

Gordon Gamlin
Allan: My Vancouver

Have you ever thought about visiting Canada? Well to start with, read about a 'cool' Canadian guy called Al who lives in Vancouver.

Al will tell you about his family and his school life. You can also discover what he does with his friends in his free time and what his dreams are. Is his life very different from yours? Read and find out!

In this reader you'll find:

- Glossary of difficult words
- Comprehension and extension activities
- Exit test
- An audio recording of the story
- Authentic photos

Tags

Daily routine | Friends and Family | Nature and Customs

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STAGE 1	600 headwords	Elementary	A1 Movers
STAGE 2	800 headwords	Pre-intermediate	A2 Flyers/KEY
● STAGE 3	1000 headwords	Intermediate	B1 Preliminary

Non-fiction / Real Lives

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Stage 3 B1

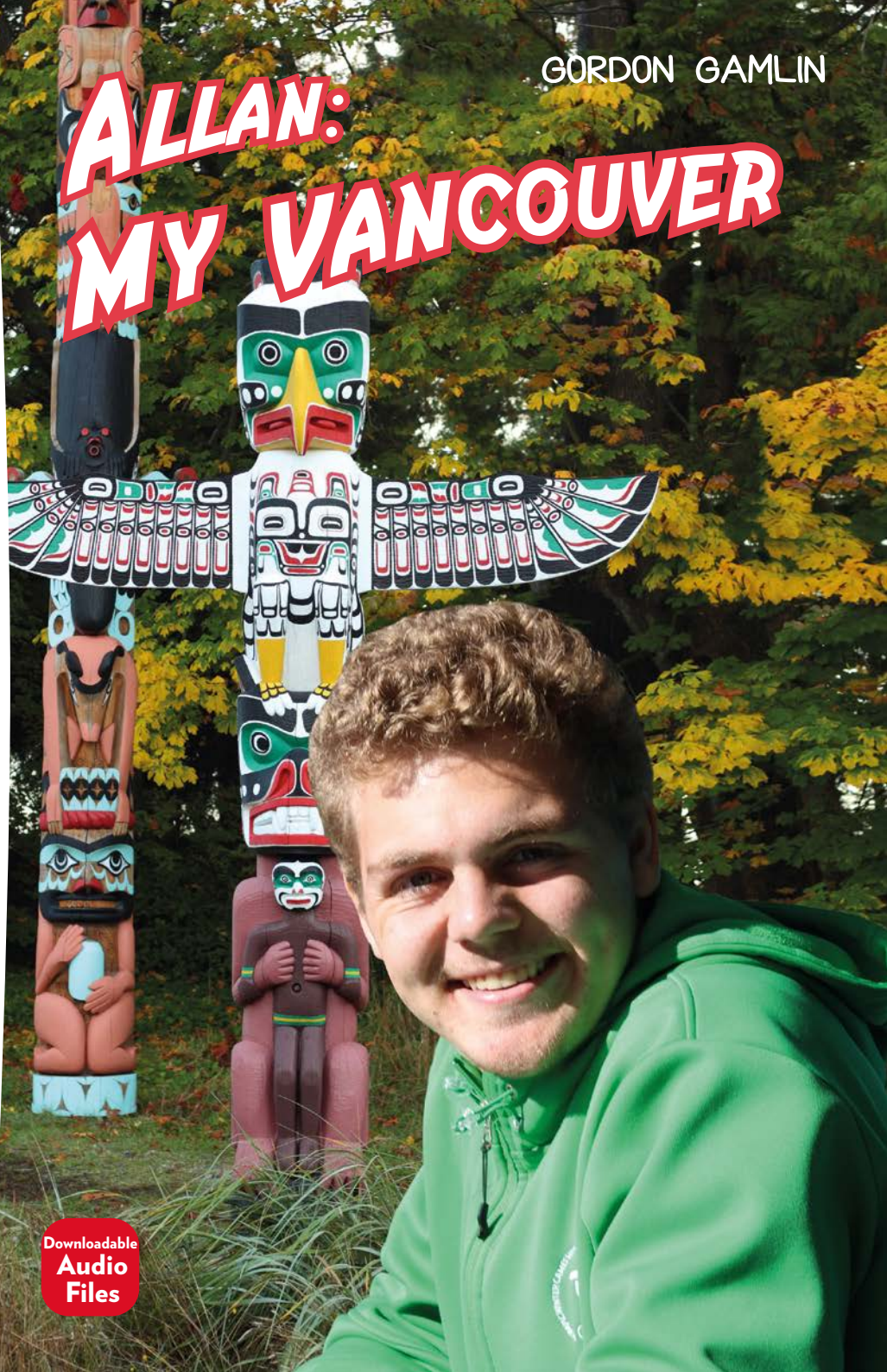
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GORDON GAMLIN

