CANADIAN INDIGENOUS BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS

selected and evaluated by teacher-librarians and educators

2018/19
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Dear librarians and educators,

Indigenous Peoples having a place to voice their stories, experiences, and ideas in published works is very important, and even more so with the TRC Calls to Action and changes in the K–12 curriculum, which have brought heightened awareness of the need to decolonize educational institutions.

As an Indigenous educator, I know that finding good-quality, authentic Indigenous voice resources that are grade appropriate can be challenging. I look to role models such as Jeanette Armstrong, Lee Maracle, and Greg Younging to guide me as to how to ensure that resources I use and suggest are not stolen words or stories used without permission.

I have been an annotator for the Association of Book Publishers of British Columbia (ABPBC) for many years. Over the years I wondered about how books for the Indigenous catalogue were selected, and I eventually inquired about the process. In 2017, I began working for the ABPBC as a consultant to begin a new chapter for the catalogue, and it was the first year all the books included in the Indigenous catalogue were books with authentic Indigenous voice. Books with authentic Indigenous voice are either written by Indigenous Peoples or are written in consultation with the Indigenous communities or people mentioned to ensure the content is correct and appropriate to be published. This year, the books themselves were all reviewed and annotated by Indigenous educators from around BC.

This is a process, and we have only just begun. We will inevitably stumble as we continue this endeavour, but I am excited by where the ABPBC is headed in supporting education and teachers across the country.

For more information about how to assess if a book has authentic Indigenous voice, I would recommend reading Authentic First Peoples Resources, published by FNESC and FNSA: www.fnesc.ca/authenticresources

—Jackie Lever, BC certified teacher and catalogue consultant

Notes on using this catalogue:

- All of the titles in this catalogue are recent releases from Canadian publishers. A list of the publishers whose titles are included is listed at the back (pp. 29). We encourage you to visit the publishers’ websites to find more information about the books and authors. Teaching resources are often available.
- The catalogue is organized by appropriate grade level: Elementary (K–7), Secondary (8–12), and Cross-Grades for those books that are appropriate at both levels. Books that are suitable as teacher resources are also indicated. Entries are organized alphabetically by title within each section. A title index appears at the back (pp. 28).
- As this catalogue is distributed across Canada, we have provided general curriculum tie-ins that can be aligned with your province’s curriculum.
- Where this information was supplied by publishers, we have indicated the community affiliations of authors, editors, and contributors who identify as Indigenous. (Note that authors may have other connections to Indigenous communities that are not indicated here.) We have also chosen to use the terms and spellings preferred by each contributor, which accounts for what may appear to be stylistic inconsistencies.

Ordering Information

The ABPBC does not fill orders. Please contact your local library wholesaler or retailer to place an order. A list is available at books.bc.ca/resources/for-teacher-librarians.

Online Resources

Download a PDF of this catalogue and past editions on our website at books.bc.ca/resources/for-teacher-librarians. Annotations from previous years’ catalogues are also available on 49th Shelf (49thshelf.com).

Complete our survey for a chance to win a prize!

We want to ensure that our catalogues are meeting teacher-librarians’ and educators’ needs. We are also interested in your suggestions for improvements. Please complete the survey at the following link and you will be entered to win a selection of books for your school.

bit.ly/catalogue-survey-2018

Association of Book Publishers of BC
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Vancouver, BC V6B 1T6
604-684-0228 • books.bc.ca • @abpbc

The ABPBC office is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Book Fund for this project, as well as operating assistance provided by the Canada Council for the Arts, Creative BC, and the City of Vancouver.

Catalogue design by Gerilee McBride • Printed in Canada
Coyote Tales

Thomas King (Cherokee and Greek descent) • Byron Eggenschwiler, illus.

Thomas King is a well-known Indigenous author who has received numerous awards for his writing, including the recent Governor General’s Literary Award for The Back of the Turtle. King’s Coyote Tales tells two fun stories children will enjoy, either as a read-aloud, or to read on their own. One of King’s stories tells the tale of what happened when Moon became annoyed with Coyote, and the other tells how Coyote stole the clothes (coats) of the animals in the forest. Both stories will have children laughing and creating images in their minds, even without seeing the wonderful drawings by Byron Eggenschwiler.

GRADES: K–4 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts
2017, 60 pp., 5.25 x 7.75”, b&w drawings • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9781554988334, $16.95, HC • E-ISBN 9781554988358, $14.95
Groundwood Books

Dah Dzähge Esigits: We Write Our Language

Edōsdi Dr. Judy Thompson, Angela Dennis, Regina Louie, Odelia Dennis (Tāłtān), Hostelmā Pauline Hawkins • Una-Ann Moyer, Peter Morin and Tsēma Igharas (Tāłtān)

This Tāłtān alphabet book is a resource intended for those who wish to learn the sounds and/or symbols of the Tāłtān language. Readers can “match sounds to symbols,” and language speakers can learn the alphabet to aid in their learning to read and write in Tāłtān. Beautiful drawings illustrate contextual vocabulary in a clear and straightforward manner. Each sound is clearly documented with its symbol (English letters), English sound, Tāłtān dialect sound, an example in a sentence, and the English translation. A concise alphabet chart at the back of the book serves as further reference. Several Tāłtān language leaders and artists collaborated to produce Dah Dzähge Esigits: We Write Our Language as an endeavour to “inspire future generations of Tāłtān speakers and aid Tāłtān cultural sustainability.”

GRADES: K–7 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts
2017, 110 pp., 8.5 x 11”, colour and b&w drawings • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9781926886497, $19.95, PB
Theytus Books
A Day with Yayah

Nicola I. Campbell (Nlêʔkepmx, Syilx, & Métis) • Julie Flett (Cree-Métis), illus.
This book offers an enchanting glimpse into the Nlêʔkepmx of the Nicola Valley in BC’s Interior. A young girl named Nikki, her Yayah (grandmother), and other relatives journey to harvest spring plants. The author emphasizes many important cultural characteristics such as the passing on of knowledge, respect and relationship with the environment, spirituality, and even humour. The story enforces the importance of traditional language and respect for the wisdom of Elders with their knowledge of plants and nature. The writing has a smooth flow and allows readers to see and hear – and perhaps speak – a few words of the Nlêʔkepmxcin language. The illustrations underscore the joyous emotions one can experience when learning about their culture. A glossary of Nlêʔkepmxcin words in the text appears at the back. Campbell is the author of Shi-she-etko and Shin-chi’s Canoe.

GRADES: K–2 / SUBJECTS: Art Education, English Language Arts, Social Studies
2017, 32 pp., 9.25 x 10.25”, colour illustrations • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9781926890098, $19.95, HC
Tradewind Books

Dual-Language Series

Orca Book Publishers

The books in this series are bilingual, containing both English and Plains Cree (y-dialect), giving readers and listeners opportunities to experience two languages. Although intended for toddlers and preschoolers, kindergarten children may also enjoy these lullaby narratives. The straightforward text will support early language development through sounds, vocabulary, and sight words.

The beautiful illustrations and photographs not only present and honour a variety of families, they accompany the text in celebrating parents’ love of their children. Messages also communicate the ways parents value and cherish their children.

The Indigenous authors and artists who created the books in this series include Richard Van Camp, Monique Gray Smith, illustrator Julie Flett, and translator Mary Cardinal Collins.

GRADES: K–2 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts, Indigenous Language, Social Studies
Governance

Simon Rose • Agnes Pawlowska-Mainville, content consultant

Governance informs young readers about past and present Indigenous communities and where they are today in terms of self-government. Part of the Indigenous Life in Canada series, Governance addresses various treaties, as well as the Indian Act. Simon Rose offers information on current negotiations between Indigenous Peoples and the federal government, stressing the importance of cooperation and consultation: “By working with the Government of Canada, Indigenous Peoples will continue to fight for their rights to self-govern so that they can preserve their traditions and cultures and help their members economically.”

