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selected & evaluated by teacher-librarians

2015 • 2016

Mayoreak Ashoona | Tuulirjuaq (Great Big Loon), 2009
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Dear teacher-librarians, public librarians, wholesalers and retailers:

For over 20 years, the Association of Book Publishers of BC (ABPBC) has produced a catalogue of books to assist teacher-librarians and others in their selection of Canadian books. We began with *BC Books for BC Schools*. Eight years ago we added this catalogue and in 2015 we are proud to offer *Canadian History Books for Schools*. All of our catalogues have been met with enthusiastic approval, which is very gratifying and points to both the excellence of BC and Canadian-published books and to their suitability for school libraries.

All the books in this catalogue were written or published by Aboriginal people or are about or for Aboriginals. Teacher-librarians select and annotate the titles providing grade range and curricula links, as well as comments and cautions. Our annotators inspire us with their knowledge, professionalism and their love of books. We hope that the information they provide to us will help you with your selection process.

If you are new to the catalogue, you will find that it is helpfully organized by grade level: Elementary (K-7), Secondary (8-12) and Cross-Grades for those books that are appropriate at both levels. Entries are then organized alphabetically by title within each section.

Because this catalogue is distributed nationally we have chosen to provide generic subject areas, which we hope is sufficient for your resourcing needs.

Our catalogue is available on our website in PDF format (books.bc.ca/resources/for-teacher-librarians). You may also want to check out 49th Shelf (49thshelf.com) where you will find listings of our catalogue titles and more Canadian books.

The ABPBC would not be able to undertake to produce and distribute these catalogues without the help of our partners: Government of Canada through the Canada Book Fund of Canadian Heritage, The Canada Council for the Arts, the City of Vancouver, and Creative BC. Thank you for your generosity.

We always welcome feedback on your use of the catalogue and improvements we may make.

Best regards,

Margaret Reynolds
Executive Director
Association of Book Publishers of BC

September 2015

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**COVER ARTIST**

“Tuulirjuaq (Great Big Loon)” reproduced with permission from Dorset Fine Arts, © 2009

**Mayoreak Ashoona**

*Tuulirjuaq (Great Big Loon)*, 2009

Mayoreak Ashoona has been exhibiting her drawings and sculptures since 1978. Originally a means of supporting herself financially, Mayoreak is now celebrated for her mastery of traditional techniques in creating work that is dynamic in nature and offers a uniquely feminine perspective.
BIG BEAR
Terry Barber

Written in a narrative style, this biography of Big Bear, a Cree chief who lived from around 1825-1888, is part of the First Nations Series. Big Bear played a big role in trying to unite First Nations groups and attempting to create peace between First Nations people and the Government of Canada. The text is easy to read, making this book useful for students looking for basic information and learning to pick facts out of paragraphs. It is also written in a style meant to be easy for English Language Learners to use.

A free workbook to go with this title is available on the publisher's web site.

BROTHERS OF THE WOLF
Caroll Simpson

Pre-contact Pacific Northwest Aboriginal cultures and their coastal environment inspired this story about two wolf cubs who were raised as human brothers to fish and hunt for their village. Although inseparable, one is drawn to the sea and one to the woods. With the influence of Raven, a transformative climax results in the brothers being forever separated. However, each month they join their voices and howl to waken the sleeping full Moon. The text is enhanced by vibrant, detailed double-page spreads plus a glossary of both the natural and supernatural creatures.

THE CANOE HE CALLED LOO TAAS
Amanda Reid-Stevens

Loo Taas, or Wave Eater, is a Haida canoe that was carved for Expo '86. This rhyming story is about the creation of the canoe. The author describes how the tree was chosen and carved and how the canoe is paddled and stored. Haida traditions are passionately described in the story as well as in the afterword. This story is told with authentic voice. The afterword is an essential part of this tale, adding specific details about the life of the canoe and what it brought to the community, namely the opportunity to relearn culture and for community to connect.

