



Meet the Kite Maker: Robert Trépanier –Intermediate Level

Extending the Student Reading by Writing & Discussing

1. Use a map of Canada to locate the province of Québec (find a printable map of Canada, with accompanying lesson plans, at The Atlas of Canada, http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/maps/reference/anniversary_maps/political). For additional assistance, turn to the Canadian Studies Center at University of Washington: its online publication *Oh Canada! The True North Strong and Free!* is at <http://www.wwu.edu/depts/castudies/k12studycanada/files/CanadaSupplement.pdf>. Discuss bilingual communities and how language functions as a marker for distinct cultures.

2. Discuss the effect of Robert's experience of flying a kite when he was seven years old. Have students had experiences of similar impact? Ask each student to write a sentence about such an experience, then ask one or more students to present their stories to the whole group.

3. Discuss the aesthetic effect artists achieve by creating images that are "not in their place." How does the clash between image and expectation sharpen attention? *Artisti fra cielo e terra*, available from The Drachen Foundation at <http://drachenstore.easystorecreator.net/store.asp>, offers additional images for discussion. To learn more about art kites explore the resources at http://www.drachen.org/about_art_kites.html.



Kite by Trépanier

Photo by William Wright



Robert Flying a Kite

4. Discuss the emotions of kite flying as characterized by Robert. Ask students to complete the sentence, "When I fly a kite, I feel ..."

Talk about Robert's claim that people who fly kites "want to play." How might this spirit enable people from different cultural groups to enjoy being together? Is "wanting to play" a cultural universal?