ALLAN: MY VANCOUVER



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ALLAN:

GORDON GAMLIN

MY VANCOUVER

For Review Only

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These icons indicate the parts of the story that are recorded

start

stop 



Before you Read

Stop & Check

- 1** How much do you already know about Canada?
Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

French cities	ice hockey capital	Head west	northern second-largest
------------------	-----------------------	--------------	---------------------------------------

- Canada is in the *northern* part of North America.
- 1 Canada is the country in the world.
 - 2 The of Canada is Ottawa.
 - 3 The two official languages in Canada are
and English.
 - 4 More than 80% of Canadians live in
 - 5 Elizabeth II is Queen of the United Kingdom and
..... of State in Canada.
 - 6 Vancouver is a seaport city on the
coast of Canada.
 - 7 The most popular sport in Canada is

Vocabulary

- 2** Match the words that mean the same.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 ☒ glad | A easy |
| 2 ☐ find out | B belong to |
| 3 ☐ great | ☒ pleased |
| 4 ☐ truly | D especially |
| 5 ☐ above all | E really |
| 6 ☐ be part of | F discover |
| 7 ☐ simple | G fantastic |

Listening – Preliminary (PET)

- ▶ 2 **3 Listen to the start of Chapter 1 and choose the correct answer – A, B or C.**

Al is short for

- A** ☒ Allan.
- B** ☐ Albert.
- C** ☐ Alex.

1 Vancouver is

- A** ☐ not so big.
- B** ☐ on the Pacific coast.
- C** ☐ in the US.

2 Al has lived in his house

- A** ☐ since he was 15 years old.
- B** ☐ for over 15 years.
- C** ☐ for about 15 years.

3 Al's parents

- A** ☐ are looking for a new house.
- B** ☐ would like to sell their house.
- C** ☐ have already bought a new house.

4 His friend Mike

- A** ☐ doesn't live nearby anymore.
- B** ☐ lives two blocks away.
- C** ☐ lives round the corner.

5 Al keeps the clothes he needs

- A** ☐ in boxes.
- B** ☐ in a suitcase.
- C** ☐ in bags.

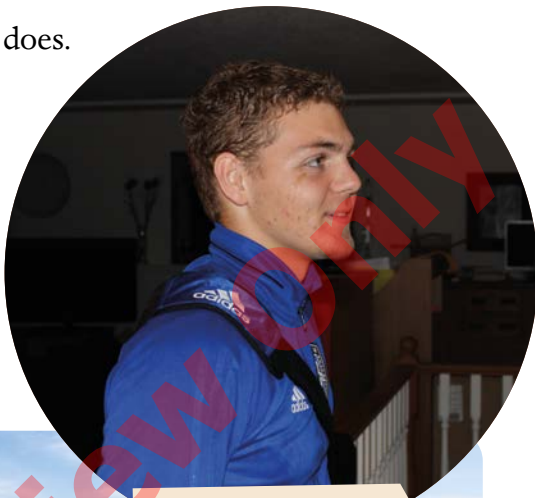
6 Their dog Pablo

- A** ☐ eats Emma's gym bags.
- B** ☐ steals Al's t-shirts.
- C** ☐ makes holes in Al's socks.

Home sweet Home

2 Call me **AL**. Everyone does.
It's short for Allan.

I live in Vancouver,
Canada, on the
Pacific coast. In fact,
Vancouver is quite
large to start with.



My day starts early!



*Vancouver is Canada's third
largest city.*





For some strange reason my parents decided to sell our home - the house I grew up in for over 15 years. Now it's sold. We have to move by the end of this month! Luckily, my parents have bought a new house around the corner two blocks* away. That way I can keep my friends. Can you imagine? Your parents sell your home and you all move to another part of Canada like my friend Mike. I only see him on Instagram and Snapchat now. Of course, I knew it was going to happen. One day mom and dad started cleaning and putting all our things into boxes. Let me give you some advice: watch out* when your parents start putting all your things into boxes! To be honest, I don't mind. Put everything into boxes and you can feel free! Now I've got all the clothes I need in grandpa's old suitcase. It makes life simple. I can choose from two pairs of jeans, five t-shirts, and two sweatshirts* every day. My sister Emma has got three gym bags filled with her belongings. She hates it. On the other hand, Pablo, my dog loves this situation! This little dog of mine just loves stealing my socks and making holes in them. I've hardly got any left! I'm glad it's summer. Who needs socks anyway?