The user-friendly glossary and index make the book easy to navigate. This book was created in consultation with Agnes Pawlowska-Mainville, PhD, Assistant Professor, First Nations Studies at the University of Northern British Columbia.

GRADES: 3–7 / SUBJECTS: Social Studies
2018, 32 pp., 8.25 x 10.25,” photographs • Bibliography: no • Index: yes
ISBN 9781773081199, $29.95, HC • E-ISBN 9781773082851, $34.95
Beech Street Books

Inuit Community

Rachel Siegal • Jeela Palluq-Cloutier (Inuit), content consultant

Part of the Indigenous Communities in Canada series, this nonfiction text offers young readers an overview of the Inuit. The book is divided into four chapters that briefly describe such topics as homes, tools, transportation, beliefs, and cultures. The information within each section is both historical and contemporary. The pictures show the Inuit, their way of life, and the animals that are important to them. A glossary explains some of the vocabulary used. “Say It” boxes throughout the book contain Inuktituk words and their pronunciations. The content consultant for this book is the executive director of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtitt.

GRADES: 2–5 / SUBJECTS: Social Studies
2018, 24 pp., 9 x 9”, colour illustrations • Bibliography: no • Index: yes
ISBN 9781773081267, $27.15, HC • E-ISBN 9781773082851, $29.95
Beech Street Books

Kisimi Taimaippaktut Angirrarijarani / Only in My Hometown

Angnakuluk Friesen (Inuk) • Ippiksaut Friesen (Inuk), illus.

Two sisters collaborated to create this book that authentically demonstrates the ways Inuit culture is part of their lives today. Written in syllabics, Inuktitut, and English, this book is about growing up in a small town in Nunavut. The message of community interconnectedness resonates throughout the story, especially on the last page, where the author writes “everyone could be family.” The colourful and delicate illustrations reveal details of culture, both contemporary and traditional. The authors discuss modern housing, tools and transportation, traditional clothing, winter homes, eating raw meat, and the spiritual aspects of viewing the northern lights. The illustrator is a graduate of the Emily Carr University of Arts and Design, and her work was selected to screen at the 2011 Toronto International Film Festival.

GRADES: K–2 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts, Social Studies
2017, 28 pp., 7.125 x 9.25” colour illustrations • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9781554988839, $18.95, HC • E-ISBN 9781554988846, $16.95
Groundwood Books
Mohawk Nation

Dolores Nixon • Letséenhaiens Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer (Mohawk), Mohawk Council of Kanien’keh:á:ka, Kanien’keh:á:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language and Cultural Centre, content consultants

Part of the Indigenous Communities in Canada series, this book offers young readers a glimpse into the historical and contemporary lives of the Kanien’keh:á:ka or Mohawk people. The Mohawk are part of the Haudenosaunee and reside in Ontario and Quebec. Within the book’s four chapters, the reader learns about their history, homes, lands, government, and beliefs. Pictures complement the text throughout the book. Highlighted words are in a glossary at the back of the book. “Say It” boxes include some words from the traditional Mohawk language, and offer pronunciation guides.

GRADES: 2–5 / SUBJECTS: Social Studies

2018, 24 pp., 9 x 9”, colour illustrations • Bibliography: no • Index: yes
ISBN 9781773081250, $27.15, HC • E-ISBN 9781773082844, $29.95
Beech Street Books

Nakota Community

Trent Fox (Stoney Nakota First Nation) • Tina Fox, Elder (Stoney Nakota First Nation), content consultant

Nakota Community is part of the Indigenous Communities in Canada series, which makes clear and concise curriculum connections. This title informs readers about the basic needs and lifestyle (dwellings, life, and culture) of the Nakota people, as well as their connection to the land, in both the past as well as present-day society. The map in this book makes it easy to understand exactly where the Nakota people live, and the glossary and index provide quick access to information. This resource contains helpful phonetic inserts throughout the book for the Nakota language used.

GRADES: 3–7 / SUBJECTS: Social Studies

2018, 24 pp., 9 x 9”, colour photographs • Bibliography: no • Index: yes
ISBN 9781773081281, $27.15, HC • E-ISBN 9781773082875, $29.95
Beech Street Books

Nimoshom and His Bus

Penny M. Thomas (Cree-Ojibway) • Karen Hibbard, illus.

In Nimoshom and His Bus, Cree-Ojibway author Penny M. Thomas provides her audience with the opportunity to see students learning from their local school bus driver, Nimoshom (which means “my grandfather”). Respect and mutual understanding colour the story, as children on the bus learn to interact with Nimoshom in ways that demonstrate respect for themselves and for others. This story uses Cree language throughout and has a glossary at the back to aid with pronunciation and word identification. This is a good read-aloud story for an elementary school library or K–4 classroom. The paintings in the story are culturally sensitive and appropriate to the community setting of the story.

GRADES: K–4 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts, Social Studies

2017, 24 pp., 9 x 7”, colour illustrations • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9781553797081, $19.95, HC • E-ISBN 9781553797333, $16.00
HighWater Press (an imprint of Portage & Main Press)
nipêhon / I Wait

Caitlin Dale Nicholson, Leona Morin-Neilson (Métis-Cree), trans.
• Caitlin Dale Nicholson, illus.

Written in syllabic Cree (the y-dialect) and English, this book presents the passing on of culture and knowledge from generation to generation. The mother and granddaughter wait while the grandmother prepares for a journey to gather yarrow. Once they arrive at the gathering place, the child and mother follow the grandmother’s actions and teachings. A bit of humour is woven in when the mother becomes distracted from the picking. This book powerfully demonstrates the relationship and connectedness that Cree have to their lands and to each other. In the illustration on the last page of the book, the expressions on the characters’ faces reveal the joy of this important bonding experience. There is a recipe for yarrow tea at the end of the book.

GRADES: K–1 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts, Indigenous Language Studies, Social Studies
2017, 24 pp., 8.5 x 12.25”, colour illustrations • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9781554989140, $18.95, HC • E-ISBN 9781554989157, $16.95
Groundwood Books

Nisga’a Nation

Rachel Seigel • Bobby Clark (Nisga’a) and Nita Morven (Nisga’a), content consultants

This resource book offers introductory information about the Nisga’a People, covering topics including family, home, trade, and beliefs. The text thoughtfully weaves in content about the Nisga’a creation story, where they live, the meaning of their place names, and their guiding beliefs. Nisga’a content consultants have ensured that facts are accurate on federally legislated actions, such as the establishment of Residential Schools, the expropriation of Nisga’a land, and the Nisga’a Treaty. The short chapters, clearly written text, large photographs, and text boxes make the information accessible for intermediate students. A glossary, map, and list of additional resources provide different ways to access content. Part of the Indigenous Communities in Canada series, this will be a helpful resource for students researching Nisga’a People, and may inspire them to make further inquiries about Indigenous Peoples.

GRADES: 4–7 / SUBJECTS: Social Studies
2018, 24 pp., 9 x 9”, colour photographs, map • Bibliography: no • Index: yes
ISBN 9781773081298, $27.15, HC • E-ISBN 9781773082882, $29.95
Beech Street Books

niwîcîhâw / I Help

Caitlin Dale Nicholson, Leona Morin-Neilson (Métis-Cree), trans.
• Caitlin Dale Nicholson, illus.

Written in syllabic Cree (the y-dialect) and English, this book presents the passing on of culture and knowledge from generation to generation. The mother and granddaughter wait while the grandmother prepares for a journey to gather yarrow. Once they arrive at the gathering place, the child and mother follow the grandmother’s actions and teachings. A bit of humour is woven in when the mother becomes distracted from the picking. This book powerfully demonstrates the relationship and connectedness that Cree have to their lands and to each other. In the illustration on the last page of the book, the expressions on the characters’ faces reveal the joy of this important bonding experience. There is a recipe for yarrow tea at the end of the book. Nicholson received the 2008 Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education Book Award for Best Children’s Literature on Aging for this story.

