

AUTHENTIC FIRST PEOPLES RESOURCES



For use
in K-7
classrooms

Authentic First Peoples Resources

*For Use in
K-7 Classrooms*



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Acknowledgments

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The past three decades have seen a dramatic increase in the number of resources with a First Peoples theme or focus aimed at young people. This guide has been created to help you, the BC elementary school teacher, make appropriate decisions about which of these resources might be appropriate for use with your students. The annotated listings provided in this guide identify currently available **authentic First Peoples texts** that your students can work with to meet provincial standards related to literacy as well as a variety of specific subject areas.

In creating this guide, the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) is hoping to help you incorporate student material that will make your classroom more reflective of the realities of First Peoples in this province. This undertaking is based on the belief that by bringing content, perspectives, and teaching approaches associated with First Peoples into your classroom, you will

- ▶ support all your students in developing a better sense of the significant place of First Peoples within the historical and contemporary fabric of this province
- ▶ help your Aboriginal students in particular to feel more comfortable within the classroom and more motivated to participate and focus — thus becoming able to learn more effectively and experience increased academic success.

As a first attempt to compile an educationally useful list of authentic texts, this guide lists only print resources (fiction and non-fiction) written for a **student** audience. It is recognized that a rich learning experience for students includes opportunities to work with oral, visual, and audiovisual texts as well as written texts; as circumstances permit, therefore, future editions of this guide may be produced to include additional media, as well as teacher resources and new print titles.

What Are Authentic First Peoples Texts?

Authentic First Peoples texts are historical or contemporary texts that

- ▶ present authentic First Peoples voices (i.e., are created by First Peoples or through the substantial contributions of First Peoples)
- ▶ depict themes and issues that are important within First Peoples cultures (e.g., loss of identity and affirmation of identity, tradition, healing, role of family, importance of Elders, connection to the land, the nature and place of spirituality as an aspect of wisdom, the relationships between individual and community, the importance of oral tradition, the experience of colonization and decolonization)
- ▶ incorporate First Peoples story-telling techniques and features as applicable (e.g., circular structure, repetition, weaving in of spirituality, humour).

The Resource Evaluation Process

The annotated resource list provided in this guide has been developed by teachers who, like you, are practising educators in BC. As part of the process,

- ▶ a professional librarian conducted research into existing North American work on criteria for evaluation and selection of First Peoples materials and developed a draft resource evaluation tool to guide the compilation of this list
- ▶ FNESC issued a call for resources to known BC publishers and distributors of authentic First Peoples texts aimed at a K-7 audience, and received a strong response, indicative of the high level of activity in this area
- ▶ FNESC convened a team of five teachers (four elementary and one secondary teacher) to discuss and refine the evaluation tool and then use it to evaluate the learning resources received from publishers and distributors.

An exemplar of the resource evaluation tool used by the evaluation team is supplied in the **Appendix** at the end of this guide. Although the primary criterion for deciding whether to include a particular resource in this guide is whether or not it is an authentic First Peoples text, other selection criteria were also considered, including province-wide availability and appropriateness for use in a school setting. Each evaluation was carried out by one member of the evaluation team, who consulted other members regarding decisions on an as-needed basis.

Choosing and Using Resources Listed in this Guide

The resource annotations provided in this guide have been compiled using the information captured on the FNEESC resource evaluation forms. The annotations are presented in alphabetical order (by title). When interpreting the annotations, please keep the following points in mind:

Resource Use Approvals

The resources listed in this guide were reviewed under the auspices of FNEESC, not the Ministry of Education, and consequently do not necessarily carry provincial “recommended” status. Teachers in the K-12 public school system are reminded that resources used in the classroom must be either

- ▶ provincially recommended resources
- OR
- ▶ resources that have been evaluated through a local, board/authority-approved process.

Teachers may consequently need to check that the resources they wish to use meet one or other of these requirements. Ministry of Education policies concerning **Learning Resources** can be found on the ministry’s web site:

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/policy/policies/

- ▶ The “reading level” identified within each annotation is based on the professional opinion of the evaluating teacher, rather than on any quantitative readability analysis tools. You are accordingly encouraged to treat these “reading level” designations as guidelines only, recognizing that resources can also be used as read-aloud texts with younger grades, or for various other teaching purposes with older grades.
- ▶ The “subject area” designation provided for each annotation is a guideline only, identifying the most obvious curriculum connections to the book’s content. You may find additional curricular applications for many of these resources (e.g., illustrations in picture books can be studied from a visual arts perspective, stories can be used as readers’ theatre or other drama forms in drama classes, bilingual books can be used in Aboriginal languages classes).
- ▶ Although inclusion of a resource in this guide is an indication that it meets criteria for designation as an authentic First Peoples text, there may be caveats associated with using it in the classroom. Accordingly, where aspects of the text might make it unsuitable for certain purposes or require you to help interpret, explain, or qualify content issues for students, this has been indicated by means of “Caution” notes provided as part of the annotation.



Resource Annotations

The following pages contain detailed information about all of the First Nations resources evaluated and approved by FNEC for use in K-7 classrooms.

For an at-a-glance listing of all resources, see the next section of this guide, **Index of Resources**.

Publisher contact information for ordering specific resources can be found in the **Publishers and Distributors** section later in this guide.

The Adventures of Txamsm series

Txamsm Brings Light to the World (Wilt Dagoydiksdit Txamsm Goy'pa Da Ha'lidzoox)

Author, Editor, or Compiler

narrative by J. Bradley, retold in Sm'algyax
by Mildred Wilson, *Tsimshian*

Reading Level: 4 – 5**Curriculum Areas:**

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Illustrator

Bill Helin, *Tsimshian*

Themes & Topics:

legends, trickster, life lessons

Publisher

Tsimshian Nation and School District No. 52
(Prince Rupert)

Pub. Date: 1996**Pages:** 16**Description**

Txamsm is the Tsimshian transformer and trickster character. Numerous tales of Txamsm's adventures are told throughout the Tsimshian Nation. Some are origin stories, telling how he brought light, or the tides, or the stars, to humans. Others are tales of his voraciousness, his foolishness, and his greed. Still others relate his many adventures as he travelled about the world.

In this famous narrative, Txamsm is in his transformer mode. He changes form at will and helps bring order to the world by bringing light to the people of the world. The short episode at the end, in which we learn how the labret originated, shows how this narrative is part of a much longer cycle of stories.

Features

- ▶ text is in both English and Sm'algyax
- ▶ a Teacher Guide for the entire Adventures of Txamsm Series is also available

The Adventures of Txamsm series

Txamsm and Chief Kingfisher (Txamsm Dit Sm'ooygit Ts'iyoolk)

Author, Editor, or Compiler

narrative by Henry Tate, retold in Sm'algyax
by Verna Helin, *Tsimshian* / *Sm'algyax*

Reading Level: 4 – 5

Illustrator

Joanne Thomson, *Tsimshian*

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

legends, trickster, life lessons

Publisher

Tsimshian Nation and School District No. 52
(Prince Rupert)

Pub. Date: 1996

Pages: 16

Description

Txamsm is the Tsimshian transformer and trickster character. Numerous tales of Txamsm's adventures are told throughout the Tsimshian Nation. Some are origin stories, telling how he brought light, or the tides, or the stars, to humans. Others are tales of his voraciousness, his foolishness, and his greed. Still others relate his many adventures as he travelled about the world.

This story teaches a lesson about greed and truth. Txamsm tries very hard to be a good host, but he bungles it. Chief Kingfisher treats him to a wonderful feast using magic, but when Txamsm attempts to copy him, he fails.

Features

- text is in both English and Sm'algyax
- a Teacher Guide for the entire Adventures of Txamsm Series is also available

The Adventures of Txamsm series

Txamsm and the Children (Txamsm Dit Kabałguułk)

Author, Editor, or Compiler

narrative by Henry Tate, retold in Sm'algyax
by Pauline Dudoward, *Tsimshian*

Reading Level: 3 – 4

Illustrator

Vernon Brown, *Tsimshian*

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

legends, trickster, life lessons

Publisher

School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson)

Pub. Date: 1996

Pages: 16

Description

Txamsm is the Tsimshian transformer and trickster character. Numerous tales of Txamsm's adventures are told throughout the Tsimshian Nation. Some are origin stories, telling how he brought light, or the tides, or the stars, to humans. Others are tales of his voraciousness, his foolishness, and his greed. Still others relate his many adventures as he travelled about the world.

In this story, Txamsm shows his greedy nature, and it gets him into trouble. He wants an easy way to get some food, but he fails again.

Features

- ▶ text is in both English and Sm'algyax
- ▶ a Teacher Guide for the entire Adventures of Txamsm Series is also available

The Adventures of Txamsm series

Txamsm Visits Chief Echo (Ts'ilaykdis Txamsm Sm'oogit Dildaalt)

Author, Editor, or Compiler

narrative by Henry Tate, retold in Sm'algyax
by Biatrice Robinson, *Tsimshian*

Illustrator

Bill Helin, *Tsimshian*

Publisher

School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson)

Reading Level: 3 – 4

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

legends, trickster, life lessons

Pub. Date: 1996

Pages: 16

Description

Txamsm is the Tsimshian transformer and trickster character. Numerous tales of Txamsm's adventures are told throughout the Tsimshian Nation. Some are origin stories, telling how he brought light, or the tides, or the stars, to humans. Others are tales of his voraciousness, his foolishness, and his greed. Still others relate his many adventures as he travelled about the world.

In this story, Txamsm shows again his greedy nature. He thinks he can take the highly-prized goat fat without being seen, but the invisible women in Chief Echo's house spoil his scheme.

Features

- ▶ text is in both English and Sm'algyax
- ▶ a Teacher Guide for the entire Adventures of Txamsm Series is also available

After School

Author and Illustrator

Noreen Pankewich, *Stó:lō*

Reading Level: K – 1

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

school, friendship, fun

Publisher

School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson)

Pub. Date: 2006

Pages: 19

Description

Two friends attend an after-school club where they have fun with other children, making crafts and playing. The book emphasizes friendship and positive experiences.

