts, highlighted by races in elaborately decorated Chinese-style boats seating large teams
Folklorama in Winnipeg	a festival featuring diverse cultural events annually throughout the city of Winnipeg, including concerts, dance performances, and food pavilions
Heritage Day in Edmonton	a festival featuring pavilions showcasing the ethnic foods, music and dances of diverse nationalities

## Language Pointers

### *1. Passive Voice*

Use of passive verbs emphasizes what happened or is happening (verb action) and de-emphasizes who or what performs that action. See *Acting on Words*, pages 563-64.

Para. 4: “Peoples of all racial origins, in today’s Canada, *are encouraged to romanticize* their ethnic history...” (encouraged by whom?)

Para. 7: “Others, if they remained visible like the black and Asiatics, *were never accepted* as true Canadians.” (accepted by whom?)

Para. 7: “...they *had their property confiscated* while their total population was interned.” (confiscated by whom?)

Para. 10: “In 1971, a policy of multiculturalism *was officially adopted...*” (adopted by whom or what?)

## 2. Active Voice

Use of active verbs emphasizes who performed what action (the verb object and action) without necessarily de-emphasizing the subject.

Para. 7: “...*I*, like the sons of many other immigrants of foreign origin, *tried* to hide my identity...”

Para. 8: “All this changed when Canada’s controversial Prime Minister, *Pierre Trudeau*, *set* the country on the road to “Multiculturalism within a Bilingual Framework” policy.”

Para. 19: “Unlike earlier in this century, *they* willingly *melt* into the host society as *they* ethnically *dance* themselves out of existence.”

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## LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Veronica Baig

### “CRYSTAL BALLS”

Kim Pittaway

#### Prereading Vocabulary

hyped	promoted
foremothers	female ancestors
line(s)	a glib manner of speech intended to persuade

#### Idioms and Expressions

skipped over	omitted, left out
the evil eye	a look supposed capable of causing misfortune
blind-date	a romantic date with a person one hasn’t met before
kick ... butt	in a competitive situation, to do much better than the opposition (slang)
flip side	the opposite or reverse situation
a place at the table	a decision-making position
chock (something)	up ascribe (something) to

#### References

Oscar Peterson	a famous jazz pianist from Montreal, born 1925
LP	a long-playing record
Moncton	a city in New Brunswick
Halifax	the capital city of Nova Scotia

## Language

### Pointers *Punctuation*

This reading provides examples of some unusual punctuation.

1. Em dash (—): This punctuation mark is used in two different ways in this article.  
The one shows a break in thought or use, e.g., para: 1: Finally, my turn came—and Dad skipped right over me.

In this situation, just one em-dash is used.

The other use is as parenthesis, particularly to provide clarity or emphasis,

e.g., para. 5: “...we are better at ”synthesis” or “web thinking”—gathering facts and insights from a wide range of experiences—while men...” In this situation, two em-dashes are needed; one opens the additional information and the other closes it.

2. Ellipsis (...): This mark can also be used in two different ways. The more common use is to indicate the omission of words from a quotation,  
e.g., para. 6: ““Women make excellent workers when they have their jobs cut out for them, but ... they lack initiative in finding work themselves[.]””

Ellipsis can also be used to show hesitation, or to provide emphasis or the need to reflect on the point being made,

e.g., para. 2: “The only movie directing I do is when I pause the VCR to replenish the chip bowl, and the husband and kids ... let’s just say news reports on efforts to extend ovarian viability catch my eye and my no-blind-dates rule has been rescinded.”

3. Quotation Marks (“ ”): While the author uses quotation marks in the usual way (to enclose direct speech), she also uses them to give emphasis to some words, particularly if those words are used in a special way or have an ironic meaning,  
e.g., para. 4: Peering into the new millennium, I’m tempted to be a “woman first” cheerleader.  
para. 6: “General experience indicates that ‘husky’ girls....” Note that in this case, single quotation marks are used, because the word singled out here is within a quotation.

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## **LANGUAGE SUPPORT** by Marlene Wurfel

### **“ON SYNCHRONICITY”**

Carl Jung

#### **Prereading Vocabulary**

synchronicity	when multiple events occur at the same time or place in a way that appears to be connected in some way
exposition	a clear, thorough explanation
etymology	the origins and history of the meaning of a word
simultaneity	the condition of events happening at the same time
concurrence	an instance of events happening at the same time
foreknowledge	Before something occurs, knowledge that it will happen
corroborated	provided with information that proves or backs up an idea or statement
precognitions	instances of foreknowledge
faculties	natural abilities such as the ability to see or think
psychokinetic	pertaining to the ability to move objects only by the power of the mind
psyche	the mind, including a person’s deepest feelings, which affects how a person behaves and reacts
relativity	the state of being perceived differently by different persons
postulate	position on which a scientific theory or argument is based
affectivity	emotional experiences that result from something
scarab	a type of large, black beetle
paradigm	a clear pattern exemplifying a particular class of something