- 3 So, actually, we live in Coquitlam. That's a First Nations name. By 'First Nations' we mean the people who first lived in Canada. In Salish (the language of one of these groups of people) it means 'red fish up the river'. That red fish is salmon, returning to leave their eggs.

block a part of the city with buildings
surrounded by streets

watch out be careful **sweatshirt**





Salmon start their lives in the river. Then they move to the ocean. In the end, they return to the rivers to leave their eggs and die. They move around a lot. The bears here love them. Fresh Sockeye Salmon is really delicious! More about that later.

“Rise and shine*!” Mom wakes everyone up at 6:00 AM. It’s still dark outside. I jump under the shower quickly. Then I get dressed and run downstairs. Eggs are my idea of ‘fast food’. I make my own breakfast every morning as you can see in the pictures. I usually fry two eggs with leftovers* like potatoes or sausages. Bacon, ham, cheese, mushrooms, and tomatoes all make great breakfast food with eggs. Tea goes well with any meal, but in the wintertime, hot chocolate is the best.



“Breakfast is the most important meal of the day,” they say.

rise and shine! get up!

leftovers food that is left from the evening before



My sister likes cereal or hot porridge* with fruit for breakfast. Everyone has to hurry to get to school and work on time. It's a race to get out the door. Mom enjoys coffee and a muffin*. Instead, Dad drives Emma to elementary school. Children here in Canada go to this kind of school from 6 to 12 years old. Instead, I go to high school. Luckily, it's nearby so I ride my bike there in time for the first class at 8:20 AM.



My school is nearby.

porridge



muffin



So altogether, there are five members in our family: mom, dad, my younger sister Emma, and our little dog Pablo, a Chihuahua from Mexico. Dad named him after the famous Spanish painter because Pablo has many sides to his character. He has taught us all very well and we all listen to Pablo.



Pablo's hobby is sleeping, while the rest of the family is busy working.

It's fun to take a dog for a walk. People stop to talk and Pablo always discovers something new. Everyone has to do what he wants. Even on weekends! He likes his early morning and afternoon walks. The kitchen is his favorite place. They say that you shouldn't feed your dog at the kitchen table so we all feed him secretly underneath the table. Now you know why he likes the kitchen so much!





“The world has changed,” says our school principal*. Everybody listens to her in our gym.

“You are our future leaders,” she goes on, “with great opportunities and also with great difficulties.” Then she adds: “Here at King George we prepare you to follow your dreams, to do what you have to do and find great success.” We all look at each other. Our principal just used the word ‘great’ three times in two sentences. Great!



This is my school! Great, eh?

school principal the head teacher



After-reading Activities

Stop & Check - Preliminary (PET)

1 Choose A, B, C or D to complete the information from Chapter 1 about Al.

Al (0) *would* like to stay in his old house, but at (1) the new one isn't far away and he'll (2) be able to see his old friends. He doesn't (3) living out of a suitcase at the moment. (4), his sister Emma hates it. He loves his little dog Pablo, and takes it (5) a walk every day. Every morning, he has a shower (6) making his own breakfast. He likes a cooked breakfast, (7) fried eggs, while his sister prefers porridge. After breakfast, he cycles to school. His lessons (8) at 8:20 AM. and his (9) subject is Physical Education. He has lunch in the school (10) and goes home at 3:20 PM. Then he has to spend a lot of time doing his homework.

- | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------|
| | a would | b should | c ought | d could |
| 1 | a most | b least | c last | d latest |
| 2 | a yet | b already | c just | d still |
| 3 | a bother | b care | c matter | d mind |
| 4 | a Instead | b Also | c Even | d After |
| 5 | a to | b at | c for | d on |
| 6 | a then | b while | c as | d before |
| 7 | a as | b like | c if | d by |
| 8 | a start | b doesn't start | c starts | d has started |
| 9 | a preferred | b favorite | c popular | d most |
| 10 | a restaurant | b bar | c canteen | d classroom |

2 Write your answers to these questions. What differences are there between you and AI?

- 1 What time do you get up in the morning?
- 2 What do you have for breakfast?
- 3 Who makes your breakfast for you?
- 4 How do you go to school?
- 5 What time do your lessons begin and finish?
- 6 What's your favorite school subject?
- 7 Where do you have lunch?

Before-reading Activity

Listening

4 3 Listen to the start of Chapter 2 and decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- | | T | F |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| AI is very keen on sport and would like to work in this field one day. | ☒ | ☐ |
| 1 There were the Olympic Games in Vancouver in the summer of 2010. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2 The Canadian snowboarding teams did really well at the Olympic Games. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3 There isn't much to do in winter so it's quite boring. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4 The sport Lacrosse arrived in Canada with the Europeans when they went to live there. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 5 The first Lacrosse Club was started by a dentist. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 6 A Canadian teacher went to England to play basketball. | ☐ | ☐ |