GRADES: K–1 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts, Indigenous Language Studies, Social Studies
2018, 24 pp., 8.5 x 12.25”, colour illustrations • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9781773061160, $12.95, PB • E-ISBN 9781773061962, $9.95
Groundwood Books
Oral Traditions and Storytelling
Anita Yasuda • Agnes-Pawlowska-Mainville, content consultant

Oral Traditions and Storytelling, part of the Indigenous Life in Canada series, would be a good addition to any library or classroom. It provides clear information that will lead to a simple understanding of Indigenous Peoples’ history. It does this by teaching with words, explaining some of the protocols that go along with traditions. Yasuda talks of the Elders as being Knowledge Keepers, and of oral traditions that teach values and respect for the people and the land. Origin stories and songs teach the history of place names and tell how all things came to be.

This is a great resource for elementary school learners, and the user-friendly glossary and index make it easy to navigate. This resource was created in consultation with Agnes Pawlowska-Mainville, PhD, Assistant Professor, First Nations Studies at the University of Northern British Columbia.

GRADES: 4–7 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts, Social Studies
2018, 32 pp., 8.25 x 10.25”; colour photographs • Bibliography: no • Index: yes
ISBN 9781773081205, $29.95, HC • E-ISBN 9781773082790, $34.95
Beech Street Books

Once in a Blue Moon
Danielle Daniel (Métis)

With a calm and relaxing tone, Daniel has created simple poems and colourful illustrations that invite children to appreciate the everyday beauties of the world. She points out occurrences such as seeing two rainbows or observing an eagle soaring by, making them come to life with her words and colourful images. The book encourages children to look more carefully at everything around them and to appreciate the special moments that nature gives us. Danielle Daniel’s previous book, Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox, received several awards and accolades, including the 2016 Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award.

GRADES: K–2 / SUBJECTS: Art Education, English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies
2017, 32 pp., 8.5 x 8.5”; colour illustrations • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9781554989751, $17.95, HC • E-ISBN 9781554989768, $14.95
Groundwood Books

Odawa Community
Dolores Nixon • Loretta Roy, Elder (Sheshegwaning First Nation), content consultant

Part of the Indigenous Communities in Canada series, this nonfiction text for young readers contains information about the Odawa First Nations who live in the Great Lakes region, providing an overview of their social life, customs, and history. Each of the four chapters contains historical and contemporary information on topics such as dwellings, technologies, social activities, and traditions. Maps help the reader visualize the territory of the Odawa Peoples’. There are several eye-catching pictures of people alongside the plants, animals, and landscape of their environment. “Say It” boxes throughout the book contain words from the Odawa language and guides to their pronunciations. A glossary explains some of the vocabulary used. The content consultant is an Elder from the Sheshegwaning community on Manitoulin Island in Ontario.

GRADES: 2–5 / SUBJECTS: Social Studies
2018, 24 pp., 9 x 9”; colour illustrations, maps • Bibliography: no • Index: yes
ISBN 9781773081304, $27.15, HC • E-ISBN 9781773082899, $29.95
Beech Street Books
Quand on était seuls

David Alexander Robertson (Swampy Cree), Diane Lavoie, trans. 
• Julie Flett (Cree-Métis), illus.

*Quand on était seuls*, the French version of *When We Were Alone*, is the story of a granddaughter who wants to know why her grandmother is the way she is. This allows the author to introduce Residential School history in a way that is both detailed in example yet safe for the audience. The grandmother’s Residential School experience allows the author to cover themes of resilience and the continued strength of culture and family. Robertson has written the story using a lyrical and repetitive narrative structure using Cree words throughout. The book’s use of metaphor also introduces children to how stories work. The English version, *When We Were Alone*, was the 2017 winner of the Governor General’s Literary Awards in Young People’s Literature—Illustrated Books.

**GRADES:** 3–7 / **SUBJECTS:** Français langue première, French Immersion Language Arts, Sciences humaines

2017, 30 pp., 7.25 x 8”, colour drawings • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9782896116549, $12.95, PB • E-ISBN 9782896116570, $7.95
Éditions des Plaines

Sans Nimâmâ

Melanie Florence (Cree) • François Thisdale, illus.

*Sans Nimâmâ* is an excellent French-language book about the injustices Indigenous women experience in Canada. One of the story’s narrators is a young girl who has lost her mother and is living with her grandmother. Events in her life have caused her to question details about her mother’s disappearance. Themes include the impact of loss, intergenerational trauma, resilience, and the fight for justice for Indigenous women. Using two narrators – the mother and the daughter – allows the reader to see multiple perspectives on the girl’s life. Facts at the end of the book can serve as a springboard for further research.

**Caution:** this book would be best used as a read-aloud, and not an independent read for younger ages. Because of its subject matter and theme of loss, this book needs extensive teacher support.

**GRADES:** 4–7 / **SUBJECTS:** Français langue première, French Immersion Language Arts, Sciences humaines

2018, 32 pp., 8.5 x 11”, colour illustrations • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9782896116461, $11.95, PB • E-ISBN 9782896116577, $7.95
Éditions des Plaines

Soapstone Porcupine

Jeff Pinkney • Greg Spence (Moose Cree), consultant, Darlene Gait, illus.

*Soapstone Porcupine* is a story about supportive family and friends and the bonds that can occur in unexpected situations. This story teaches respect for self and others (including wildlife), as well as honour and commitment, and uses simple Cree language throughout. This quick read-aloud story will spark student discussion around what they might do under similar circumstances as the protagonist. This is also a great book for students wanting to read a short chapter book, and Darlene Gaits does a wonderful job of making the characters believable with her lifelike drawings. Part of the *Orca Echoes* series, *Soapstone Porcupine* reads at a Grade 3 level. This book includes a guide with the phonetic spelling of Cree words and pronunciation guides for each word.

**GRADES:** K–6 / **SUBJECTS:** English Language Arts

2018, 64 pp., 5.25 x 7.625”, b&w drawings • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9781459814721, $6.95, PB • E-ISBN 9781459814738, $6.99
Orca Book Publishers
The Sockeye Mother
Hetxw’m Gyetxw Brett D. Huson (Gitxsan Nation)
• Natasha Donovan (Métis Nation of BC), illus.

This richly illustrated book offers an insightful glimpse into the life cycle of sockeye salmon and their environment. The descriptive text fosters an understanding of the interconnectedness of the sockeye salmon, animals, land, forests, seasons, and the Gitxsan people. This book is suitable as a read-aloud, an information resource, or an independent reading book for students in Grades 4–7. Features include text boxes with definitions of biology terms, a map, an information page about the Gitxsan people, defined Gitxsan vocabulary, and even an online video pronunciation guide.

The Sockeye Mother won the McNally Robinson Book for Young People Award, Younger Category, and the Science Writers and Communicators of Canada Award, Youth Category.

GRADES: 4–7 / SUBJECTS: Science, Social Studies
2017, 32 pp., 6.5 x 10”, colour illustrations • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9781553797395, $23.00, HC • E-ISBN 9781553797401, $18.00
HighWater Press (an imprint of Portage & Main Press)

Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox
Danielle Daniel (Métis)

The author has created an introduction to Anishinaabe totem animals for young readers. Writing in poetic form, Daniel has given the animals human characteristics that can connect to a child’s feelings and behaviours. Each verse fits well with its colourful and captivating illustration. Generally, the children in the images wear masks, but with some illustrations they appear to have partially transformed into the animal. There is a note by the author at the back of the book that gives more background on animal totems. This book has been recommended for teaching WITS (a program to create positive school environments). Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox received the 2016 Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award and was shortlisted for the 2017 Blue Spruce Award.