Alego

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Ningeokuluk Teevee, *Nunavut*

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Illustrator

Ningeokuluk Teevee, *Nunavut*

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education
- ▶ Science

Additional Contributor

Translated by Nina Manning-Toonoo

Themes & Topics:

ocean shoreline ecosystems, family, traditions

Publisher

Groundwood Books

Pub. Date: 2009

Pages: 21

Description

Alego is a beautifully simple story about a young Inuit girl who goes to the shore with her grandmother to collect clams for supper. Along the way she discovers tide pools brimming with life — a bright orange starfish, a creepy-crawly thing with many legs called an *ugjunnaq*, a horn-shaped sea snail, and a sculpin. Before the tide comes in Alego and her grandmother return home with their catch. This is an enchanting and utterly authentic introduction to the life of an Inuit child and her world.

Features

- ▶ written in Inuktitut and English
- ▶ includes an illustrated glossary of sea creatures as well as a pictorial map of Baffin Island

B Is for Basketball: An Alphabet Book

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Teachers and Students of School District No.
50 (Haida Gwaii)

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Illustrator

Judy Hilgemann

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Physical Education

Additional Contributor

foreword by Robert Davidson, *Haida*

Themes & Topics:

sports, community, teamwork, fair play

Publisher

McKellar & Martin

Pub. Date: 2010

Pages: 32

Description

B is for Basketball is a narrative told in the form of an alphabet book.

This is the official book of the 2011 All Native Basketball Tournament. These games have been held in Prince Rupert, British Columbia for over 50 years. Since its inception, the Tournament has become an important cultural gathering.

Beaver Steals Fire

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes,
Salish

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Illustrator

Sam Sandoval, *Salish*

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ Health and Career Education
- ▶ Science
- ▶ Social Studies

Additional Contributor

story told by Johnny Arlee, *Salish*

Themes & Topics:

legends, fire, relationships, teamwork

Publisher

University of Nebraska Press

Pub. Date: 2008

Pages: 64

Description

A long time ago, fire belonged only to the animals in the land above, not to those on the earth below. Curlew, keeper of the sky world, guarded fire and kept it from earth. Coyote, however, devised a clever plan to steal fire, aided by Grizzly Bear, Wren, Snake, Frog, Eagle, and Beaver. These brave and resourceful animal beings raided the land above and risked all to steal fire from Curlew.



A Salish Coyote story, retold by Salish elder Johnny Arlee, *Beaver Steals Fire* recounts how the animals worked together to obtain fire and help prepare the world for habitation by humans. *Beaver Steals Fire* is an ancient and powerful tale springing from the hearts and experiences of the Salish people of Montana. Steeped in the rich and culturally vital storytelling tradition of the tribe, this beautifully illustrated tale teaches both respect for fire and awareness of its significance, themes particularly relevant today.

Features

- ▶ A note to the reader at the beginning asks those who use *Beaver Steals Fire* in the classroom or others who read it aloud to tell or discuss the story only in winter, when snow is on the ground, as this is a strongly ingrained part of tribal seasonal tradition.
- ▶ includes a Brief Guide to Written Salish and the International Phonetic Alphabet

Byron through the Seasons

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Dene Children of La Loche and Friends

Illustrator

students of Ducharme Elementary, *Dene*

Publisher

University of Nebraska Press

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Science
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

seasons, seasonal activities

Pub. Date: 1990

Pages: 44

Description

Byron through the Seasons is a story told by Grandfather Jonas and imagined by his grandson, Byron. The balloon diagram in each picture represents the symbolic journey taken by Byron as he listens to stories of what Dene life is like during the four seasons of the year.

This Dene-English story book was produced by the students and teachers of Ducharme Elementary School in La Loche, Saskatchewan, with assistance from local advisors and elders. Together, they wrote the story, translated it, and worked on the pictures. Their goal was to highlight some aspects of Dene culture that were vital in the past and are still important today. They wanted to show the continuity of a genuine and successful way of life, and emphasize culturally significant events and attitudes.

Features

- ▶ text is in both Dene and English
- ▶ written and illustrated by students

The Canoe He Called Loo Taas

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Amanda Reid-Stevens, *Haida*

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Illustrator

Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas, *Haida*

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Science

Themes & Topics:

canoes, paddling

Publisher

Benjamin Brown Books

Pub. Date: 2010

Pages: 32

Description

Loo Taas is the amazing 50-foot canoe designed by legendary artist Bill Reid and carved by members of the Haida community. Her name means “Wave Eater.” This picture book, told through the eyes of the designer’s daughter, tells the story of how the canoe came to be.

Caring for Me series:

Eat, Run, and Live Healthy

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Karen W. Olson, *Cree Anishnabe (Peguis First Nation)*

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Illustrator

Marie-Micheline Hamelin, *Inuit/Montagnais*

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

nutrition, exercise, hydration, rest, sleep

Publisher

Theytus Books

Pub. Date: 2009 rev

Pages: 20

Description

A school or public health nurse visits a class and she and the teacher discuss with students the importance of nutrition, exercise, and rest/sleep.

Features

- ▶ key health considerations identified (nutrition, exercise, rest/sleep) and their importance is explained
- ▶ diabetes — an issue of growing concern in many northern and First Nations communities — is mentioned
- ▶ one of 6 health-oriented books in the “Caring for Me” series

Caring for Me series: *Eyes, Ears, Nose, and Mouth*

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Karen W. Olson, *Cree Anishnabe (Peguis First Nation)*

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Illustrator

Leonard George, *Thompson First Nation, Lytton*

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

personal hygiene, health care, family medicine, oral health

Publisher

Theytus Books

Pub. Date: 2009 rev

Pages: 20

Description

A mother takes her son to see the doctor, when he accidentally pushes a bead up into his nose. The doctor takes the opportunity to conduct a check-up, and she and the boy discuss appropriate self-care practices to ensure continued good health of eyes, ears, nose, and mouth.

Features

- doctor portrayed as friendly, approachable
- a good platform for discussion of personal hygiene with preschoolers
- one of 6 health-oriented books in the “Caring for Me” series

Caring for Me series: *Healthy Choices, Healthy Lives*

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Karen W. Olson, *Cree Anishnabe (Peguis First Nation)*

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Illustrator

Marie-Micheline Hamelin, *Inuit/Montagnais*

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Health and Career Education
- Physical Education
- Science

Themes & Topics:

healthy choices — alcohol and tobacco use during pregnancy

Publisher

Theytus Books

Pub. Date: 2009 rev

Pages: 20

Description

A child asks his mother about alcohol and cigarette use and she welcomes his questions, explaining the choices adults make. Topics covered include avoiding the use of alcohol and tobacco during pregnancy.

Features

- ▶ topic is particularly important for children who are exposed to alcohol and cigarette use
- ▶ one of 6 health-oriented books in the “Caring for Me” series

Caring for Me series:

Living Safe, Playing Safe

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Karen W. Olson, *Cree Anishnabe (Peguis First Nation)*

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Illustrator

Leonard George, *Thompson First Nation, Lytton*

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

accident & injury prevention, passenger safety

Publisher

Theytus Books

Pub. Date: 2009 rev

Pages: 20

Description

Three episodes featuring different characters focus on Safety at School, Safety in the Kitchen, and Safety on the Playground. In the first two episodes, adults and children discuss dangers to watch out for. In the third episode, a young boy hurts himself at the playground, and his mother takes him to get treatment at the hospital.

Features

- ▶ covers dangers commonly encountered by children
- ▶ gives sensible advice
- ▶ one of 6 health-oriented books in the “Caring for Me” series

Caring for Me series:

Looking After Me

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Denise Lecoy, *Penticton Island Band*

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Illustrator

Marie-Micheline Hamelin, *Inuit/Montagnais*

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

self-care, self-confidence, family relationships, abuse prevention, interpersonal communication

Publisher

Theytus Books

Pub. Date: 2009 rev

Pages: 20

Description

Baby quail talks about what he has learned from his family. Topics discussed include listening skills, appropriate expression of feelings, personal space, staying safe, responding to inappropriate touch or behaviour from strangers, trust, and family relationships.

Features

- ▶ helps young children address personal safety topics in a non-threatening way
- ▶ addresses both personal behaviour (social responsibility) and behaviour/feelings of others
- ▶ an excellent platform for discussion of interpersonal and family relationships as well as personal safety (abuse prevention)
- ▶ provides opportunities to expand discussion of potentially difficult subjects
- ▶ one of 6 health-oriented books in the “Caring for Me” series

Caring for Me series:

Taking Care of Mother Earth

Author, Editor, or Compiler Leanne Flett Kruger, <i>Cree, Métis</i>		Reading Level: 2 – 3
Illustrator Marie-Micheline Hamelin, <i>Inuit/Montagnais</i>	Curriculum Areas:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ English Language Arts ▶ Health and Career Education ▶ Science 	
	Themes & Topics: sustainability, recycling, composting, gardening	
Publisher Theytus Books	Pub. Date: 2009 rev	Pages: 20

Description

A grandmother spends an afternoon doing household “chores” with her grandson. In a light-hearted way, she teaches him about composting, recycling, and growing/gathering/preserving food for the family.

Features

- ▶ introduces the concept of “sustainability” (though the term is not used)
- ▶ positive interactions among characters reinforce the importance of inter-generational interaction
- ▶ one of 6 health-oriented books in the “Caring for Me” series



Catching Spring

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Sylvia Olsen, *Tsartlip*

Reading Level: 4 – 5**Curriculum Areas:**

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

fishing, work, reservation life

Publisher

Orca Book Publishers

Pub. Date: 2004**Pages:** 123**Description**

Bobby, from Tsartlip First Nation, is a young boy who lives with his mother and two younger brothers. They are having trouble finding enough money to buy groceries; Bobby works in his spare time at the local marina, and he gives his earnings to his mother. All the while, he yearns for a bike. Then one day he sees a poster for a bike as a prize in a fishing derby.

Features

- ▶ high interest, low vocabulary
- ▶ particularly appealing for boys

Cautions:

- ▶ Socio-economic — Bobby spends a lot of time worrying about money; the family's financial struggles may be a sensitive topic for some students.