DIPNETTING WITH DAD
Willie Sellars

A young boy turns seven and is now old enough to dip-net fish with his dad and grandpa. He is thrilled to catch his first fish, a sockeye salmon. After many fish fill their net he learns the fun part is over and now the hard work begins. His grandma is in charge and teaches him how to freeze and dry the fish with a pinch of her secret ingredient. The boy learns that when everyone eats, everyone pitches in and that there is nothing more rewarding than eating your own catch. A coming-of-age story with Native traditions and values. Easthope's vibrant pencil crayon drawings bring this story to life. Includes a glossary, but does not include traditional language.
DISCOVERING NUMBERS
Neepin Auger
Neepin Auger, illus.
This small counting board book is uncluttered, colourful, and bold. Each number from 1 to 10 is featured on its own page. The numeral is accompanied by the number word written in English, French, and Cree. The matching pictures use objects or animals important in Aboriginal cultures: one world, two fish, three owls, four feathers, five flowers, six butterflies, seven sweetgrass bundles, eight teepee pegs, nine teepees, and ten arrowheads. A final page compiles all the pictures and labels the objects.

Auger also compiled a companion title, Discovering Words. Though very simple, both books will appeal to beginning readers or students learning English, French, or Cree as a second language. Teachers may also use the illustrations as a springboard to discuss aspects of traditional and modern Aboriginal cultures.

GRADES: K-5, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, FRENCH, MATHEMATICS, SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No/No
©2013 12pp. 6.5”x6.5”
colour drawings
ISBN 9781927330982 $8.00 HC
epub 9781927330999 $1.99
Rocky Mountain Books
www.rmbooks.com

DISCOVERING WORDS
Neepin Auger
Neepin Auger, illus.
Each page of this small alphabet board book features an animal or object appealing to young readers. Many important aspects of Aboriginal cultures are featured. Sometimes this is in the choice of objects such as canoe, drum, moccasins, sweat lodge, and teepee. Other times it is in the illustration itself such as Métis beading on a jacket or a woman’s long dark braid. Each picture is labeled in English, French, and Cree. The alphabetical order is based on the English words. A final page compiles all the pictures.

GRADES: K-5, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, FRENCH, SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No/No
©2013 28pp. 6.5”x6.5”
colour drawings
ISBN 9781927330951 $12.00 HC
epub 9781927330968 $2.99
Rocky Mountain Books
www.rmbooks.com

P’ÉSK’A AND THE FIRST SALMON CEREMONY
Scot Ritchie
Scot Ritchie, illus.
The salmon ceremony of the Sts’ailes First Nation, whose traditional territory is on Harrison River in BC, is shown through the eyes of P’esk’a, a young Sts’ailes boy, from a thousand years ago. This short story illustrates the activities of a Sts’ailes community in a way that young children can connect with. The Sts’ailes People and their cultural practices are shown in a respectful way. The illustrations are also rich in detail. Additional information about the Sts’ailes First Nation is provided at the end of the story, as is a glossary with pronunciation. The author is not Aboriginal but included is a letter from Chief William Charlie of the Sts’ailes People which expresses the authenticity of the information given in the book.

GRADES: K-3, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No/No
©2015 32pp. 8.5”x10”
colour drawings, line drawn maps
ISBN 9781554987184 $18.95 HC
Groundwood Books
www.groundwoodbooks.com

THE SEVEN TEACHINGS STORIES
Katherena Vermette
Irene Kuziw, illus.
Love, Bravery, Humility, Wisdom, Honesty, Truth, and Respect comprise the seven teachings of the Anishinaabe. Each story in this seven-book collection introduces one of those teachings. These stories take place in a modern urban environment, most often at school or at home, and feature recurring Aboriginal characters. Throughout the series, authentic cultural elements such as traditional medicines, hunting, drumming, and smudging blend seamlessly with modern touches such as comic books, seat belts, tag, and night lights. Complementary but not strictly sequential, the stories work together to introduce young readers to the teachings in an accessible and engaging manner.

