



# Telling Tales

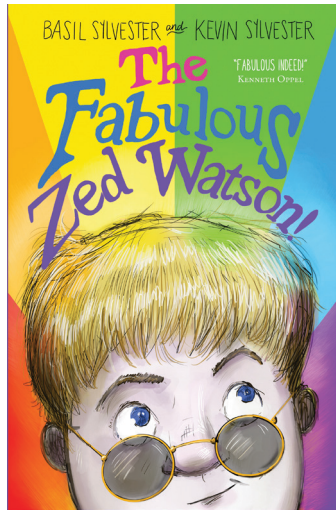
## EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

[tellingtales.org](http://tellingtales.org)



[TellingTalesOrg](https://www.TellingTalesOrg)

Our thanks to the following partners who made this program possible.



# THE FABULOUS ZED WATSON

## BY KEVIN & BASIL SYLVESTER

**Ages:** 8-12 | 2021, HarperCollins Canada | **ISBN:** 9781443460910

Kevin Sylvester is the author/illustrator of more than thirty books, including *MinRS*, *The Almost Epic Squad: Mucus Mayhem*, *The Neil Flambé Capers*, and *The Hockey Super Six*. He's also a broadcaster and a documentary producer. Kevin has won awards all over Canada, including the Silver Birch Award, the Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award, and the Canadian Children's Book Centre Award.

Basil Sylvester is an author, student, sort-of editor, bookseller, and occasional backstage person in community theatre. Their debut book *The Fabulous Zed Watson!*, co-written with their dad Kevin Sylvester, is out now with HarperCollins. Their favourite monsters are vampires, but they like ghosts too!

**Kevin and Basil describe their story as an epic road trip taken by a collection of “nerds.” This pair of siblings and their friend are on a mission to solve a long-forgotten mystery.**

**Q.** In the video, Basil mentions that they believe in “the power of telling tales (telling stories) to create community.” Can you think of a way that you use stories to connect with your friends, families, classmates, neighbours, or even people you don't know?

**Activity:** Write your own odyssey! (That's a fancy reference to an old story about another epic journey.)

**You are taking a journey.**

**Either individually, or as a class, create an outline for an epic story using the following prompts:**

- Where are you going?
- Why are you travelling?
- What is your mode of transportation?
- Who do you take with you?
- Who do you meet along the way?
- What obstacles get in your way?
- How do you overcome them?
- How does your story end?

**Reflection:** Can you take a journey without leaving your home?

### **BONUS ACTIVITY:**

Use the blank map of North America to illustrate your route. Draw pictures on the map, paste photographs, write notes, create fantasy landmarks or indicate real ones you'd like to visit—maybe something giant like a lobster, a nickel or an apple. Make your journey epic!





# DRAGON ASSASSIN: ROYAL BLOOD

## BY ARTHUR SLADE

**Ages:** 12-14 | **June 2021, Scholastic Canada** | **ISBN:** 9781443189897

Arthur Slade was raised on a ranch in the Cypress Hills of Saskatchewan, completing his first novel when he was still in his teens. Now he is the author of eighteen acclaimed novels in a variety of genres, including science fiction, horror, mystery, historical fiction, and graphic novels. His book *The Hunchback Assignments* won the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award, and *Dust* won the Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Literature.

***In Arthur Slade's story of adventure and self-discovery, Carmen—an assassin with a heart of gold—must travel through strange lands in search of her dragon Brax.***

**Q.** Arthur showed the maps he invented that illustrate the places where his Dragon Assassin series is set. Why do you believe he took the time to create these maps when he also describes the places in writing throughout the books?

**Activity:** Invent a strange new world!

In his video, Arthur talked about how he enjoys imagining new fantastical worlds for his characters to visit. He said what he likes most about this process is seeing how the journey changes his characters.

***Try to imagine a place that is different than anywhere you have ever been.***

***Describe your world, using the following prompts:***

- Is it a city, a continent, an island, or a region?
- What is its climate?
- What are its physical characteristics? Are there lakes, mountains, deserts? Something completely different?
- Who are its inhabitants? Do they have any special powers in response to their environment?
- How does the environment affect the lives of the inhabitants? Are they sailors, farmers, miners? Circus performers? Something else entirely?

***Draw a map.*** Using Arthur's maps as inspiration, draw a map that shows all the details of the place and its inhabitants that you have imagined and described.

**Reflection:** Did drawing a map of your fantasy world help you come up with any story ideas? How else do you think map-making could help a writer?



