

Robertson Davies
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My name is Lyla Miklos. I am a twenty-one year old Radio Broadcasting student at Mohawk College. I was saddened to hear of the passing of one of Canada's and the world's greatest writers – Robertson Davies.

The one highlight of High School literature class was reading Robertson Davies' Fifth Business. After the usual doses of Shakespeare, Shakespeare and more Shakespeare, and the hideously melodramatic and maudlin A Separate Peace, and then, "I'm sure this is the most influential novel in literary history", The Chrysalids – like a ruby stuck in strawberry jam Fifth Business was hidden in the muck and grime of the school curriculum only to be accidentally served on the stale toast of English class for the gem it is.

Just like Hitchcock's Vertigo, Fifth Business slowly opens one layer at a time misdirecting the reader by only revealing so much. The characters are richly drawn and the plot is fascinating and the language forced me into educating myself further. To understand Fifth Business fully our class had to examine and investigate the language and allegory used throughout the novel. When I first got Fifth Business I read it right away. I couldn't put it down. Forget the teacher's instructions "make sure you read a chapter a week". I wanted to find out what was going to happen next. Then after learning the deeper context behind his words in class I read it again and enjoyed it even more.

Thank you Robertson Davies for enriching and brightening up my literary experiences. Your books are Canadian treasures that should make all us proud. As Canadians we are constantly trying to find an identity. If you're still trying to figure out what it means to be a Canuck, pick up one of Robertson Davies books and then you'll know what it means to be Canadian.