In Amik Loves School, Amik shares his positive feelings about school with his grandfather, Moshoon, who then shares his
own sad memories of attending residential school. They visit Amik’s school and notice how close to home it is, the traditional language lessons being taught, and how nice the teacher is. Moshoom is happy.

In The First Day, Makwa is scared of starting at a new school. His mama reminds him that being scared is part of being brave and that he can ask for what he needs. He is welcomed by his teacher and is befriended by other students, and feels better.

Migizi’s grandmother, Gookom, is sick and he wants to get her The Just Right Gift. He soon realizes that he can’t buy, pick, or make anything that matches her love. He finally remembers that she always asks for one thing: a loving hug.

In Kode’s Quest(ion), the cultural teacher says that respect will be the next teaching. Kode

In Singing Sisters, Ma’iingan loves to sing and entertain. She is not pleased when her little sister wants to join her in the limelight. After some unkind words make her sister unhappy, she realizes that sharing is better.

What is Truth, Betsy? starts with Betsy, the cultural teacher, asking "What is?" Miskwaadesi lists off the many things that she knows to be true and concludes that we all teach each other. This story references many cultural elements.

SOAPSTONE SIGNS
Jeff Pinkney
Darlene Gait, illus.
“When a piece of stone has chosen you, only the one who is to be the carver will know what it will become.”

A young Cree boy is mesmerized by the craft of Lindy, a Master soapstone and gypsum carver. When asked how he knows what to carve next, Lindy says to ask the stone and encourages him to stay open to signs from the world around him. “Whatever it’s going to be it’s already there.” As the boy helps his parents with traditional Cree customs like making bannock with his mom or going on a fall goose hunt with his father, each season reveals a sign that cleverly tells the boy what animal to carve. This is a heartwarming story of family relations and mentorship through an appreciation for nature in a traditional Cree community. The author intersperses Cree words like wapameg (Beluga + whale) and wapsak (white bear) into the text.

SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE A FOX
Danielle Daniel
Danielle Daniel
Twelve young speakers explain how they identify with a totem animal from the Anishinabae tradition. Each child wearing an animal mask and using the repeating pattern, “sometimes I feel like,” declares how he/she shares the traits associated with that animal, for example, protectiveness (bear) or kindness (deer). The book is richly illustrated and the visual qualities set a light and whimsical tone. This book is suitable for introducing imaginative play, character traits and First Nations education. Additional extensions include using the First Nations concept of clans to describe the many social groups to which children belong. Readers may also want to research the use of masks in cultures throughout the world. At the end of the book, the author explains the Anishinabae tradition of animal clans and dedicates the book to Aboriginal children who grew up never knowing their totem animal.
**TAAN’S MOONS**

**A HAIDA MOON STORY**
Alison Gear
Kiki van der Heiden with the Children of Haida Gwaii, illus.

Inspired by Haida moon stories, Gear has created a beautiful book celebrating twelve special moons as experienced by Taan the Bear. Evocative quatrains accompany the stunning felted artwork. Artist van der Heiden worked with kindergarten and primary children in Haida Gwaii schools to create the multi-coloured felt fabric and design the illustrations for each page.

Although deeply immersed in Haida culture, this is a book for all children. Colour photographs of the children working with the felting process and a foreword by noted author Richard Van Camp round out the presentation of this special book. Both Skidegate and Masset Haida dialect translations for each moon name are provided. A full written translation and audio recording in Skidegate dialect is available.

**GRADES:** K-5, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, VISUAL ARTS

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**WINTER MOON SONG**

**Martha Brooks**
Leticia Ruifernández, illus.

Little Rabbit is fascinated by the picture of the rabbit in the moon. He sings in a choir that is learning the Winter Moon Song and he longs to know the story behind it. His mother eventually tells him and Little Rabbit thinks about it as he sings. The candlelight performance is beautiful but for Little Rabbit it was not “a magical path lighting the darkest month,” as his mother had said. As everyone leaves no one seems to notice the winter moon hanging above them. Little Rabbit gazes at the moon and starts to sing all by himself. Soon the elders and other rabbits join in. As everyone sings under the moon a feeling of belonging develops and a new tradition is begun.

