

Teacher's Guide

Lilian Bland: An Amazing Aviatrix



TRAILBLAZING CANADIANS SERIES



Guide written and developed by Haley Healey.
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ABOUT THE BOOK

Ever since she was a little girl, **Lilian Bland** (1878–1971) wanted to fly. She loved to watch black gulls soaring through the sky near her England home, and she was fascinated by the mechanics of flight. However, airplanes were still very new when she was growing up, and those who did fly were usually men.

Lilian would not give up. When she could not find anyone to teach her to fly, she took matters into her own hands. She designed and built her own plane, and after many tries, she finally got it to fly.

This delightful picture book celebrates the life of Lilian Bland, remembered both in England and in her adopted home of Quatsino Sound, on Vancouver Island, for her many accomplishments—especially her ground-breaking achievements in aviation.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

HALEY HEALEY is a high school counsellor, registered clinical counsellor, and the bestselling author of *On Their Own Terms: True Stories of Trailblazing Women of Vancouver Island*, *Flourishing and Free: More Stories of Trailblazing Women of Vancouver Island*, and *Her Courage Rises: 50 Trailblazing Women of British Columbia and the Yukon*. She enjoys local history and exploring Vancouver Island's trails, waters, and wilderness.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

KIMIKO FRASER is an illustrator and historian-in-training. She grew up constantly making—drawing, painting, knitting, sculpting, bookbinding, etc.—and has never learned how to stop. She is the illustrator of *Her Courage Rises: 50 Trailblazing Women of British Columbia and the Yukon*. She holds a bachelor of arts (honours History, major Visual Arts) from the University of Victoria. She works with many mediums to create her illustrations, including watercolour, digital, ink, and tea. Most of her work is inspired by her interest in plants, history, and folktales.



NOTE OF RECONCILIATION

This book was written on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

Some of the story takes place on the traditional territory of the Gwat'sinux First Nation.

Haley Healey, the author of the book and writer of this teacher's guide, fully and completely supports truth and reconciliation and recognizes her own role in truth and reconciliation.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

→ LANGUAGE ARTS

- Reading Skills and Reading Strategies
- Visual literacy
- Reading Comprehension

→ SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

→ SOCIAL STUDIES

AGE & GRADE SUITABILITY

- This guide is accessible for Kindergarten to Grade 5, although it could be adapted for older students.
- Reading comprehension is ages 4–8, as indicated by the publisher.

LITERACY & READING COMPREHENSION

Pre-Reading Questions

1. What do you think the book is about based on its title and cover illustrations?
2. What do you wonder before reading the book?
3. Does the cover of the book remind of you of anything in your life?
4. What does the word aviatrix mean? (female pilot)

Post-Reading Questions

5. Did anything in the book remind you of anything in your own life?
6. What feelings did you have while hearing the story?
7. What are some words you would use to describe Lilian Bland? Why?
8. Was there anything in the book you were confused or still wondering about?
9. What was one exciting thing Lilian Bland did in her life?



SOCIAL STUDIES QUESTIONS

10. Where is Ireland located? How far away is it from where you live?
11. Where is Quatsino Sound, British Columbia located? How far away is it from where you live?
12. What was one job Lilian had during her life?
13. What made being a homesteader such hard work?
14. What did Lilian Bland build?
15. Would you fly in a plane that you built yourself? Why or why not?
16. Have you ever done something that has made you felt brave? What was it?

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL) ACTIVITY

Books can help teach people how to understand the emotions and thoughts of others.



We can guess how someone is feeling by their body language, their facial expressions, and their situation. It's possible for people to feel several things at the same time. These are only guesses because we can't know for sure how someone is feeling unless they tell us.

Pick an illustration in the book and ask students how they think the person in it is feeling and how they know.

SOME POSSIBLE ANSWERS:

- Lilian was focused/concentrating/happy when she was designing her plane because she was focusing on doing that and only that.
- Lilian was happy/excited when she was flying her plane because she was smiling.
- Lilian was sad when she was painting because she had lost someone she loved.



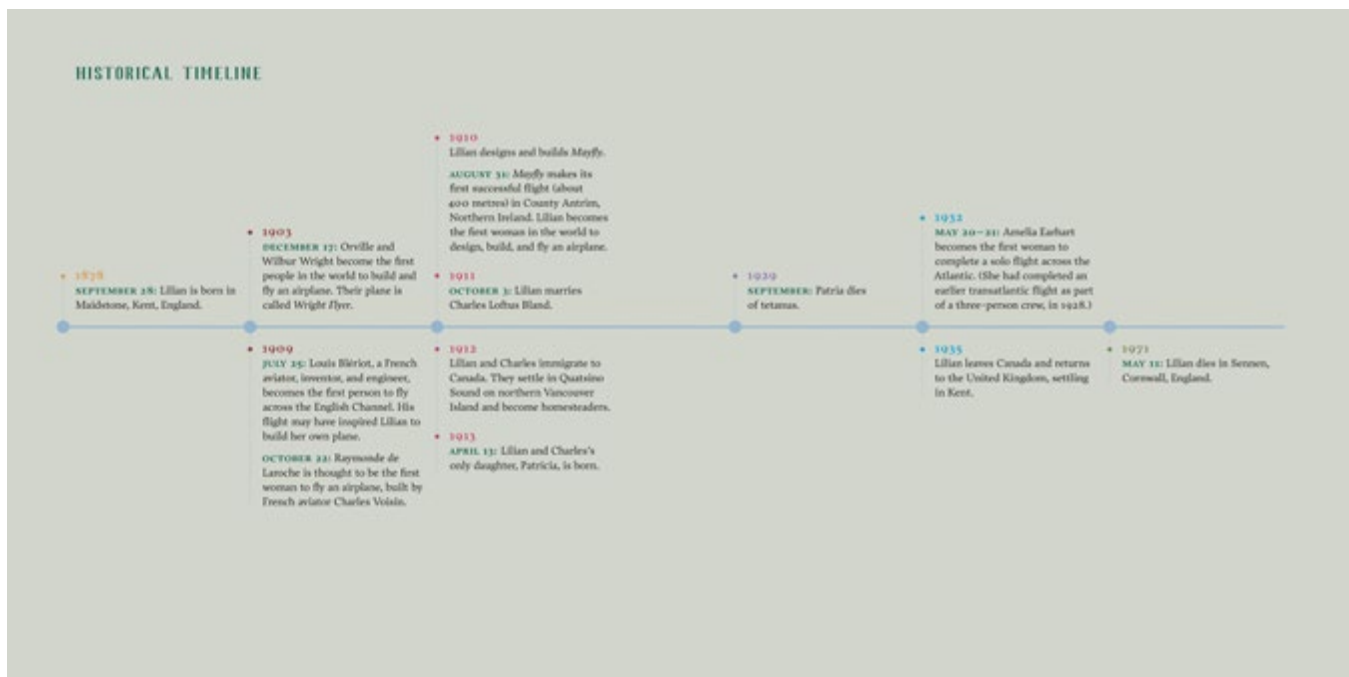
WRITING ACTIVITY

Give students a sheet of paper and ask them to write or draw events in the story in the order they occurred. After, have students pair and share their retelling with a partner.

Put the story sequences up in the classroom.

WRITING/DRAWING ACTIVITY

The historic timeline at the end of the book shows important events in Lilian Bland's life.



Write or draw your own historic timeline showing important events in your own life.

These could include your birthday, times your family has moved, when you started school, or getting a pet. Try to include both difficult events and happy ones on your timeline.