#### **Idioms and Expressions**

*sentiment du déjà-vu* (French) feeling that one has experienced something before in exactly the same way, the conviction that one is remembering something when apparent facts would suggest one is experiencing

it for the first time

*ad hoc*

(Latin) meaning “this”, for the specific purpose or situation at hand; formed for one specific purpose; improvised, impromptu

## References

Cartesian rationalism based on the philosophies of René Descartes, the conviction that reason is the best guide for belief and action, and that the intellect is superior to convention, experience or spiritual revelation

## Language Pointers

### Adverbs

Adverbs modify a verb and sometimes adjectives and nouns. They describe the way in which an action was done. See Acting on Words page 522.

hardly –at the very beginning of the process

satisfactorily –in a satisfactory way

highly –very much so

psychologically –in a way pertaining to the mind

subjectively –in a way pertaining to an individual point-of-view

objectively –in a way that is perceptible by all observers, regardless of the individual

mechanically –in a mechanical way

psychically –in a way relating to the psyche, outside the sphere of physical knowledge

provisionally –in a provisional manner, for the time being

considerably –to a considerable degree, very much

fairly –in a way that is fair and justifiable

impeccably –in an impeccable way, without flaws

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## LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Marlene Wurfel

### “THE PLEASURES OF LOVE”

Robertson Davies

## Prereading Vocabulary

epiphanies

the experiences of suddenly gaining understanding or profound knowledge

martyrdom	suffering and/or death for a cause, especially by a religious saint
saturnine	surly, cold and immovable in disposition, born under the astrological sign of Saturn
spared	prevented from some perceived dire fate, such as death
nonentity	a person of little significance, a nobody
scoundrel	a dishonest person, a cheater
brandy	a strong alcoholic drink made from distilled wine
vertigo	feeling that one is too high, off-balance and about to fall from a great height
dizzy	unsteady, unable to find one's balance
gregarious	friendly and sociable
moroseness	extreme gloominess, unhappy silence
jerrybuilt	flimsy, not strongly built
epigram	a short sentence or phrase that expresses an idea in a clever, amusing, or apt way
tutting	making a disapproving sound with one's mouth by clicking the tongue against the back of the teeth

### **Idioms and Expressions**

wide of the mark	not on target, unsuccessful in achieving its intention
egged on	baited, encouraged
old bawd	In Shakespearean English "bawd" means "hare," an animal similar to a rabbit; it also means procurer. The modern definition is also procurer: a go-between who panders to evil or licentious intents
the Club Bore	a tiresome, uncongenial person, referring to an undesirable companion at a private club
the Executive Suite	the shared office, usually on the top floor of a high-rise, in which the higher-ups in a company work

more than the sum of its parts	when assembled or put together the components of something function in a way that is more valuable than they would on their own
drawn them together	brought them together, attracted them to each other
still waters run deep	expression affirming the belief that silence and apparent inactivity are signs of profound thought
the marriage service	the ritual and ceremony performed by a Priest in a church during which two people are married
some second-sighted Highlander	a person of Northern Scotland with the ability to foretell the future

## References

Romeo and Juliet	Shakespeare's tragic play in which two teen-aged lovers from feuding families struggle to be together but ultimately commit suicide after secretly marrying
her Nurse	a humorous, talkative character from <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> who raised Juliet from infancy and advises her to forget about Romeo
Mercutio	a secondary but colorful character in <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , Romeo's friend who dies fighting on his behalf
that Verona crowd	city in Italy in which <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> is set
Othello	Shakespeare's tragic play in which Othello murders Desdemona, his beloved wife, because he erroneously believes her to have been unfaithful
Macbeth and his Lady	the lead characters of <i>Macbeth</i> , Shakespeare's tragic play, in which the couple's lust for power leads them to murder the King of Scotland; the couple is driven by guilt and madness to their own demise; the play is loosely based on historical characters and events
the Thane of Cawdor	an ill-begotten title Macbeth acquires
Burns Nicht dinner-party	a celebration honouring Scottish traditions and the Scottish Poet Robert Burns
the ghosts of discredited vice-	MacBeth was haunted at a royal banquet by the ghost of Banquo, whom he murdered. Davies is conjuring a modern equivalent of

presidents	persons whom a power-thirsty politician might murder in order to gain power.
Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett	a nineteenth century couple, both writers, who secretly married despite the staunch objections of Elizabeth's rich and powerful father; theirs was a famously happy union

## Language Pointers

### *Rhetorical Questions*

Davies poses rhetorical questions to encourage readers to consider what their possible answers to the questions are. In some instances Davies provides his own answers to the questions, and in other instances he does not.