Variations of the Moon Rabbit story exist in many cultures but well-known novelist Martha Brooks has given it her own interpretation.

**GRADES:** K-6, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

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**ECHOES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Voices from the Frontier**
Robert Budd

Through firsthand accounts and archival photographs, these oral histories of early European immigrants to BC paint a unique picture of White and Native interaction. Stories are told of being provided with deer meat by a Chilcotin chief after a difficult journey, of being helped by Natives to rebuild a burned down home, and of being welcomed into the Nisga’a chief’s home to teach the children in their own community. The interdependence is clear as First Nations people tried to get one of the first Europeans at Shuswap Lake to build and operate a store in their community and in another as an immigrant paid a local Native man to show him the best ranch to buy. Three CDs of the stories are included.

**GRADES:** 6-12, HISTORY, SOCIAL STUDIES

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**HONOURING THE BUFFALO**

**A PLAINS CREE LEGEND**
Judith Silverthorne
Mike Keepness, illus.

Grandfather tells his young grandson the story of how the buffalo offered themselves to the Creator long ago to help “the two-leggeds” survive. In return, the Plains Cree would honour them forever. The full-page illustrations carry us back in time to appreciate the traditional ways of Plains Cree life and how the buffalo sustained every aspect of their existence. Beside each page of artwork is a page of the legend in both English and Cree (Y dialect). The back pages enhance the story with photographs of “Things Made From Buffalo”, buffalo facts, and an “Educational Guide” including questions and research activities.

**GRADES:** 3-8, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, SOCIAL STUDIES, TEACHER RESOURCE

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**INDEX/BIBLIOGRAPHY:** No/Yes

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**ISBN:** 9781550176780 $35.00 PA
epub 9781550176303 $35.00

Harbour Publishing
www.harbourpublishing.com
Siwash Rock.

The Lions, Deer Lake, and other Vancouver landmarks such as English Bay, Granville Island, and the Olympic Village were all featured in the book. The Squamish nation, an indigenous group, explains the origins of these Vancouver landmarks through oral history and stories passed down from generation to generation.

LEGENDS OF VANCOUVER / LÉGENDES DE VANCOUVER
100TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION
E. Pauline Johnson
Anne-Marie Comte, photog.

Pauline Johnson, a poet, writer, and performer, was the daughter of a Mohawk Chief and an English mother. Born during the Victorian era, she made considerable contributions as an Aboriginal artist as well as to our Canadian identity. This book retells stories told to Johnson by Chief Joe Capilano of the Squamish people. Each legend begins and ends with Johnson’s impressions about the story. The legends touch on a variety of themes: the origin of Vancouver landmarks such as The Lions, Deer Lake, and Siwash Rock.

Caution: Use of the terms “Indian” and “Redskins”

ORCA CHIEF
Roy Henry Vickers & Robert Budd
Roy Henry Vickers, illus.

A message of respect and care for our marine environment is at the core of this magnificently illustrated picture book. Four fishermen set off from their village, Kitkatla, in search of seaweed and sockeye salmon. Their disrespectful behaviour at sea awakens the Orca Chief who summons the men to his underwater home. Fearing revenge the men beg for forgiveness. The Chief shows compassion by teaching them how to sustainably harvest the ocean’s resources. Twenty colour illustrations combine images of nature and Aboriginal symbolism. An accompanying website features an audio recording of the author narrating this story.