GRADES: K–2 / SUBJECTS: Art Education, English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies
2017, 40 pp., 8.25 x 10”, colour illustrations • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9781773061177, $9.95, PB • E-ISBN 9781554987511, $9.95
Groundwood Books

Spirituality
Simon Rose • Stanley Wilson, content consultant

Based on a sense of unfamiliarity and not wanting to do disservice to any group of people, many educators avoid teaching spirituality. Spirituality, part of the Indigenous Life in Canada series, may alleviate those concerns. A brief overview of forms of spirituality, ceremonies, rituals, and specialty roles, as well as a synopsis of worldviews, provides an introduction to spirituality among some Indigenous Peoples in Canada. The book includes examples from many different nations with their corresponding practices and beliefs. Large colour photographs, text boxes, prompting questions, diagrams, a glossary, and a list of additional resources help to make this a suitable resource for independent student research. Teachers may wish to use sections as quick snapshots to share with their classes. The book may even spark an interest to inquire more deeply about the spirituality of a particular nation.

GRADES: 4–7 / SUBJECTS: Social Studies
2018, 32 pp., 8.25 x 10.25”, colour photographs • Bibliography: no • Index: yes
ISBN 9781773081229, $29.95, HC • E-ISBN 9781773082813, $34.95
Beech Street Books
Treaties

Simon Rose • Agnes Pawłoska-Mainville, content consultant

*Treaties*, part of the *Indigenous Life in Canada* series, informs young readers of past and present treaty issues between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples and organizations. *Treaties* addresses reasons behind treaty agreements, the rights and obligations of treaties, and how views have differed on treaties. This resource also talks about modern treaties and the ways the government is striving to work with Indigenous Peoples on the journey to reconciliation.

The user-friendly glossary and index make it easy to navigate. This resource was created in consultation with Agnes Pawłowka-Mainville, PhD, Assistant Professor; First Nations Studies at the University of Northern British Columbia.

**GRADES: 3–7 / SUBJECTS: Social Studies**

2018, 32 pp., 8.25 x 10.25”, colour photographs • Bibliography: no • Index: yes
ISBN 9781773081236, $29.95, HC • E-ISBN 9781773082820, $34.95

Beech Street Books

The Tree by the Woodpile: and other Dene Spirit of Nature Tales

Raymond Yakeleya (Dene), Jane Modeste (Dene), trans.
• Deborah Desmarais (First Nations), illus.

Dene author Raymond Yakeleya shares the wisdom passed down to him by his Elders through three stories with themes of respect, generosity, love, kindness, and our interconnectedness with nature. These tales provide opportunities for discussions about how we treat others and nature; the cycle of life, through the lens of a tree; and the importance of the creator, Newest’sine. Part of the *Spirit of Nature Stories*, this book supports the *First Peoples Principles of Learning*, particularly recognizing the role of Indigenous knowledge and learning embedded in memory, history, and story. This book includes portions of text translated into the Sahtu Dene language.

**GRADES: 3–7 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies**

2018, 64 pp., 5.5 x 8.5", line drawings and b&w photographs • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9781988824031, $16.95, PB • E-ISBN 9781988824161, $12.95

Durvile Publications and UpRoute Books

When the Trees Crackle with Cold: A Cree Seasons Activity Book

Bernice Johnson-Laxdal (Métis) and Miriam Körner • Miriam Körner, illus.

This activity book was designed as a supplement to the award-winning picture book, *When the Trees Crackle with Cold* (2016), by the same author and illustrator. Following the 13 moons of the Northern Saskatchewan Cree calendar, this book offers colouring, math, and language arts activities; they include building toys and models, planting seeds, and creating a moose call. In addition, there are opportunities for young people to view, read, and print the Cree language. The book notes three dialects (y-, th-, and n-), and specific language speakers have proofread or translated each dialect. As there is a useful amount of detail within the pages exploring languages, this section could be used separately from the picture book.

**GRADES: K-5 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies**

2018, 32 pp., 9 x 9”, line drawings • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9781988783161, $12.95, PB

Your Nickel’s Worth Publishing
Wild Woman Alphabet
Doris Muise (Mik’maq)

This delightful romp through the alphabet contains wild and zany illustrations as well as rhyming and alliterative text. A group of wild women seek out more exciting foods than their usual bland dinners, and end up eating their way through the alphabet. The mixed media illustrations are full of humour and present a variety of Indigenous and non-Indigenous foods and objects. Artists of all ages will be inspired to create their own art, while the playful text will delight readers and perhaps spark an interest in writing. A list of words for each letter is included at the back of the book, encouraging readers to look at the illustrations again.

GRADES: K–7 / SUBJECTS: Art Education, English Language Arts
2017, 72 pp., 8.5 x 11”, mixed media • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9781926886480, $24.95, HC
Theytus Books
Being Ts‘elxwéyeqw: First Peoples’ Voices and History from the Chilliwack-Fraser Valley, British Columbia

Ts‘elxwéyeqw Tribe, David M. Schaepe, ed.

The Ts‘elxwéyeqw Tribe has compiled histories, stories, pictures, data, and other material about their community into this one expansive book. From traditional place names and archaeological data to a Halq‘eméylem alphabet guide and stories about their land, this book uses the voices of Elders, maps, and many photographs to help the reader understand the close connection between the Ts‘elxwéyeqw and their traditional territory. Depending on what topic teachers wish to cover, they will easily find relevant pieces because the chapters form distinct sections.

Note: teachers should pre-read sections they wish to use from this reference book, as reading levels vary greatly.

GRADES: 5–12 / SUBJECTS: Geography, Science, Social Studies, Teacher Resource
2017, 304 pp., 11 x 14”, colour and b&w photographs, maps, line drawings • Bibliography: yes • Index: no
ISBN 9781550178180, $94.95, HC
Harbour Publishing

Death by Dinosaur: A Sam Stellar Mystery

Jacqueline Guest (Métis) • Photographs courtesy of the Royal Tyrrell Museum, Drumheller, Canada

Award-winning author Jacqueline Guest captivates young readers with this mystery story about two cousins who go to the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology in Drumheller, Alberta to do a summer internship. Sam likes to think of herself as a young detective in the making, and when she believes her cousin Paige’s summer crush might be involved in something he shouldn’t be, things get tense between the cousins. Additional facts about the Tyrrell Museum and other palaeontological information is included at the end of the book. Guest is the author of Belle of Batoche and The Comic Book of War.

GRADES: 5–8 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts
2018, 152 pp., 5.5 x 8.5”, photographs • Bibliography: yes • Index: no
ISBN 9781550509434, $14.95, PB • E-ISBN 9781550509458, $7.95
Coteau Books
Elements of Indigenous Style: A Guide for Writing By and About Indigenous Peoples

Gregory Younging (Opaskwayak Cree Nation)

Elements of Indigenous Style is an essential reader for teachers and librarians to have as they endeavour to incorporate Indigenous content and to decolonize their lessons. Younging has compiled information on styles of writing, grammar practices, background on gaining permission, collaboration in writing, and basic terminology in one book. Librarians can use this book as a guide to determine quality authentic Indigenous voice. Identifying bias in literature, avoiding appropriation as a writer, and guidelines for terms and capitalization are some of the topics covered. Appendices include Indigenous style principles and an essay by Younging about traditional knowledge and copyright.

GRADES: 3–12 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts, Indigenous Studies, Social Studies, Teacher Resource

2018, 168 pp., 5.5 x 7.5" • Bibliography: yes • Index: yes
Brush Education

Indian Fishing: Early Methods on the Northwest Coast, 40th Anniversary Edition

Hilary Stewart

Hilary Stewart was a well-known author of books on Northwest Coast First Nations. For Indian Fishing, Stewart gathered information from her anthropological digs, museum work, discussions with First Nations Elders, and the artifacts used in traditional fishing methods. The book is filled with diagrams and models of traditional fishing techniques and equipment. She also includes stories gleaned by talking with First Nations community members about how these tools were made and how the techniques worked. The detail in the images is extensive and could be used to do an in-depth study of traditional fishing.

Note: this book is a reprint of the 1977 edition, so the names of various First Nations, as well as some terminology, do not reflect current language.