BITTERWATERS

TAZIN

ISLAND

VORKI

Ice  
Wastes

Byrn River

EYRN HAVEN

TINEEN

CATHEDRAL HILLS

WILDWOOD

LAKE  
BALAUR

DREKI

ALTHING

GREAT  
GREENSWARD

EXMAL  
MOUNTAIN

LINDWURM

MOON LAKE

BLACKTOOTH MTNS

SILVERWOOD

WHITETOOTH RIVER

DRAGONSWALE

GREYSTONE RIVER

EAGLE RIDGE

SCARKI  
RUINS

KUROKI

ELFROS

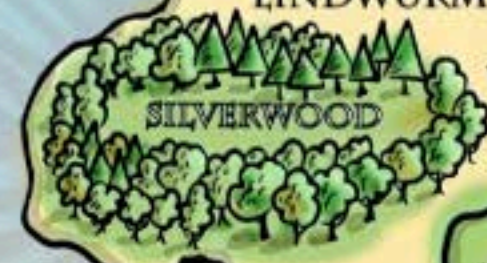
QUILL ISLANDS

BLACK ISLANDS

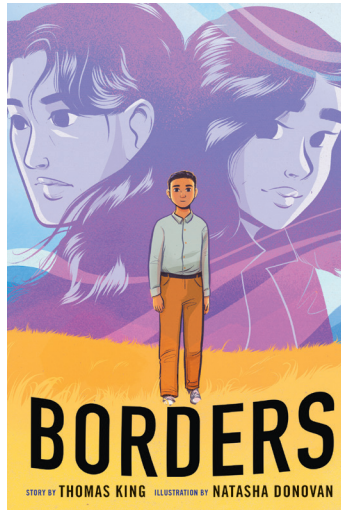


PIKE ISLAND

ALMANY







# BORDERS

## BY THOMAS KING

**Ages:** 12-14 | June 2021, Scholastic Canada | **ISBN:** 9781443189897

Thomas King is an award-winning writer and photographer. His fiction for young readers includes *A Coyote Columbus Story*, illustrated by William Kent Monkman; *A Coyote Solstice Tale*, illustrated by Gary Clement; and *Coyote Tales*, illustrated by Byron Eggenschwiler. A Companion of the Order of Canada and the recipient of an award from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, Thomas King lives in Guelph, Ontario.

**Thomas King's story was inspired by his own experience crossing the U.S./ Canada border with a basketball team. Here is a link to another story that is very similar to the one Thomas described:**

### **"Lacrosse Team Denied Entry to the U.K"**

**Q.** Why do you think the mother and son in Thomas' story and the lacrosse team in the newspaper article refused to state their nationality as either Canadian or American?

**Activity:** Use this interactive map, designed by the non-profit group **Native Land**, to explore the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (the characters from Thomas King's story are members).

**Either individually, or as a class, use the map to complete these prompts:**

- Search the word "Blackfoot" and the map will show you the traditional territories and language groups of all the people who make up those nations.
- Try to draw that territory on the handout map of North America.
- Identify the U.S./Canada border on your handout map.
- Identify the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.
- Identify the state borders of Montana and its neighbouring states.
- Use the online map tool to identify the boundary of Treaty 7.

You can use this same tool to explore the locations of communities who count themselves members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy (where the lacrosse players discussed in the article live).

**Discussion:** What differences did you notice in the way provincial borders, state borders, and the U.S./Canada border are drawn compared to the way the map shows the traditional territories and language groups of those who became known as "Blackfoot"?

How many different borders run across the traditional Blackfoot territories you drew on your map?

How many different language groups and Indigenous territories does the map show within the Blackfoot territory? Or within Treaty 7 territory?

What was established first: the territory of the people who became known as Blackfoot, the United States/Canada Border, Treaty 7, or the Province of Alberta? Use this **Interactive Treaty Map of Canada - Government of Canada** to learn a bit more.

**Follow-up Question:** After studying the maps, has your answer changed as to why you think the mother and son in Thomas King's story and the lacrosse team in the newspaper article refused to state their nationality as either Canadian or American? Why or why not?

**Teacher's Note:** Extend the discussion by checking out this free resource:  
**The Alberta Teachers Association.**



This is a blank activity sheet. It features a decorative border of stylized leaves and vines along the top, bottom, and sides. The main body of the sheet is filled with horizontal lines for writing. In the bottom left corner, there is a small illustration of a dragonfly.

This is a decorative worksheet template. It features a border of stylized leaves and flowers. At the top left, the words "ACTIVITY SHEET" are written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the title is a large rectangular area outlined with a dotted line, intended for a drawing. Underneath this dotted box are ten horizontal solid lines for writing. In the bottom left corner, there is a small illustration of a flower with a bee flying towards it.

# ACTIVITY SHEET

