

## **LESSON PLAN**

### **OBJECTIVES**

- Develop empathy through experiencing thoughts and feelings of other people and other cultures, as expressed in their stories

### **MATERIALS**

- The Heritage Community Foundation web site on Alex Decoteau.  
<http://www.youthsource.ab.ca/educits/Decoteau/index.htm>
- One long scroll on which excerpts from a fictionalized letter by Alex Decoteau is attached. Although the letter is fiction, it is based on one of the highlights of Alex Decoteau's life - meeting the King of England

### **ANTICIPATORY SET**

Discuss various aspects of Alex Decoteau's life, such as his childhood, his life in Edmonton, his work as a police officer, his athletic achievements, and his involvement as a soldier in World War I.

Examine photographs of Decoteau on the Heritage Community Foundation website. Explain to your students that Decoteau met King George V in England after one of his races. As the trophy had been misplaced, King George V presented Decoteau with his own gold watch. Have students try to imagine what the King would have said to Decoteau. Discuss why this gesture was special to Decoteau (hint: King George V hated to be late. He kept the palace clocks set ten minutes fast.)

### **PROCEDURE**

Follow the script included on the website. This might be a reading activity, with students playing different roles. It can also be acted out at, for example, a school assembly.

### **CLOSURE**

Imagine how Emily felt getting the letter from Decoteau. Now imagine how she felt when she received the real letter (this real letter is on the website). Read the letter and discuss the various real-life experiences that Decoteau describes. Write or draw a picture to illustrate some of his experiences.

### **EVALUATION**

Do the actors speak clearly and with expression? Do they follow directions? Do they demonstrate composure?

### **MODIFICATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

Use the spelling "Alec" so that everyone says Decoteau's name correctly. "Walk" all the students through this short scene.

Read it for a couple of sessions and discuss what was happening. Use as few props as possible, and have them practice with the watch and scroll.