2018, 184 pp., 10 x 9" b&w photographs, line drawings, maps • Bibliography: yes • Index: yes
ISBN 9781771621854, $28.95, PB
Douglas & McIntyre

The Journey Forward, Novellas on Reconciliation: When We Play Our Drums, They Sing! / Lucy & Lola

Richard Van Camp (Dogrib, NWT) / Monique Gray Smith (Cree and Lakota) • Tessa Macintosh, photographer • Julie Flett (Cree-Métis), illus.

This two-story novella is a must for every library, or anyone looking for an increased understanding of Residential Schools and the path to reconciliation for intergenerational children. Monique Gray Smith and Richard Van Camp, both award-winning authors, depict the struggles of children whose parents attended Residential Schools in their two stories.

When Dene Cho finds himself in trouble at school he is excused for four days to learn about his Tłı̨chǫ Dene culture with a local Elder. Twin sisters Lucy and Lola spend the summer with their Kookum (grandmother) and find themselves on a journey of reconciliation following a confrontation at the beach.

GRADES: 5–8 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts, Social Studies

2018, 164 pp., 5.5 x 8.5" • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9780991678266, $13.99, PB (back-to-back)
McKellar & Martin Publishing Group
**L'Nu’k: The People—Mi’kmaw History, Culture, and Heritage**

Theresa Meuse (Bear River First Nations)

This book by Theresa Meuse lovingly offers extensive details about Mi’kmaw culture, history, and heritage. From her own knowledge, and that of Elders and community members, Meuse describes many aspects of the Mi’kmaw First Nation in Atlantic Canada, from the traditional methods for building wigwams to current celebrations and ceremonies such as mawiomi. She uses Mi’kmaw language throughout the book and provides pronunciations, along with a basic Mi’kmaw syllabary. The book contains many photographs and images that enrich the written sections. Small sidebars appear throughout the book, providing additional information and interesting facts, such as how to make luski (a type of bread). A timeline and a list of additional resources for learning more about the Mi’kmaw appear at the back of the book.

**GRADES:** 5–12 / **SUBJECTS:** Social Studies

2016, 128 pp., 6.75 x 8.5”; colour and b&w photographs, drawings, maps • Bibliography: yes • Index: yes

ISBN 9781771084529, $17.95, PB

Nimbus Publishing

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**Living in the Tall Grass: Poems of Reconciliation**

Chief R. Stacey Laforme (Mississaugas of the Credit of the Anishinaabe)

Heart, humour, humility – this collection of poems has it all. Chief R. Stacey Laforme’s *Living in the Tall Grass* has something for everyone, and is written in a way that makes the reader feel he or she might be sitting down with the author, sharing experiences from their lives. Some poems share humour, while others express pain, though each seems to come from the heart. Through his poetry, Chief Laforme presents opportunities for discussion, whether in the classroom, at the kitchen table, or on the street. Themes include hope, the environment, and Residential Schools.

**Caution:** some poems touch on topics of violence and suicide.

**GRADES:** 5–12 / **SUBJECTS:** English Language Arts

2017, 162 pp., 5.5 x 8.5” • Bibliography: no • Index: yes

ISBN 9781988824055, $19.95, PB • E-ISBN 9780968975497, $16.95

Durville Publications and UpRoute Books

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** mâci-nêhiyawêwin: Beginning Cree**

Solomon Ratt (Stanley Mission, SK)

• Holly Martin (Swampy Cree from Moose Lake First Nation), illus.

Solomon Ratt has created this workbook, * mâci-nêhiyawêwin: Beginning Cree*, as an introductory course on the Cree language with basic grammar using topics that occur in everyday situations. This resource is for use as a self-study guide for the Cree y-dialect. As many Indigenous languages have been (or are being) lost over the years, this resource provides readers with an opportunity to learn, or build upon, their knowledge of the y-dialect. The graphs and charts in this workbook, as well as the interactive study pages, make it a valuable resource.

**GRADES:** 1–12 / **SUBJECTS:** Indigenous Language, Language Studies

2016, 312 pp., 8.5 x 11”; b&w drawings • Bibliography: yes • Index: yes

ISBN 9780889774353, $34.95, coil-bound PB

University of Regina Press
**Pemmican Wars: A Girl Called Echo (Vol.1)**

Katherena Vermette (Métis) • Scott B. Henderson, illus. • coloured by Donovan Yaciuk

This graphic novel is about the Pemmican Wars – the struggles and eventual battles between the Métis people and the settler companies such as Hudson’s Bay Company. In this, the first volume of the story, Echo, a Métis youth, is going to a new school and has been separated from her mother. The reader learns the history of the Pemmican Wars through Echo’s daydreams. The novel also relates Echo’s story, along with the story of what many Métis youth face today. Themes in this book include family, displacement, feelings of isolation, and exploration of identity. The novel uses few words, relying instead on richly detailed images to tell the story. This book would work well as a companion to a historical textbook or as a stand-alone which could focus on using visual context to enrich storytelling.

**GRADES: 5–12 / SUBJECTS: Art Education, English Language Arts, Social Studies**

2017, 48 pp., 6.5 x 10”, colour illustrations • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9781553796787, $18.95, PB • E-ISBN 9781553797357, $15.00
HighWater Press (an imprint of Portage & Main Press)

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**Pictographs: The Graphic Art of James Simon Mishibinijima**

James Simon Mishibinijima (Ojibway)

Mishibinijima is an Ojibway artist who grew up learning legends of the Ojibway people from local Elders. Through simple drawings and interpretive pictographs, he brings to life a world of religious, spiritual, and historical stories, both simple and complex. Rock images created by generations of Indigenous Peoples in and around the Wikwemikong First Nation and Manitoulin Island are reflected in the author’s drawings, and create a space for the reader to connect with the deeper messages. The introduction contains information about pictographs and their significance to Ojibway People. This resource is well-suited to high school visual arts students exploring the use of symbols and metaphors, as well as to students in Social or Indigenous Studies examining contemporary culture and cultural expression.

*Pictographs* is a 2018 eLit Award Winner.

**GRADES: 4–12 / SUBJECTS: Art Education, Social Studies**

2017, 208 pp., 6 x 9” • Bibliography: no • Index: no
The Porcupine’s Quill

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**Skye Bird and the Eagle Feather**

Mary Harelkin Bishop • Heaven Starr (Starblanket First Nation, SK), illus.

When a group of students must move to a different school, they don’t fit in. Skye Bird, her sister, and friends miss the cultural activities they experienced at their old school, and they experience racism. Skye and her friends decide to bring their Cree culture to their new school. This is a great novel about self-determination and family support that sees a group of middle-grade students bring reconciliation to their school, even when the adults in the school are not open to the idea. The book *Skye Bird and the Eagle Feather* can be enjoyed as a read-aloud, or for independent reading, and includes a Cree glossary and pronunciation chart.

**GRADES: 5–8 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts**

2017, 160 pp., 5.25 x 7.5”, b&w illustrations • Bibliography: yes • Index: no
ISBN 9781927570395, $13.95, PB
DriverWorks Ink and Emmbee Ink
Stewardship
Anita Yasuda • M.A. Smith, content consultant
Part of the Indigenous Life in Canada series, Stewardship focuses on land and cultures, changes and challenges, and the protection of important and traditional resources. Yasuda points out the cyclical patterns of the land and the necessity of not overusing specific areas and resources. She also explains land rights and management of the lands, reminding readers that for future generations to benefit, we must take our role as stewards of the land seriously. A good addition to any library or K–8 classroom, this book enhances the reader’s understanding of Indigenous Peoples’ commitment and level of responsibility to the land and all that it offers.

The user-friendly glossary and index make it easy to navigate. This resource was created in consultation with M.A. Smith, PhD, Associate Professor, Natural Resources Management, Lakehead University.

GRADES: K–8 / SUBJECTS: Science
2018, 32 pp., 8.25 x 10.25”, colour photographs • Bibliography: no • Index: yes
ISBN 9781773081212, $29.95, HC • E-ISBN 9781773082837, $34.95
Beech Street Books

Truth and Reconciliation
Simon Rose • Agnes Pawlowska-Mainville, content consultant
Part of the Indigenous Life in Canada series, this book informs young readers of the Residential Schools experience and the movement toward truth and reconciliation. Simon Rose notes important dates in history, such as the Indian Act of 1876 and the Gradual Civilization Act of 1857 (when the British government tried to force Indigenous People to assimilate into settler society). Discussions of topics such as cultural suppression, abuse, and forced labour inform the reader without going into graphic detail. A significant portion of the book addresses the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its support from the Canadian government.

The glossary and index in this book make it easy to navigate. This resource was created in consultation with Agnes Pawlowska-Mainville, PhD, Assistant Professor; First Nations Studies at the University of Northern British Columbia.

GRADES: 4–8 / SUBJECTS: Social Studies
2018, 32 pp., 8.25 x 10.25”, colour photographs • Bibliography: no • Index: yes
ISBN 9781773081243, $29.95, HC • E-ISBN 9781773082837, $34.95
Beech Street Books

Turtle Island: The Story of North America’s First People
Eldon Yellowhorn and Kathy Lowinger (Piikani First Nation)
This book artfully combines archaeological evidence, science, mythology, and imagination to aid the reader in understanding the history of Indigenous Peoples in North America. Thematically organized, this resource explores survival, adaptation, circulation of ideas, innovation, contact, and healing. It also provides a straightforward, unbiased account of the spread of disease, slavery, assimilation, and Residential Schools. Its power lies in providing a rich and detailed portrayal of the lives of different Indigenous Peoples with respect, neutrality, and honesty. The books ends with optimism, referring to a new kind of adaptation and recognizing contemporary contributions by Indigenous People. Its balance of text, photographs, and illustrations, along with its friendly language and beautiful page layouts, make this resource visually appealing and accessible to students.

GRADES: 6–9 / SUBJECTS: Social Studies, Teacher Resource
2017, 116 pp., 7.5 x 9.25”, colour photographs and drawings • Bibliography: yes • Index: yes
ISBN 9781554519439, $16.95, PB
Annick Press
Black Chuck
Regan McDonell

Black Chuck is the story of five friends and the reverberations within the group when one is found dead. Réal is wracked with guilt and blames himself for Shaun’s death, believing he has become a Windigo. Evie, pregnant with Shaun’s child, must make decisions about her pregnancy and her future. This novel is a romance with the story’s focus more on the characters’ actions and feelings for one another, rather than on solving the murder itself. The book covers themes of friendship, coming-of-age struggles, loss, and grief.

Caution: this book describes incidents of sexual and physical violence, substance abuse, and uses strong language.

GRADES: 9–12 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts
2018, 304 pp., 5.5 x 8.25” • Bibliography: no • Index: no
Orca Book Publishers

Aaniiih/Gros Ventre Stories
Terry Brockie (Gros Ventre) and Andrew Cowell, eds. • George Shields, Jr., illus.

Aaniiih/Gros Ventre Stories, part of the First Nations Language Readers series, includes traditional and historical narratives. Traditional stories have been passed down for many centuries, while historical narratives are more recent (19th century). This narrative is the first of its kind to be published in the original Aaniiih language, as well as English. Four of the stories are traditional trickster and war stories; four are historical trickster stories; the final story is of war power. Aaniiih/Gros Ventre Stories is a useful resource for anyone learning the original language of the Aaniiih people. It includes an introduction to the language and an extensive glossary. Other readers in this series include These Are Our Legends, Woods Cree Stories, Blackfoot Stories of Old, Nenapohs Legends, and Funny Little Stories.

GRADES: 10–12 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts, Indigenous Language, Language Studies
2017, 104 pp., 5.5 x 8.5”, b&w drawings • Bibliography: No • Index: No
ISBN 9780889774803, $24.95, PB
University of Regina Press
Blackbird Song

Randy Lundy (Barren Lands Cree)

*Blackbird Song* is a collection of poetry by Randy Lundy, and is his third published collection. He uses nature and the environment to discuss themes of loss, love, family, and death. The poems are haunting in their descriptions, feeling large and sometimes lonely in the starkness they portray. The collection contains different styles of poems, with the second section being primarily prose poetry. Poems from this book would work well in units that discuss Canadian landscapes or connections to nature and family.

**Caution:** the content of some poems may cause trigger reactions in readers. Considering the age group of students, teachers may wish to pre-read poems.

**GRADES: 10–12 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts**

2018, 106 pp., 5.5 x 8.5" • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9780889775572, $19.95, PB
University of Regina Press

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The Break

Katherena Vermette (Métis)

*The Break* takes place in the North End of Winnipeg. The story begins with a woman witnessing a rape in the Break, an open area of land used for hydroelectric lines. This is the catalyst the author uses to look at the lives of 10 people who live and work in this area of town, an area struggling with poverty and crime. The story shifts from one person to another for each chapter, allowing the reader to explore issues around addiction, loss, grief, and trauma. Major themes in this book are family, resiliency, and the love that holds these characters to each other.

*The Break* is the winner of the Margaret Laurence Award for Fiction 2017, Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award 2017, and the McNally Robinson Book of the Year 2017.

**Caution:** this book contains descriptions of substance abuse, physical and sexual violence, and uses strong language.

**GRADES: 10–12 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts**

2016, 368 pp., 5.25 x 8" • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9781487001117, $22.95, PB • E-ISBN 9781487001124, $18.95
House of Anansi

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Clouds

Lucy Haché (Kwakwaka’wakw) • Michael Joyal, illus.

*Clouds* is a collection of Haché’s personal reflections on the environment and how our perception of it alters and affects our concept of well-being. Through her reflections on cloud formations, the author uses personal experiences and cultural references to take readers on an exploration of identity. The text flows smoothly like poetry, and is full of analogy and poetic devices, creating a feeling of moving with her through her cloud experiences. The book contains 20 pictures of clouds to illustrate each mood and description. *Clouds* is the first book in the *Overhead* series. Lucy Haché is the author of *Stars*, the second book in the series.

**GRADES: 8–12 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts**

2015, 62 pp., 5.5 x 8.5", line drawings • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9780991761074, $24.95, PB
At Bay Press
Doug Knockwood, Mi’kmaw Elder: Stories, Memories, Reflections

Doug Knockwood (Mi’kmaw) & Friends

On December 11, 1929, Doug Knockwood came into this world, not knowing what a difference he would make to the lives of so many. Knockwood, a member of the Mi’kmaw First Nations, spent many of his adult years battling the aftermath of Residential School. During his 30s, Knockwood cleaned up his life, reached sobriety, began the journey to helping others deal with their addictions as a counsellor, and established treatment centres across the country. This book of stories, memories, and reflection is one of inspiration and reconciliation. This is a must-read for anyone in search of a story where the protagonist conquers his demons. In June 2018, less than one month after the release of this book, Doug Knockwood passed away in Truro, Nova Scotia.

GRADES: 10–12 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts, Social Justice, Social Studies

The Education of Augie Merasty: A Residential School Memoir

Joseph Auguste Merasty

The Education of Augie Merasty is the autobiographical memoir of a Residential School Survivor. Augie Merasty details events he and other students experienced at St. Therese Residential School in Saskatchewan between 1935–44. In these stories, the reader gains an understanding of the fear students had of being around specific workers at the school, the pain they endured, and their anger and frustration over being treated so badly by those who said they were there to help them. This new edition contains a study guide with background information and questions for discussion. Each chapter works well as a stand-alone piece of text for study.

Caution: this book describes incidents of discrimination, negligence, sexual and physical violence, and substance abuse.