Para. 7: Would Juliet have become a worldly nonentity, like her mother? Or would she, egged on by that intolerable old bawd, her Nurse, have planted a thicket of horns on the brow of her Romeo?

Para. 9: What happened?

Para. 18: What do we seek in love?

Para. 24: What pleasures are there in these neglected marriages? What pleasure can there be in ramshackle, jerrybuilt, uncultivated love?

Para. 28: How else are they to keep their union in repair?

Para. 29: How else, indeed, are they to discover that they are growing older and enjoying it, which is a very great discovery indeed? How else are they to discover that their union is stronger and richer ... because they are waxing in spirit?

Para. 32: Am I then advocating marriages founded on talk?

Para. 33: Do I assert that the pleasures of love are no more than the pleasures of conversation?

A question can almost always be identified by the “?” punctuation mark that follows it, but not always. In the following example Davies embeds the rhetorical question, “talked to death?” between two statements:

Para. 35: Love may be snubbed to death: talked to death, never!

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## LANGUAGE SUPPORT by Marlene Wurfel

### “WORDS AND BULLETS: A RHETORICAL ANALYSIS OF E.A. ROBINSON’S ‘RICHARD COREY’”

Michael Lahey and Ari Sarantis

#### Prereading Vocabulary

rhetorical	pertaining to the ways in which language is used to create specific meaning
slyly	cunningly, sneakily
wholesale	in entirety
substantive	of substance, real
uniformly	throughout, in every part
stanza	group of lines in a repeated pattern forming a part, like a paragraph, of a poem
rapt	entranced, captivated, giving complete attention to
folky	informal and friendly, in a style consistent with traditional country people
regality	having the qualities of royalty
paratextual	“para” meaning beyond or outside the boundaries of + “textual” meaning of or pertaining to the words comprising the poem

#### Language Pointers

##### 1. *Quotation Marks*

Lahey and Sarantis use direct quotations from the poem to provide examples that back up their arguments with proof. Quotation marks are also used to set off words that the authors intend the reader to question the meaning of. Note the standard, correct ways in which Lahey and Sarantis use punctuation marks (open quotes, commas, and end quotes).

Para. 2: A rhetorical analysis explores how meaning can be created so subtly, even slyly, by word choices that it seems to spring wholesale, “naturally,” from the page. *Quotation marks are used here to draw the reader’s attention to an ironic usage of the term “naturally.”*

Para. 3: He is “down town,” where “we people,” apparently the entire community, “looked at him.” *Quotation marks are used here to signal direct quotations.*

Para. 5: So E.A. Robinson’s subtle language choices—from “we people” and the informal, folksy repetition of “and” to Richard Cory’s initial presentation as spectacle quietly perform the deep tensions of inclusions and exclusion that the poem explores. *Quotation marks here signal direct quotations.*

Para. 6: The anaphoric (beginning) repetitions, which give the poem its subtle, chanting hymnal quality, in turn define and articulate that collective, communal “voice” in the poem. *Quotation marks here draw the reader’s attention to the literary term “voice.”*

Para. 7: As the townspeople go without the “meat,” a traditional metaphor for feasting, and curse the “bread,” a traditional metaphor for the crude necessities.... *Quotation marks are used in this example to signify a direct quotation **and** to signal to readers that they should question the symbolic meanings of the words. The terms “meat” and “bread” have been singled out from the larger directly quoted phrases they are part of by quotation marks.*

## **2. Italics, Bold and Underline**

Para. 4: This sense of slightly urgent movement occurs in part through Robinson’s skilful uses of **anaphora** (repetition of a word or words at the beginning of successive clauses or sentences) and of **epistrophe** (repetition of a word or words at the end of successive clauses or sentences). *Here, bold indicates that these terms have been singled out for definition.*

Para. 5: Consider the first two lines: “*And he was always quietly arrayed, / And he was always human when he talked.*” *Here, the authors use italics for emphasis within a quotation.*

Para. 5: Then the poet returns to his established beginning repetition (anaphora) with “*And he was rich . . . / And admirably schooled.*” *Italics add emphasis and underlining, in this case, even greater emphasis.*

Para. 6: “*We people on the pavement looked at him*”; “[i]n fine *we thought* that he was everything”; [s]o on *we worked.*” *Here, the authors use italics for emphasis within a quotation.*

Para. 7: “In this particular line, Robinson’s word choice and especially word patterning actually seem to dramatize a quick verbal exchange *outside* the written poem, a *paratextual* conversational moment.” *Here italics provide emphasis on word-meanings without encouraging the reader to construe irony.*

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