Cedar Readers series

Author and Illustrator

Pam Holloway, *Kwakwaka'wakw*

Reading Level: pre-K – 1**Curriculum Areas:**

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Mathematics (for *Ten Cockles*)
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

nature & environment (various), masks, cedar, counting

Publisher

Cedar Moon Creations

Pub. Date: 2006**Pages:** 8 (each)

Description

The eight early reader books in this series each contain simple text along with vivid photographs depicting a range of settings and topics. The titles in the series are:

- ▶ At the Beach
- ▶ Berries
- ▶ Cedar
- ▶ The Echo Mask
- ▶ Little Cedar, Big Cedar
- ▶ Salmon
- ▶ Ten Cockles

Titles can be purchased individually or as a set.

Ch'askin: A Legend of the Sechelt People

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Donna Joe, *Sechelt*

Illustrator

Jamie Jeffries, *Sechelt*

Publisher

Harbour Publishing

Reading Level: 3 – 4

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

legends, Thunderbird

Pub. Date: 2003

Pages: 20

Description

This compelling book recounts how the enormous and awe-inspiring Thunderbird aided and protected the members of the Sechelt villages for many years in many ways. From helping Chief Spelmu'lh, the father of the Sechelt Nation, build both the first longhouse and the many villages of his people, to delivering goats and grizzly bears for the hungry people to eat and creating islands from pebbles for the tired Sechelt hunters to rest, the story of Ch'askin is a story of protection, friendship and respect for fellow living beings.

Chiwid

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Sage Birchwater (compiled by), *Tsilhqot'in*

Reading Level: 7+

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

season cycles, relationships, spirituality, co-operation, resource sharing, transformation, rights and justice

Publisher

New Star Books

Pub. Date: 1995

Pages: 128

Description

Chiwid was a Tsilhqot'in woman, said to have shamanistic powers, who spent most of her adult life "living out" in the hills and forests around Williams Lake, BC. *Chiwid* is the story of this remarkable woman told in the vibrant voices of Chilcotin oldtimers, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.

The range of interview sources present a variety of perspectives on Chiwid and her life, providing opportunities for students to compare diverse viewpoints.

Cautions:

- ▶ Violence — Several interviewees describe domestic violence that Chiwid experienced.
- ▶ Language —the term "whiteman" is used.
- ▶ Safety — The main character spent majority of her life in solitude and living off of the land. In many cases, the weather is extreme and teachers should let students know that they should not try this without the appropriate knowledge and experience.

Christmas at Wapos Bay

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Jordan Wheeler and Dennis Jackson, *Cree*

Reading Level: 7+

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

family, teamwork, survival

Publisher

Coteau Books for Kids

Pub. Date: 2006

Pages: 134

Description

At Christmas time in Northern Saskatchewan, three Cree kids visit their Moshum's (grandfather's) cabin to learn about traditional ways and experience a life-changing adventure. The kids, who have never lived in the bush, visit their Moshum's cabin to prepare for Christmas. But food is scarce this year, and Moshum is afraid Christmas may have to be cancelled. The kids decide to help by going hunting, but they don't understand how unprepared they are or what danger they're in. They get lost, forcing Moshum to come after them. But when they find him collapsed in the bush, it is the children who have to bring Moshum safely home. The experience helps them to grow in skill and understanding and to become more mature. They learn that they can benefit from two kinds of knowledge — traditional learning through their elders and the things they learn in school.

This message-laden novel provides a portrait of urban Cree children who learn about the culture and way of life of their elders.

Features

- a corresponding Teacher Resource is available online at www.coteaubooks.com/book_uploads/teacher_resources/resource_35.pdf

Chuck in the City

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Jordan Wheeler (Cree)

Reading Level: 3 – 5

Illustrator

Christopher Auchter, *Haida*

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

adventure, safety

Publisher

Theytus Books

Pub. Date: 2009

Pages: 32

Description

Follow the adventures of Chuck as he gets lost on his first trip to the big city. Chuck encounters stray dogs and alley cats, kids on skateboards and rollerblades, and tall office towers. After realizing he is lost, Chuck relies on what he has learned to find his way back to his kookum's (grandmother's) condo.

Written to excite young readers and to leave a smile on their faces, the book features a rhythmic ebbing and flowing of words and phrases that punctuates Chuck's exciting escapade.

Cautions:

- Stereotypes — the book makes more than one mention of police officers eating doughnuts.

The Class Hike

Author and Illustrator

Noreen Pankewich, Stó:lō

Reading Level: K – 1

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Science

Themes & Topics:

plants, respect for the environment

Publisher

School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson)

Pub. Date: 2006

Pages: 22

Description

A class goes on a field trip and learns about the outdoors, while respecting their surroundings. The passing on of traditional knowledge, from an uncle to the children, takes place in this book.