GRADES: 9–12 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Fire Song

Adam Garnet Jones (Cree and Métis)

Adam Garnet Jones’s novel Fire Song was adapted for film in 2015 and it won numerous honours, including Audience Choice awards at four film festivals. Fire Song, Jones’s first young adult novel, is a realistic story that presents challenges many teens are faced with: suicide, grief, home and family issues, questions about their sexuality, and pressure from the local community as well as from society in general. Shane is an Indigenous teen who lives on the reserve and finds his life turned upside-down when his sister commits suicide and he must support his mother in her grief, while he struggles to hide his sexuality. Readers will connect with this innovative novel that goes places many authors have not dared to go.

GRADES: 10–12 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts, Physical and Health Education
Indian Act: Residential School Plays

Donna-Michelle St. Bernard, ed.

*Indian Act* is a collection of seven plays that have Residential Schools and Residential School Survivors as their main topic. The collection is varied, as some plays take place inside the Residential Schools, while others are set years after surviving the schools. The plays cover themes such as grief and loss, resilience and healing, the experience of colonization, and identity. Straightforward and candid opinions about Christianity and church involvement appear frequently in the plays, as initially all schools were run by various Christian denominations.

**Caution:** some plays use strong language and cover themes of substance abuse, sexual violence, and physical violence. Not all plays are appropriate for use in high schools; some of the plays are college level. Use discretion when choosing plays from this collection.

**GRADES:** 10–12 / **SUBJECTS:** Acting, Drama, English Language Arts

2018, 400 pp., 6 x 9". b&w photographs. Bibliography: no • Index: no  
ISBN 9781770919143, $29.95, PB  
Playwrights Canada Press

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Hiraeth

Carol Rose Daniels (Cree and Dene)

*Hiraeth,* or “a homesickness for a home to which you cannot return,” is a collection of poetry by Sixties Scoop Survivor Carol Rose Daniels. The poems touch on themes of identity, discrimination, family violence, colonization initiatives, and loss. The passionate and poignant words the author uses in telling the story of her childhood make the trauma and heartache she experienced palpable for the reader. In Daniels’s search for a place where she can feel belonging as an adult, readers will likely also discover a place in themselves that searches, as well as a sense of the strong woman the author finds in herself. This collection would work well as a companion work when studying Sixties Scoop history, or as a stand-alone collection for a unit on identity and cultural rediscovery.

**Caution:** some poems cover topics of violence or racism, and use strong language.

**GRADES:** 9–12 / **SUBJECTS:** English Language Arts, Social Studies

2018, 112 pp., 6 x 7.5"  
ISBN 9781771334853, $18.95, PB  
E-ISBN 9781771334860, $8.99

Inanna Publications & Education Inc.

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In Spirit

Tara Beagan (Ntlaka’pamux)

In this play, the reader meets Molly, who has just celebrated her twelfth birthday. She received a bike as a present from her parents, and by way of this bike, we learn Molly’s story. As Molly pieces together where she is and why the bike is in pieces, we realize that this is the story of a murder and a missing Indigenous girl. Through her remembrances of family, friends, and dogs, we hear the story of how a man has taken her life. The play has many stage cues (both sound and video) that enhance Molly’s feelings of confusion, and help the reader understand the feelings Molly cannot articulate.

**Caution:** this story discusses violence and death, and could be a trigger for some readers.

**GRADES:** 11–12 / **SUBJECTS:** Acting, Drama, English Language Arts

2017, 64 pp., 5.125 x 7.625"  
ISBN 9781770918061, $17.95, PB  
E-ISBN 9781770918085, $12.99

Playwrights Canada Press
kisiskâciwan: Indigenous Voices From Where the River Flows Swiftly

Jesse Rae Archibald-Barber (Métis-Cree), ed.

The collected works in this anthology all have a Saskatchewan connection: authors who call Saskatchewan home or stories of the people who lived on the land before the province came to be. Themes include Residential Schools, the Sixties Scoop, family, resilience, coming of age, and continuation of culture. The anthology contains a variety of genres and covers a long timeline, from the 1700s to contemporary times.

Caution: some of the collected works in this anthology touch on subjects such as substance abuse, violence, and sexuality, and use strong language. Review each piece for suitability before using in the classroom.

GRADES: 10–12 / SUBJECTS: Drama, English Language Arts, Social Studies
2018, 468 pp., 6 x 9" • Bibliography: yes • Index: yes
ISBN 9780889775428, $39.95, PB • E-ISBN 9780889775442, $39.95
University of Regina Press

Kwáday Dän Ts’inchį: Teachings from Long Ago Person Found

Richard J. Hebda, Sheila Greer (adopted member of the Käjét Crow clan), Alexander P. Mackie, eds.

Kwáday Dän Ts’inchį is a massive collection of information about Long Ago Person Found, the 300-year-old body of a young man found in a glacier in northwestern BC. The gathered data includes scientific analysis of the actual body and the cultural artifacts found with it, as well as information about the environment where it was found, the process of researching the site, the cultural ties of the man who was found, and the First Nations communities that live in the area today. A collaboration between the Royal BC Museum and the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, these chapters of science and cultural history allow readers to have an in-depth understanding of life on the coast of northern BC, both now and 300 years ago. Each chapter is a quick read and could easily serve as a stand-alone reading.

GRADES: 10–12 / SUBJECTS: Earth Science, English Language Arts, Geography, Science, Social Studies
2017, 704 pp., 8.5 x 11"; colour and b&w photographs, line drawings, maps • Bibliography: yes • Index: yes
ISBN 9780772666994, $49.95, PB
Royal BC Museum

Little Athapapuskow: A Métis Love Story

Guy Matthew Freedman (Métis) • Sherry Farrell Racette (Algonquin), illus.

Little Athapapuskow is a collection of poems about the history of the Métis people and about Freedman’s own family and history. Each poem is highly personal, yet touches on the concerns, injustices, and insecurities that Métis people have struggled with over the years and continue to struggle with today. Themes evident in the poems include issues around family, love, celebration of culture, colonialism, religion, and violence. The book is divided into three parts; this allows the reader to concentrate on the major theme in each section. The work could be useful as an overall collection (for in-depth study) or simply for studying individual poems.

Caution: this collection of poetry contains some poems that use strong language and discuss violence, alcoholism, and sexuality.

GRADES: 10–12 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts, Social Studies
2017, 86 pp., 7.25 x 5.75"; colour and b&w photographs • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9781926795829, $20.00, PB
Gabriel Dumont Institute Press
Master of the Métis Fiddle—John Arcand:
The Man, The Music, The Festival

Wilfred Burton and Cheryl Troupe with John Arcand (Métis) and Vicki Arcand

John Arcand might be the most well-known Métis fiddler in Canada, and the reasons become clear once one learns about the amount of time and passion he puts into his life and music. *Master of the Métis Fiddle* details Arcand’s life, from growing up in rural Saskatchewan in a small Métis community, to producing many music albums and hosting a yearly Fiddle Fest as an adult. This book enlightens readers about what it was like for Métis youth growing up in rural Canada in the mid-1900s. Musicians will appreciate insights into the art of Métis fiddle playing as the book not only discusses the concept of style, but also includes an example of sheet music. It would be a good inclusion into any course that covers Canadian history during the 1900s, or as an additional reader to supplement a textbook.

**Caution:** the book touches on events of physical and sexual violence.

**GRADES:** 10–12 / **SUBJECTS:** Art Education, English Language Arts, Music, Social Studies

**2017, 84 pp., 6.5 x 7.75” • colour and b&w photographs • Bibliography: no • Index: no**

ISBN 9781926795836, $20.00, coil-bound PB

Gabriel Dumont Institute Press
A Matter of Conscience
James Bartleman (Chippewas of Rama First Nation)

A Matter of Conscience gives its audience a sense of what it means, and has meant (for some) to be an Indigenous woman in Canada over the decades. This story concerns Residential School issues, the Sixties Scoop, and devastating truths about the many missing and murdered Indigenous women. Bartleman has dedicated almost half this book to supporting documentation on events such as the Sixties Scoop and Stolen Sisters. As a means of looking forward, Bartleman includes recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. This story, although fiction, may be as close to reality as some people dare to venture; for others, this story may be closer to the truth than they care to remember.

