Louis Riel

Introduction:

Birth-Montreal:
WFP para. 1 – born in 1844 in the Red River settlement
CSC p.34 – was the oldest of eleven children
RR p. 423 – “Riel showed leadership and intellectual promise from an early age bringing him to the attention of the Priest of the settlement who recommended he be sent to Montreal for further education.”
WFP para. 2 – father was Louis Riel Sr. and his mother was Julie Lagimodière.
RR p. 424 – the family was known for being devout Catholics and a strong belief in the family
RR p. 424 – Riel was first taught by Catholic priests.
RR p. 425 – Riel was selected to be sent to Montreal to study to be a priest
RR p. 425 – Riel’s father was French, Ojibway and Metis
RR p. 425 – Riel’s father was descended from one of the first white families in the area
RR p. 426 – Riel was excelled at languages and science
CSC p. 34 – left for Montreal when he was 14

Montreal:
WFP para. 2 – in 1858 for Riel and three others, including Louis Schmidt, went to Montreal to attend school.
WFP para. 3 – they attended the Petit Séminaire de Montréal
WFP para. 3 – Riel showed himself to be intelligent and studious, with a capacity for charming others
WFP para. 3 – Riel was moody, proud, and irritable.
CSC p.35 – Riel’s father died in Red River
CSC p. 35 – Riel’s father died in January 1864
CSC p. 35 – The news of his father’s death was a traumatic shock for Riel.
CSC p. 36 – Riel studied as a day student in the convent of the Grey Nuns, but was soon asked to leave following breaches of discipline
CSC p. 36 – Riel lived with his aunt, Lucia Riel
CSC p. 36 – Riel fell in love with Marie-Julie Guernon and even signed a marriage contract, but the romance ended because Marie’s parents were opposed to their daughter marrying a Métis
RR p. 426 - Always an introvert, subject to moods of depression, he seems to have lost confidence in his qualifications for the priesthood and withdrew from the college in March of the following year without graduating.
RR p. 426 – The death of Riel’s father had left his family poor and in debt
RR p. 427 Riel found the law boring and decided to return to Red River.

Return to Red River:
WFP para. 4 – Riel worked odd jobs in Chicago, Illinois
WPF para. 4 – Riel was employed as a clerk in St. Paul, Minnesota before returning to the Red River Settlement on 26 July 1868
WFP para. 5 – Riel found that religious, nationalistic, and racial tensions were exacerbated by an influx of English Protestants from Ontario
WFP para. 5 – Riel found that the political situation was also tense.
WFP para. 6 – The negotiations for Rupert’s Land being transferred to the government of Canada from the Hudson Bay Company were still ongoing.
WFP para. 6 – There was no one listening to the Metis.
CSC p. 36 – The Bishop warned the Canadian government that the Metis were upset.
CSC p. 36 – The Hudson Bay Company representative warned the Canadian government that the Metis were upset.
CSC p. 37 – The Canadian government sent out a survey party which increased the tension between the Metis and the government of Canada
RR p. 427 – The Metis did not own the land and they had surveyed it in long, thin plots along the river, not the way the Canadian government was surveying the area
RR p. 427 – During the summer of 1869, the Canadian Government sent John Stoughton Dennis to Red River to survey the land
RR p. 427 – The Ontario system cut across existing properties and moreover, surveying had begun before the land had been officially transferred to Canada.
RR p. 428 – When Dennis and his crew arrived in Fort Garry on October 11, 1869, eighteen Métis led by Louis Riel stopped the crew of surveyors
RR p. 428 – It was the first act of resistance to the transfer of the settlement to Canada and it established Louis Riel as a champion of the Métis and Métis rights

Red River Resistance:
WFP para. 7 – The group that stopped the surveyors organized itself into the "Métis National Committee" on 16 October, with Riel as secretary and John Bruce as president
WFP para. 7 – Riel was summoned by the HBC-controlled Council of Assiniboia to explain his actions
WFP para. 8 – Riel declared that any attempt by Canada to assume authority would be contested unless Ottawa had first negotiated terms with the Métis
WFP para. 8 – William McDougall, who had been appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Rupert’s Land, set out for Red River to take possession of what would come to be known as the Northwest Territory, for Canada.
WFP para. 9 – He was accompanied by a ready-made government and armed with 300 rifles.
WFP para. 9 – When news of McDougall’s impending arrival reached the Métis, they decided to organize a resistance
WFP para. 10 – The Metis National Committee sent a warning to McDougall advising him not to enter the country without special permission from them
CSC p. 38 – Riel took over Fort Garry
CSC p. 38 – McDougall was turned back at the border

Exile:
Return to Batoche:

North West Rebellion:

Trial and Execution:

Importance and Significance:

Conclusion: