

# FOR THE LOVE OF READING

As back-to-school beckons and with International Literacy Day just around the corner, here are 5 Canadian artists to help us celebrate learning, literacy, and a love of books.

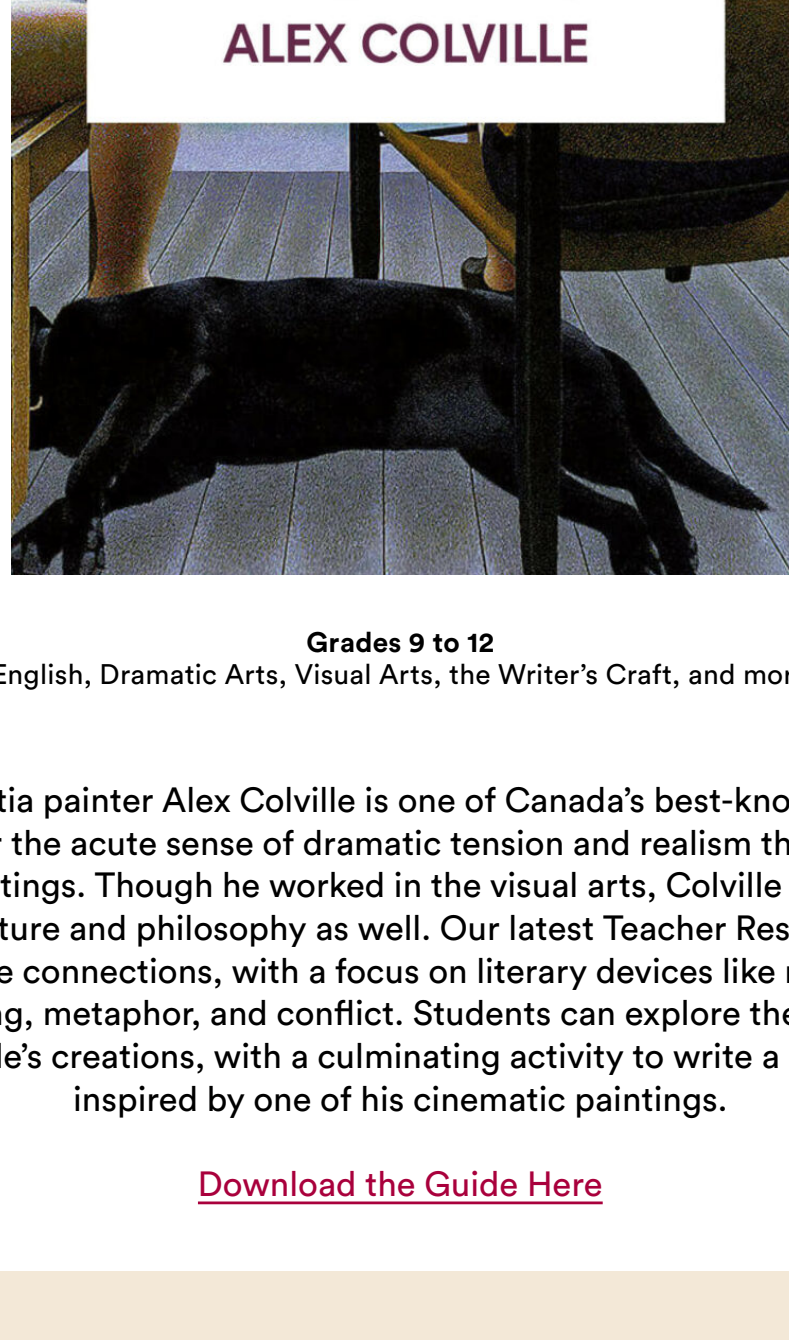


Helen McNicoll, *The Chintz Sofa #2*, c.1913, private collection.

Looking forward to the school year and International Literacy Day on September 8, we are delighted to share Canadian artworks that pay homage to reading. In Helen McNicoll's (1879–1915) pensive painting *The Chintz Sofa #2*, c.1913, the celebrated Canadian Impressionist presents a young woman immersed in a good book. While reading is at the centre of this masterpiece, literacy reaches beyond the written word to encompass learning in many different shapes and forms. From exploring connections to literature in the dramatic paintings of Alex Colville (1920–2013) to cracking mathematical literacy in the glass mosaic "magic squares" of Jamelie Hassan (b.1948), we hope that our selection this week sparks creative inspiration. A love of learning is at the heart of what we do, and from all of us at the Art Canada Institute Education Program, we wish you a safe and happy return to the classroom in the coming days and weeks ahead.

— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

## Alex Colville and Literary Techniques



LEARN ABOUT

LITERARY DEVICES  
*through the art of*  
ALEX COLVILLE

Grades 9 to 12

English, Dramatic Arts, Visual Arts, the Writer's Craft, and more

Nova Scotia painter Alex Colville is one of Canada's best-known artists, celebrated for the acute sense of dramatic tension and realism that come to the fore in his paintings. Though he worked in the visual arts, Colville was passionate about literature and philosophy as well. Our latest Teacher Resource Guide explores these connections, with a focus on literary devices like narrative point of view, setting, metaphor, and conflict. Students can explore these techniques through Colville's creations, with a culminating activity to write a dramatic scene inspired by one of his cinematic paintings.

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