SHORE TO SHORE
THE ART OF TS’UTS’UMUTL
LUKE MARSTON
Suzanne Fournier

Shore to Shore uses the eponymous 14-foot bronze-cast cedar sculpture erected in Stanley Park, Vancouver, to research and narrate Ts’uts’umutl Luke Marston’s career as an artist and his exploration of ancestral roots on Reid Island, BC, and on Pico in the Portuguese Azores. This account of how the sculpture was created is also a tribute to the ancestors. The inclusion of a brief history and impressions of the look and feel of the Azores where Portuguese Joe Silvey was born balances the ancestral grouping. Colour photographs illustrate the process of creating the sculpture and display work in many media including wood carving and jewelry making. This book provides a history of 19th and 20th century contacts between settlers and original inhabitants and the importance of the artistic traditions of Coast Salish art.

THREE FEATHERS
Richard Van Camp
K. Mateus, illus.

Van Camp’s debut graphic novel in the Debwe Series features the healing powers of restorative justice. Three young Native men’s anger at their community manifests into violence and stealing. After being arrested, they are sent for nine months to live off the land. Elders teach them how to live in a respectful relationship with the land, their provider and best teacher. This relationship helps define everyone’s character and values: respect, humility, caring, and sharing. They learn how fire is medicine representing a living force that must never go out and how every child is born with a special gift and talent to discover and share with the community. “For the first time these men feel the heartbeat of the land…and hear the whispers of their ancestors.” They find their gifts and their voices but is the community ready to listen?

Caution: Includes some graphic violence.
BETTY
THE HELEN BETTY OSBORNE STORY
David Alexander Robertson
Scott B. Henderson, illus.
Helen Betty Osborne, a Cree woman born in 1952, was sexually assaulted, raped, and murdered on November 13, 1971 in La Pas, Manitoba. This graphic novel presents the days surrounding this crime and the sad and tragic details of the event. The stark gray-scale drawings and the minimal text emphasize the subsequent neglect that Helen’s case received in the years following. This is an engaging and empathetic visual description of this life, this death, and its singular depiction of sexism, racism, and indifference that has been for years the story of so many indigenous women. In it the reader moves beyond “name and statistic” to a face and a person.

DREAMING IN INDIAN
CONTEMPORARY NATIVE AMERICAN VOICES
Lisa Charleyboy & Mary Beth Leetherdale, eds.
This is a collection of creative works by Aboriginal youth living in both Canada and the US. In Lee Maracle’s foreword she states that, “oppressed people…can’t imagine anything better. Once you can, you’re on your way”. Through art, dance, acting, photo collages, lyrics, stories, interviews, memories from elders, and short essays, these youth abound with creativity and imagination. They portray their experiences of poverty, racism, bullying, abuse, addictions, reserve life, urban living, and loss of cultural identity. Part 3 titled “Medicines” focuses on what has given them the strength to find their gifts and reclaim their cultural heritage through the arts, allowing them to break the negative cycles which have claimed the lives of family and friends. Richly illustrated with examples of their creative work and photographs of the artists.

THE FIRST NATIONS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, 3RD EDITION
AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL OVERVIEW
Robert J. Muckle
Now in its third edition, this book is a concise and accessible overview of BC’s First Nations peoples, cultures, and issues. Muckle educates readers about the history, diversity, and complexity of Aboriginal peoples. The text examines archaeological research and how ancestry is traced through archaeological sites, artifacts, and DNA. The impact of the arrival of the Europeans is examined through both a historical and religious context. The author explores such topics as the impact of fur traders, gold seekers, missionaries, settlers, residential schools, government policies, and treaty negotiations.