Counting on Hope

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Sylvia Olsen, Tsartlip

Reading Level: 6 – 7+

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

friendship, hope, traditional life, contact

Publisher

Sono Nis Press

Pub. Date: 2009

Pages: 304

Description

Hope and her family travel from England to their new home on an island off the coast of British Columbia in the 1860s. Hope thinks that she has arrived in paradise. She is right ... until whiskey traders arrive. Letia and her family are Lamalcha people who winter on Kuper Island and move to Wallace Island in the summer. The problem is that Letia's summer camp is on the island that the Crown has deeded to Hope's family. When the two girls meet, against the wishes of their mothers, their stories intersect.

Set against the backdrop of the confusing events surrounding the English colonization of British Columbia, and an 1863 naval assault on Kuper Island, *Counting on Hope* tells the story of two girls whose lives are profoundly changed when their two cultures collide.

Alternating between free verse and prose, the novel follows the girls' individual storylines before, during and after their meeting. The author captures the wonder and joy with which Hope and Letia develop their friendship. She also describes the tragic events, suspicion, fear and confusion that characterize so many early encounters between Europeans and the First Peoples. Ultimately a story of hope, this sensitively drawn depiction of innocence lost and wisdom hard-won follows Hope and Letia out of childhood, off their island paradise and into the complex realities of an adult world.

Features

- a Teachers' Guide for the novel is available online at www.sononis.com/tg147.pdf

Cautions:

- The term "Indian" is used throughout when characters are speaking from the settlers' point of view. As explained in the historical note at the end of the book, the author uses this term in context, representing historical accuracy in the terminology used at the times.

Dancing in My Bones

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Wilfed Burton & Anne Patton, *Métis*

Reading Level: 4 – 6

Illustrator

Sherry Farrell Racette, *Timiskaming First Nation*

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

heritage, culture, relationships

Publisher

Gabriel Dumont Institute

Pub. Date: 2008

Pages: 36

Description

Dancing in My Bones, the sequel to the highly successful book *Fiddle Dancer*, returns us to the story of a young Métis boy named Nolin as he continues to discover his Métis heritage. *Dancing in My Bones* takes the reader on a journey to discover Moushoom's first moose hunt, red lipstick kisses, Uncle Bunny's fiddling, and the return of the "Bannock Jig."

Features

- English text with Michif translation
- includes Michif glossary
- includes English narration CD

Dancing with the Cranes

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Jeannette Armstrong, *Okanagan*

Reading Level: 3 – 4

Illustrator

Ron Hall

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

loss, renewal, life cycle

Publisher

Theytus Books

Pub. Date: 2009

Pages: 24

Description

Chi' misses her grandmother, who has died, just as her mother is about to have a baby. By learning about the story of the cranes, Chi' comes to accept the loss of her grandmother, Temma, and begins to look forward to the birth of the new baby. This beautifully written book weaves a traditional story with a contemporary narrative, showing the relevance of traditional stories to modern life.

Darkness Calls

Author and Illustrator

Steven Keewatin Sanderson, *Cree*

Reading Level: 5 – 7+

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

bullying, suicide, depression, mental health

Publisher

Aboriginal Health Network

Pub. Date: 2010

Pages: 48

Description

This graphic novel tells the story of a teenager who is bullied at school, misunderstood by his teacher, and feels socially isolated from his family. He finds one day very overwhelming and considers taking his own life.

Features

- ▶ graphic novel format is appealing for many reluctant readers

Cautions:

- ▶ Violence — contains some violent imagery.
- ▶ Other — the topic of suicide is sensitive for many students and will have to be approached with caution.

Discovering the Animals: Colouring and Learning Book

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Native Northwest, various

Illustrator

Native Northwest, various

Publisher

Native Northwest

Reading Level: pre-K – 1

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Visual Arts

Themes & Topics:

animals, colouring

Pub. Date: 2010

Pages: 24

Description

This colouring book features beautiful line drawings for children to colour as they learn each animal's name.

Each page includes a quotation from individuals representing a wide range of Canadian First Nations, telling the significance of the animal to the traditional culture. Note that these quotations are of a much higher reading level and will have to be read aloud to primary students.

Dream Catcher

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Stella Calahasen, *Woodland Cree First Nation*

Reading Level: 5 – 7

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Visual Arts

Themes & Topics:

transition and change, spiritual connection, traditional art

Publisher

Theytus Books

Pub. Date: 2009

Pages: 92

Description

When nightmares start troubling her, young Marin goes to her grandmother's home to see an Elder. After visiting with the Elder Maskwa, Marin better understands her dreams and the importance of ritual, respect and connection to the Great Spirit, Kici Manitow. With the help of her family, Marin makes a dream catcher. It helps her appreciate herself and her connection to the land and the creatures around her.

Features

- ▶ high interest and easy-to-read
- ▶ of particular interest to girls
- ▶ teaches how to make a traditional dream catcher and explains the background

Explore the Animals: Colouring and Learning Book

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Native Northwest, various

Illustrator

Native Northwest, various

Publisher

Native Northwest

Reading Level: pre-K – 1

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Visual Arts

Themes & Topics:

animals, colouring

Pub. Date: 2010

Pages: 24

Description

This colouring book features beautiful line drawings for children to colour as they learn each animal's name.

