Resistance Literature in the English Classroom

Margaret Buxton and Jane Parker
This is my daughter and her first paycheque.
This is a question my daughter gets asked regularly at work.
What Is Resistance Literature?

- Distinct from dominant discourse (e.g., a counter-narrative)
- Problematizes privilege
- Reclamation
- Right to self-representation
- Reinvents the enemy’s language (may contain code-switching)
- Often includes bearing witness to trauma
Anti-oppressive Education

- A) The nature of oppression
- B) The curricula, andragogy, policies needed to bring change
  1) Education for the “Other”
  2) Education about the “Other”
  3) Education critical of privileging/”othering”
  4) Education that changes students/society
Use of Technology - Integral to course

- Critical thinking content from online sources
- Documentaries from digital sources
- Peer and self evaluation from video
- Scaffolding (graphic organizers) in class and in moodle
- Grammar diagnostic on moodle
- Short stories online/in print
- Group project choices – poster, prezi, podcast, video, blog
News OR Propaganda?
Counter-narrative and Dominant Narrative
Can you tell the difference between a political leader and a tiara-wearing toddler?

Who said it: Rob Ford or Honey Boo Boo?
1) A gamers! When are you gonna be on your A game?
2) The proof is in the pudding, folks!
3) You just have to roll with the punches!
4) You gotta try the milk before you buy the cow.
5) The last time I had a salad was never.
6) My feet are on fire!
Who said it?...

...Answers

1) HBB
2) RF
3) RF
4) HBB
5) HBB
6) RF
Can you tell the difference between the problems of a child in India and a child in Canada?

Who said it: a child in Canada or a child in India?
Born into Brothels
3rd World Canada
Who said it...

- 1) My whole life I have known nothing but abuse.
- 2) One has to accept life as being sad and painful, that’s all.
- 3) I walk out my door and wonder what could happen to me next.
- 4) I keep thinking if I could go someplace else and get an education, I wonder what I could become.
- 5) My friend told me he was attacked by cops one night.
- 6) When I was young, the police used to take my mom.
Who said it?...

• 1) 3WC
• 2) BiB
• 3) 3WC
• 4) BiB
• 5) 3WC
• 6) BiB
Documentaries
By David Robertson
He is of Irish, Scottish, English, and Cree Heritage. He brings awareness of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Canada. Betty story is only one of them.

Helen Betty Osborne
was born July 16th 1952
and died November 13th 1971

The purpose of this Graphic novel...
- MMIW Epidemic
- Racism, Sexism, Indifference
- Tell story to Raise Awareness
- Hope for Justice for Indigenous families

Helen Betty moved to the Pas to become a teacher. Nearby half a century after her brutal murder, Betty is still teaching. Betty's murder was fuelled by racism, and sexism, and nothing had been done.

Swampy Cree dialect......
Kawapamekawen Nekawe.*
*see you mother

This stereotypical behaviour of racism and indifference has been going on for decades. However, the Graphic novel Betty helps the fight for Justice for the MMIW.

By: Dovena & Rita
Graphic Novels: Identity Construct