FROM THE WEST COAST TO THE WESTERN FRONT
BRITISH COLUMBIANS AND THE GREAT WAR
Mark Forsythe & Greg Dickson
This book tells the amazing stories and often tragic ends of the lives of British Columbian men and women—not only WASPs but also First Nations, Japanese, and Chinese Canadians—involved in the WWI. In a clearly written, well-researched, engaging narrative their contributions are described. One reads of the many Victoria Cross recipients and their deeds of heroism. The fascinating story of conscientious objectors such as Ginger Goodwin is described. Conscription and its use is presented along with references to many war heroes from BC such as Flowerdew, Currie, Collishaw, Pearkes, and McLean. One reads about the flourishing and use of the literary and visual arts on the battlefield as well as the horrors of trench warfare.
GREY EYES
A NOVEL
Frank Christopher Busch
Inspired by the birth of his own grey-eyed child, Busch sought out the traditional Grey-Eye legends. He blended what little had been retained throughout the last century with long-standing First Nations and Métis teachings to create the culture and lifestyle depicted in his debut novel. Set long ago, a baby boy is born to the poorest lodge of the Nehiyawak people. Immediately recognizing his Grey-Eye magic, the family realizes that their situation has changed. As Little Grey Bear Boy grows up and is trained, a danger for both him and his community grows stronger. Life lived by the traditional teachings is threatened by one final violent, magic-fueled struggle between good and evil.

ISLAND’S SPIRIT RISING
RECLAIMING THE FORESTS OF HAIDA GWAI
Louise Takeda
This scholarly study traces the long-term conflict over the islands’ ancient forests and events that unfolded in the context of collaborative land-use planning. Aggressive logging over the past century has threatened both the environmental biodiversity and the cultural values of the Haida people who rely on these forests. As early as 1974 Guujaaw (known then as Gary Edenshaw) organized the first formal committee of Haida and non-Haida residents to formally lodge a statement with the government to protect the region from logging. In 2005, a barricade named Island’s Spirit Rising was constructed to block access to Weyerhaeuser’s logging operations. The text follows the government’s responses to this economic crisis. The book concludes with the 2011 official naming ceremony of Haida Gwaii.

LIFE CYCLE OF A LIE
Sylvia Olsen
This novel takes place in a small BC town. Vik, meets the new student Jonas on the first day of high school. Both Vik and her boyfriend, Linc, become good friends with Jonas, and they are all part of an environmental group called SOS (Save our Streams). Jonas unintentionally causes tension in Vik and Linc’s relationship. Jonas is then accused of a crime which only Vik can tell the truth about. The novel covers issues such as racial tension between non-First Nations and First Nations in the community, personal concerns around sexuality, and the complexities of family relationships.

ME ARTSY
Drew Hayden Taylor, ed.
This anthology of 14 essays by prominent Aboriginal artists addresses how the authors became artists, what inspired them, how their Aboriginal identity affects their art and their relationship to it. The term “art” is interpreted broadly. Chef David Wolfman describes gruelling years training in exclusive kitchens, filmmaker Zacharias Kunuk discusses beginning his first feature film without knowing how to finance it, and playwright Drew Hayden Taylor tells the story of burying his first play. Other contributors include painter Marianne Nicolson, fashion designer Kim Picard, painter Maxine Noel, blues pianist Murray Porter, scholar Karyn Recollet, traditional drummer Steve Teekens, writer and storyteller Richard Van Camp and manga artist Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas. This inspiring anthology reveals an engaging view of Canada’s contemporary Aboriginal cultural producers with imagination and humour.

Caution: Contains considerable graphic violence including injury and death. Magic plays a considerable role in the plot as does the portrayal of traditional Aboriginal teachings and practices.
Norval Morrisseau

Man Changing Into Thunderbird

Armand Garnet Ruffo

Norval Morrisseau (1932–2007), Ojibway shaman-artist, was honoured with the Order of Canada, an Aboriginal Achievement award, and became the first Aboriginal artist to have a solo show at the National Gallery of Canada. In 1962, he rose to prominence following a sold-out exhibition in Toronto. The author draws on extensive research from books, newspaper articles, archival videos, and an interview with the painter in this captivating biography that provides insights into the creative and often darker sides of this prolific artist. A residential school survivor, haunted by the demons of alcoholism. By the end of his life there were questions about the authenticity of his later works. The story intertwines teachings from his grandfather, memories of spirit dreams, and poetry.

