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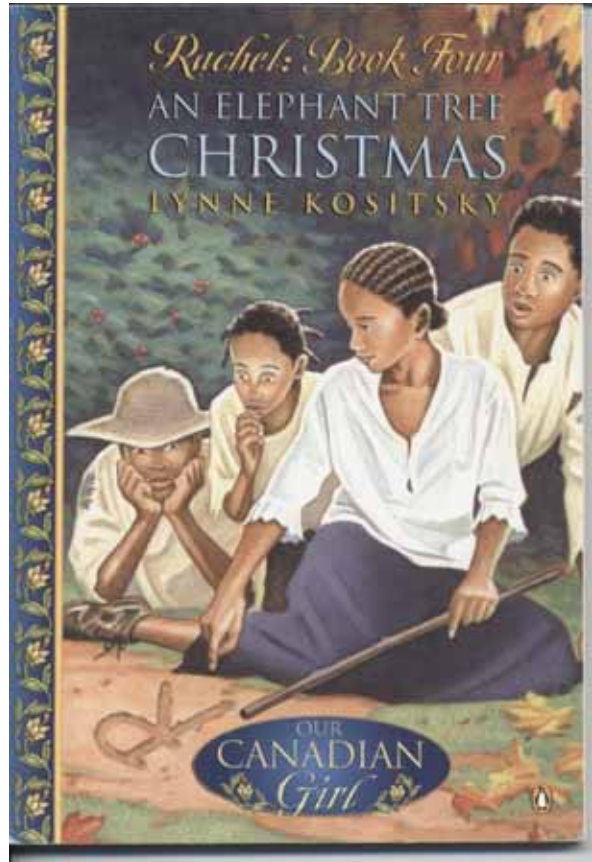
Rachel 4: An Elephant Tree Christmas

by Lynne Kositsky

With no sign of her beloved mamma's return, Rachel's been doing the work of two, trying to look after baby Jem and take care of the new house that Titan has built. Soon she's doing much more than that, having undertaken to teach the other children how to read and write. But with a hard winter coming and no indoor schoolroom, Rachel knows that her classes will soon come to an end. Even worse, some of her students may not survive another winter of bitter cold and not enough food. Rachel knows she can help the other children keep their bellies full enough. But what she doesn't count on is that someone will help keep her little school going.

"This was the fourth book in my series about Rachel. It is the closing book of the series, and I wanted to find an ending that would be satisfying for all Rachel's loyal readers. I wrote the four books because I have African-Canadian children of my own, and there is so little material for them about their backgrounds. I was also eager to tell the story of how the slaves in the American colonies came to Nova Scotia after the American Revolution. Their story had never been told before, and they faced terrible hardships that I wanted to document."

To read more about the entire Rachel series, please go to <http://lynnekositsky.com/books.html#rachel> and to <http://ourcanadiangirl.ca/rachel.php>



Thematic links:

Slavery
Black Loyalists
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Prejudice

Activity Ideas:

- What is a typical day like for Rachel in the 1700s?
 - What would she think about the world we live in today?
 - Why did families like Rachel's come to Canada?
 - Who were the Black Loyalists?
 - Research more about Halifax and the history of slavery.
- For more activities and ideas go to http://ourcanadiangirl.ca/teachers/teach_rachel.php and <http://ourcanadiangirl.ca/rachel.php>