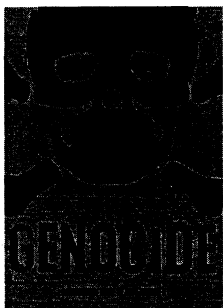


The *Groundwork Guides* by Greenwood: Canadian YA Non-Fiction For The World

The Canadian Young Adult publishing scene is not limited by any sense of the imagination to literature, poetry, and graphic novels. Since 2006, Greenwood Books, an imprint of the House of Anansi, has published the *Groundwork Guides*, a series of small books on current events and issues affecting Canada and the world. Each book is roughly 7x5 inches and 150 pages, making it them easy to hold and borrow without worrying about weight. The *Groundwork Guides* are as jam-packed with information as they are small, however: Greenwood is unafraid to give its young adult readers the facts on pressing issues such as religious intolerance, neo-colonialism, modern-day slavery, and pornography.

A key word to describe the *Groundwork Guides* is 'openness.' Their dustcovers, which feature bold images and give almost half their space to the title, speak plainly to the reader. A YA reader who is curious on the state of Islam in the west, for instance, will surely be intrigued by the simple title, *Being Muslim*, while the cover for *Genocide*, which features a grim skull-and-crossbones motif, will catch the attention of anyone walking by. YA readers will appreciate the no-nonsense and straight-forward appearance and rhetoric of the series, which ultimately aims to "provide basic information in an engaging, concise and clear way without talking down to their readers" (O'Reilly, 2007, p. 20).

Groundwork Recommendations

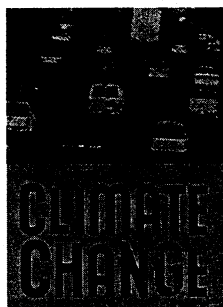
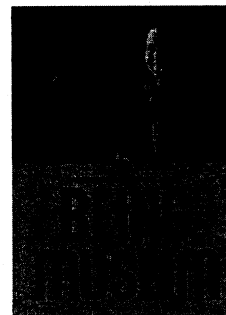


Genocide, by Jane Springer

In *Genocide*, readers are forced to consider why the murder of an individual may go punished but the murder of tens, or even hundreds of thousands of people can be ignored by the rest of the world.

Being Muslim, by Haroon Siddiqui

In a world where terrorism is often blamed on religious differences, Siddiqui lays bare to readers the roots—and implications—of this cultural divide.



Climate Change, by Shelley Tanaka

Experts all agree that climate change is occurring, but many are divided on its basis and the science that validates those claims. Shelley Tanaka looks at the debate, science, and the politics it creates.

The Betrayal of Africa, by Gerald Caplan

By looking at the social problems that afflict the continent, such as extreme poverty, malnutrition, lack of infrastructure, and an AIDS epidemic, Gerald Caplan asks why Africa was left to wither in the face of world progress.