Grades: 11–12, English Language Arts, Visual Art

Index/Bibliography: Yes/No ©2014 320pp. 6”x9” b/w photographs ISBN 9781771620468 $32.95 HC epub 9781771620475 $32.95 Douglas & McIntyre www.douglas-mcintyre.com

One Story, One Song

Richard Wagamese

One Story, One Song comprises over 60 short essays/stories of personal observations and experiences that apply the traditional Ojibway principles of humility, trust, and wisdom to modern life. With humour and sensitivity, the essays relate to the ongoing struggle for Native rights in Canada. Written in an unadorned style, topics like homelessness, alcoholism, and drug abuse, are unsentimentally presented through the clarity of the author’s voice. Part memoir, part self-help book, and part affirmation, the author moves towards honesty and confidence by healing past wounds and finding peace with his identity as a former alcoholic who has witnessed the range of human flaws and kindnesses.

Grades: 10–12, English Language Arts

Index/Bibliography: No/No ©2015 216pp. 5.5”x8” ISBN 9781771620802 $19.95 PA ISBN 9781553655060 $29.95 HC epub 9781553655432 $19.95 Douglas & McIntyre www.douglas-mcintyre.com

The Outside Circle

A Graphic Novel

Patti LaBoucane-Benson

Kelly Mellings, illus.

This graphic novel addresses issues of racism and discrimination, poverty, sexual and domestic abuse, alcohol and drug addiction, and gang violence in a search for a healing balance for First Nations youth. The protagonist becomes aware of the effect that his lifestyle plays in transmitting the intergenerational pain of the Aboriginal people on to his younger brother. He embarks on a physical and spiritual healing process through the “In Search of Your Warrior” program, sweat lodges, and smudging. The Outside Circle uses the conventions of the graphic novel to powerful effect in narrating a sensitive and disturbing story.

Caution: Graphic images and content may be disturbing to some readers.

Grades: 10–12, English Language Arts, Social Studies


Page as Bone—ink as Blood

Jónína Kirton

This book of poems is a collection of memories—of family, illness, sexual encounters, suicide, death, and redemption. Her voice is clearly Métis, clearly female. Her poems, which range from lyrics to prose poems, are infused with rhythm and song and employ interesting use of white space. One piece is an imagined after-death letter from Louis Riel to Gabriel Dumont. Two pages of notes at the back of the book offer insights into some of the poems and into the poet’s mind.

Caution: Includes a sarcastic reference to Jehovah Witnesses’ belief. The poems include references to drugs.

Grades: 11–12, Creative Writing, English Language Arts, Social Studies, Teacher Reference

Index/Bibliography: No/No ©2015 96pp. 6”x9” ISBN 9780889229235 $16.95 PA Talonbooks www.talonbooks.com
**PEACE PIPE DREAMS**

**THE TRUTH ABOUT LIES ABOUT INDIANS**

Darrell Dennis

*Peace Pipe Dreams* is a blend of entertaining personal anecdotes and historical facts told through the author's comedic perspective. In a very readable writing style, Dennis examines Aboriginal issues and the historical and religious context that helped shape them. This fascinating book describes the misconceptions around political correctness, perceptions of the Europeans and North Americans, the Indian Act, treaties, reserves, taxation, sports mascot names, and the implementation of residential schools. The final chapter lists resources.

**Caution:** Mature language in the section "Captivity Stories" describes the sex roles of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women in movies.

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**THE SEARCH FOR HEINRICH SCHLÖGEL**

Martha Baillie

This novel is narrated by an archivist who becomes obsessed with Schlögel's disappearance after seeing a news photograph in which he is seen walking in downtown Toronto followed by a fox and a stag. So begins the strange story of Heinrich Schlögel. Fascinated by the Arctic explorer Samuel Hearne, influenced by his brilliant but suicidal sister's study of Inukituk, and by a Canadian who lived on Baffin Island, he makes a journey to Pangnirtung from his home in Germany. During a 12-day solitary hike, Schlögel experiences visions and inexplicable events. When he returns to Pangnirtung he has not aged but time has shifted and he emerges 30 years in the future. Baillie's unreliable narrator and her use of magic realism and time travel create a novel that blends fantasy and reality, while also commenting on changing environmental conditions in the north.