Each page includes a quotation from individuals representing a wide range of Canadian First Nations, telling the significance of the animal to the traditional culture. Note that these quotations are of a much higher reading level and will have to be read aloud to primary students.

Exploring Quatsino

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Marion Wright and Sara Child,
Kwakwaka'wakw

Reading Level: 3 – 4

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

village life, traditions, family

Publisher

Tri-Bands Education Committee and School
District No. 85 (Vancouver Island North)

Pub. Date: 2001

Pages: 24

Description

Told from the point of view of a young Kwakwaka'wakw boy and supported by candid photographs, this book takes the reader on a tour of the village of Quatsino and the daily lives of its residents.

Features

- includes a Kwak'wala glossary

Exploring Ts'axis

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Marion Wright and Sara Child,
Kwakwaka'wakw

Reading Level: 3 – 4

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

village life, traditions, family

Publisher

Tri-Bands Education Committee and School
District No. 85 (Vancouver Island North)

Pub. Date: 2001

Pages: 24

Description

Told from the point of view of a young Kwakwaka'wakw girl and supported by candid photographs, this book takes the reader on a tour of the village of Ts'axis and the daily lives of its residents.

Features

- includes a Kwak'wala glossary

Exploring Tsulquate

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Marion Wright and Sara Child,
Kwakwaka'wakw

Reading Level: 3 – 4

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

village life, traditions, family

Publisher

Tri-Bands Education Committee and School
District No. 85 (Vancouver Island North)

Pub. Date: 2001

Pages: 24

Description

Told from the point of view of a young Kwakwaka'wakw girl and supported by candid photographs, this book takes the reader on a tour of the village of Tsulquate and the daily lives of its residents.

Features

- ▶ includes a Kwak'wala glossary

Fiddle Dancer

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Wilfed Burton & Anne Patton, *Métis*

Reading Level: 4 – 6

Illustrator

Sherry Farrell Racette, *Timiskaming First Nation*

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Dance

Themes & Topics:

heritage, culture, relationships, community, family

Publisher

Gabriel Dumont Institute

Pub. Date: 2007

Pages: 46

Description

This book is about a young boy and his grandfather and their relationship after the death of the grandmother. The grandfather teaches the young boy how to jig. The boy shows off his new moves at a community gathering where everyone dances to fiddle music.

Features

- ▶ English text with Michif translation
- ▶ includes a CD with music and English narration
- ▶ see also annotation for the sequel, *Dancing in My Bones*

A First Nations Alphabet: ABC Book

Author and Illustrator

Noreen Pankewich, *Stó:lō*

Reading Level: pre-K – 1

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

literacy, culture, traditions

Publisher

School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson)

Pub. Date: 2006

Pages: 50

Description

The book tells many stories through the photographs it contains. The cultural activities and events that take place depict today's Aboriginal people, while often giving a glimpse into the past.

A First Nations Alphabet to Read and Draw

Author and Illustrator

Noreen Pankewich, *Stó:lō*

Reading Level: 1 – 2

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Visual Arts

Themes & Topics:

culture, vocabulary, drawing

Publisher

School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson)

Pub. Date: 2006

Pages: 55

Description

Students read through this alphabet book and draw a picture of the words on the adjacent pages.

Features

- ▶ a great resource for practising reading and writing at the same time
- ▶ includes Challenge words at back of book

Goodbye Buffalo Bay

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Larry Loie, Cree

Reading Level: 6 – 7

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

residential school, coming of age, role of Elders

Publisher

Theytus Books

Pub. Date: 2009

Pages: 141

Description

Lawrence just has to make it through his final year of residential school and then he will never have to set foot in this horrible place again. But despite his best efforts to stay out of trouble, he finds himself in a few frightening predicaments. An escape attempt fails and a stolen gun misfires. Fortunately, his friendships and the tutelage of Sister Theresa help make his last school days bearable.

When he returns home, Lawrence is not yet a man but no longer a boy. He struggles to find acceptance in a community that seems to have forgotten him. He tries a few different jobs and makes a name for himself as a hard worker. With increased confidence and the money he has saved up, he leaves Slave Lake to fulfill his dream of living in the mountains.

Goodbye Buffalo Bay is based on the author's life at a residential school.

Features

- ▶ of particular interest to boys
- ▶ includes glossary of Cree words
- ▶ epilogue with historical notes about residential schools
- ▶ web site link to photos

Cautions

- ▶ Violence — boys playing with imaginary guns in chapter 1; children mistreated by nuns and priests at the school including one incident in chapter 10 when a nun beats a child's head into the floor and in chapter 12 when Father Superior hits a boy who runs away from school; Lawrence is attacked by a girl in chapter 21 and has scratches all over his face.
- ▶ Ethical/Legal — mentions of cigarette smoking.
- ▶ Safety — children ride in a grain truck to the residential school, Lawrence steals a gun from the priest's bedroom in chapter 7, family is trapped at home during a forest fire, James breaks his leg while working at a mill.