Caution: this book could be a trigger for some readers because of the disturbing topics.

GRADES: 10–12 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts
2018, 272 pp., 5.5 x 8.5” • Bibliography: no • Index: no
Dundurn Press

#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women
Lisa Charleyboy (Tshiqot’in) and Mary Beth Leatherdale

#NotYourPrincess is a powerful collection of stories, poems, images, and art created by Indigenous women about their experiences of being Indigenous in contemporary society. Each piece is highly personal, leaving the reader with not only a sense of what the contributor has experienced in their life, but a shared feeling of the pride, strength, and determination these women continue to exhibit in their daily lives. The book could serve as a reader on women’s experiences, or individual stories could provide focus for discussions of topics such as stereotypes, family connections, or Indigenous Peoples’ experiences.

This book is the 2018 winner of the American Indian Library Association’s Youth Literature Award for Best Young Adult Book.

GRADES: 8–12 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts, Social Justice, Social Studies
2017, 112 pp., 8.25 x 11” , colour and b&w photographs, line drawings, colour reproductions • Bibliography: yes • Index: no
ISBN 9781554519576, $14.95, PB
Annick Press

Ohpikihaakan-ohpihmeh / Raised somewhere else: A 60s Scoop Adoptee’s Story of Coming Home
Colleen Cardinal (Nehiyaw Iskwew from Onihciikiskowapowin Saddle Lake First Nation)

Colleen Cardinal, from the Saddle Lake First Nation in Alberta, is a Sixties Scoop adoptee, the daughter of a Residential School Survivor, and a social justice activist. Cardinal speaks her truth about how she was taken from her parents and placed with a non-Indigenous family far from home, then abused and denied the love a child needs. Cardinal’s raw and honest recollections share the trauma endured as a result of the federal government’s commitment to eradicating Indigenous ways of life through the removal of children from their families. A great resource for all high school libraries, this book gives an honest depiction of the dark, often-overlooked repercussions of the Sixties Scoop.

GRADES: 10–12 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts
2018, 214 pp., 6 x 9”, b&w photographs • Bibliography: no • Index: no
Fernwood Publishing
Out of Concealment: Female Supernatural Beings of Haida Gwaii

Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson (Haida)

As Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson transforms images of herself into powerful Beings such as SGuluu Jaad (Foam Woman) and Xuuajii Jaad (Grizzly Bear Woman), she brings historical Haida narratives to life. More than 30 vivid photographs allow readers into the world of these Supernatural Beings, and Williams-Davidson’s accompanying narratives enhance the experience. As with many oral traditions, these narratives date back over many generations. They depict values, customs, rituals, laws, and relationships with the earthly and metaphysical realms, and reiterate an Indigenous worldview. Out of Concealment was also an exhibit at the Haida Gwaii Museum in 2017.

GRADES: 10–12 / SUBJECTS: Art Education, English Language Arts
2017, 160 pp., 8.5 x 10" colour photographs • Bibliography: yes • Index: yes
ISBN 9781772031607, $29.95, PB
Heritage House

The Reckoner Trilogy

HighWater Press (an imprint of Portage & Main Press)

It has been 10 years since the tragic events that led Cole Harper to move away from Wounded Sky First Nation with his aunt and grandmother. In the novel Strangers, he returns to his hometown only to find himself right back in the turmoil he had hoped to leave behind. In the sequel, Monsters, Cole is back living in Wounded Sky First Nation, but the problems have not ended. He must once again delve into the tragic events of his past to try to protect his community. This mystery-suspense novel trilogy incorporates elements of Indigenous storytelling using a modern lens. Coyote features prominently in this series, taking up the role of trickster.

Strangers is the 2018 winner of the Michael Van Rooy Award for Genre Fiction.

GRADES: 9–12 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts

Strangers
David A. Robertson (Cree)
2017, 233 pp., 5.5 x 8.5" • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9781553796763, $19.95, PB
• E-ISBN 9781553796770, $16.00

Monsters
David A. Robertson (Cree)
2018, 230 pp., 5.5 x 8.5" • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9781553797487, $19.95, PB
• E-ISBN 9781553797609, $16.00

Seven Fallen Feathers: Racism, Death, and Hard Truths in a Northern City

Tanya Talaga (Polish and Indigenous descent)

This book tells the story of missing youth in Thunder Bay and the lack of action by government agencies to get to the root cause of these deaths. Journalist Tanya Talaga begins by explaining that what started as an interview about the federal election of 2011 became an exploration into the short lives of eight Indigenous youths. The book highlights the inequities Indigenous communities face today: racism, police dereliction of duty, and disproportionate financial support for basics that municipalities take for granted, like access to education, affordable food, and clean water. This is a story of young people forced to leave their hometowns to go to schools hundreds of kilometers away. It allows readers to look more deeply at the human rights violations happening in Canada today. Seven Fallen Feathers won the 2018 RBC Taylor Prize.

GRADES: 12 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts, Social Studies
2017, 376 pp., 5.5 x 8" • Bibliography: yes • Index: yes
ISBN 9781487002268, $22.95, PB • E-ISBN 9781487002275, $18.95
House of Anansi
Sonny Assu: A Selective History

Sonny Assu (Ligwilda’xw Kwakwaka’wakw), with Candice Hopkins, Marianne Nicolson, Richard Van Camp (Dogrib NWT), and Ellen Walker

This book contains many beautiful reproductions of Sonny Assu’s art and several analyses discussing his work. His pieces exhibit several strong influences: pop culture; the reclamation of classic art (Emily Carr and others); and the use of traditional West Coast form lines and media. Assu’s visual statements about Canada’s treatment of Indigenous People – historical and current – and the insightful commentaries call upon the reader to investigate the reality and price of colonialism. Educators and students will find numerous access points and opportunities to examine our nation’s beliefs, actions, words, and legislation. It also invites readers to knowledgeably and compassionately consider how we can reconcile all that has been with all that can be.

2018, 224 pp., 8.5 x 10” colour reproductions and photographs • Bibliography: no • Index: yes
ISBN 9781772031706, $34.95, PB
Heritage House

Stars

Lucy Haché (Kwakwaka’wakw) • Michael Joyal, illus.

Stars is the second in the Overhead series. In this book, the author takes readers up into the sky to travel the stars above the northern tip of Vancouver Island. Haché leaves the city lights to ground herself in her home and connect to her roots by way of the darkness of the night sky and the stars that are visible. She uses the stars to remember not only the tribulations of the past – Residential Schools and the loss of her traditional village – but also to remember the happiness of her grandmothers and to remember her language. Her poetic prose is full of imagery so rich that the reader can feel swept away with the power of the language. She states “We are stardust,” but this is really just a call to find our identity – an important theme. A Kwak’wala language glossary is included at the end of the book.

GRADES: 8–12 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts
2018, 80 pp., 5.5 x 8.5”, line drawings • Bibliography: no • Index: no
ISBN 9781988168104, $19.95, PB
At Bay Press

Tilly and the Crazy Eights

Monique Gray Smith (Cree and Lakota)

Monique Gray Smith’s Tilly and the Crazy Eights brings characters to life in a way that makes the readers wish these people were a part of their personal lives. The Crazy Eights are the Elders who Tilly takes on a road trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico. Together they venture out for an experience even greater than they had imagined. Along the way, the Elders and Tilly learn a great deal about friendships, love, loss, dreams, and broken promises, and experience healing and the power of connectedness. Gray Smith is a master when it comes to taking her readers on a journey, and this is one trip that is truly worth taking.

GRADES: 10–12 / SUBJECTS: English Language Arts
2018, 218 pp., 5.5 x 8.5” • Bibliography: no • Index: no
Second Story Press
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