**Caution:** Explicit sexual and alcohol abuse references are included.

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**THE THUNDERBIRD POEMS**

Armand Garnet Ruffo

Here the poet links renowned Canadian artist Norval Morisseau's life to his paintings in a series of poems and brief prose comments. Each poem is prefaced with a comment to set the context. The reader learns not only of the artist's life and paintings but also about Ojibway storytelling traditions and worldview. The artist's struggles as a survivor of a Catholic residential school, drug and alcohol abuse, estrangement from his family and home community, and artistic triumphs are recounted. The poems also bravely consider how Morisseau was the first Canadian artist to express his sexuality in his work.

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**TOFINO AND CLAYOQUOT SOUND**

Margaret Horsfield & Ian Kennedy, eds.

This compilation of essays provides the first overall history of the region. From the distant past to the present day, the authors give a complete and lively account of the culturally rich Nuu-chah-nulth homeland as it evolved from obscure rain forest to a world-renowned wilderness destination, the Pacific Rim National Park. We are introduced to explorers and sealers, missionaries and settlers, First Nations leaders, children at the residential schools, and pre-Internment Japanese families. Fur trading and gold-seeking eventually gave way to fishing and logging, and later to tourism. Environmental disputes erupted as the region developed. Layers of history are unravelled through meticulous research, personal stories, and an understanding of the social and political forces driving life on the west coast of Vancouver Island.
TRUTH IN PLAY
Drama Strategies for Building Meaningful Performances
Debbie Nyman, Jill Lloyd-Jones & David S. Craig

This title offers 10 scenes and 6 monologues dealing with contemporary social issues from authentic voices across gender and culture. Each script is followed by strategies to deepen understanding of the text, tips to enhance rehearsal and performance, and a list of additional related readings and plays. Two monologues are presented in their original French language, as well as in English translation.

Aboriginal content is very limited. Only one scene, drawn from the play Agokwe by Waawaate Fobister, is based on this Aboriginal author’s experience growing up as a gay youth on a reserve.

Caution: Mature social issues include bullying, inter-racial dating, mental illness, sexual orientation, and teen parenting. Includes language in keeping with the raw characters.

UN/INHABITED
Jordan Abel

This challenging book takes found poetry to a place it has never been asking questions such as: What is text, publishing, public domain, commons, readable? What does inhabited, settler, frontier, treaty or pioneer mean? Nisg̱a’a poet Abel reaches into the public domain for 91 Western novels using selected text—settler, frontier, treaty, etc.—to highlight the familiar concepts or themes found therein. By omitting them from the text the poet shows how the presence of First Nations people was conveniently omitted by the behaviours and language of European immigrants. He also omits text by overlaying maps and extracts whole sections to the point of unreadability to demonstrate what it must have been like for First Nations when first confronted with European language. An essay and afterword explain Abel’s intent. Sources of found text and an index with page numbers for various geographical terms only are included.

WHERE I BELONG
Tara White

In this novel, Carrie knows she is adopted but no one knows anything about her birth family. Her vivid dreams are the only clues she has. Her parents are very protective and Carrie feels stifled and rebellious especially when she meets an attractive Mohawk boy of whom her parents disapprove. Carrie runs away and is brought back by police who are actually looking for another girl. As a result Carrie meets her biological father, twin sister, and an extended Mohawk family. She spends a week with her new family at the time of the Oka uprising when tensions are high. Carrie’s dreams of blockades, firebombs, and masked men are coming to life. As the dispute is settled, Carrie realizes that Mohawk spirituality and western medicine both have a part to play in her life and that she can love both families.
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