Hide and Sneak

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Michael Kusugak, *Inuit*

Reading Level: pre-K – 2

Illustrator

Vladyana Langer Krykorka

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

life lessons, traditional stories, adventure

Publisher

Annick Press

Pub. Date: 1992

Pages: 32

Description

Allashua, the protagonist, is very mischievous and wanders away from home despite warnings from her parents about being taken by the Ijiraq, a little man who helps children hide but they are never found. One day Allashua gets lost and meets the Ijiraq. Luckily, she finds an inuksugaq (also called an inukshuk), to help her find her way home.

This beautifully illustrated book shows students the relevance of traditional stories and figures.

Hockey Challenge

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Katherine Maximick

Reading Level: 3 – 5

Illustrator

Lorraine Adams, *Haida*

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education
- ▶ Physical Education

Themes & Topics:

team sports, fair play, acceptance and inclusion, gender stereotypes, commitment

Publisher

Eaglecrest Books

Pub. Date: 2010

Pages: 56

Description

Kayla loves hockey, but there is no girls' team in her community. Will Kayla be allowed to try out for the boys' team? Will she be accepted if she makes the team?

Features

- ▶ high interest, low vocabulary chapter book

Honouring the Salmon (Łuutigm Hoon): An Anthology Told in the Voices of the Tsimshian

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Kenneth Campbell, *Tsimshian*

Reading Level: 4 – 6

Illustrator

Vernon Brown, Bill Helin, Judy Hilgemann, *Tsimshian*

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Science
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

salmon, history, traditional life

Publisher

Tsimshian Nation and School District No. 52
(Prince Rupert)

Pub. Date: 1999

Pages: 128

Description

The Tsimshian voices of yesterday, today, and tomorrow in this rich and varied anthology capture the nature of the relationship the Tsimshian have with salmon.

Features

- ▶ a corresponding Teacher Guide is also available

Hooshum for Everyone

Author and Illustrator

Noreen Pankewich, *Stó:lō*

Reading Level: 1 – 2

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

traditions, sharing, new experiences

Publisher

School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson)

Pub. Date: 2006

Pages: 16

Description

In this story, a student's mother comes to school to make "Indian ice cream" for the class.

How the Coho Got His Hooked Nose

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Laverne Adams, *Stó:lō*; as told by Teresa Michell, *Stó:lō/Cheam*

Illustrator

Peter Lindley, *Stó:lō*

Reading Level: 3 – 5

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Science

Themes & Topics:

salmon, legends

Publisher

Coqualeet Cultural Education Centre

Pub. Date: 2007, 2nd ed.

Pages: 16

Description

This is a traditional story about a wonder of nature, explaining how the Coho salmon gets a hooked nose on its way to the spawning grounds. The story is alive with the salmon's struggle, and keeps the reader's curiosity alive throughout the adventure. The black and white illustrations bring the underwater world to life as they document the Coho's transformation.

How the Fox Got His Crossed Legs (*Edàni Noqgèe Wegòò Degèe Adzà*)

Author, Editor, or Compiler

collected by Virginia Football

Illustrator

James Wedzin, *Tłìchq / Dogrib*

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts

Additional Contributors

translated by Rosa Mantla & Mary Siemens,
Tłìchq / Dogrib

Themes & Topics:

legends, animals, trickster

Publisher

Theytus Books

Pub. Date: 2009

Pages: 32

Description

Fox is howling, for he lost his leg to Bear. All the people want to help Fox, but don't know what to do. Raven is called upon to help retrieve his leg. Will Raven succeed in the quest for Fox's leg?

How the Fox Got His Crossed Legs is a beautifully illustrated picture book retelling a traditional Dogrib story.

Features

- text is printed in both Dogrib and English
- includes a Dogrib orthography and pronunciation chart
- an accompanying CD-ROM contains audio narration of the story in both Dogrib and English



How Raven Stole the Sun

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Maria Williams, *Tlingit*

Illustrator

Felix Vigil, *Apache/Pueblo*

Publisher

Abbeville Press Publishers

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Curriculum Areas:

► English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

traditional stories, culture

Pub. Date: 2001

Pages: 32

Description

This book tells the traditional story of how “Raven stole the sun,” a story common in various forms to many Northwest Coast First Peoples cultures.

Features

- includes background information about the Raven trickster character and the Tlingit people
- includes a Tlingit glossary

How the Robin Got Its Red Breast

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Sechelt Nation

Illustrator

Charlie Graigan, *Sechelt*

Publisher

Northwood Editions

Reading Level: 3

Curriculum Areas:

► English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

legends, oral tradition, traditional life

Pub. Date: 1993

Pages: 40

Description

This story from the Sechelt oral tradition tells of how the robin helped the Sechelt people by keeping their fire burning.

I Am Raven

Author, Editor, or Compiler

David Bouchard, *Métis*

Reading Level: 4 – 6

Illustrator

Andy Everson, *Kwakwaka'wakw*

Curriculum Areas:

► English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

traditional knowledge, spirituality, trickster

Publisher

More Than Words Publishing

Pub. Date: 2007

Pages: 26

Description

This beautifully illustrated book tells the story of the author's search for his totem.

Caution:

This book tells of the author's spiritual journey within a particular First Peoples cultural context. Contrary to the advice given by the author to the reader at the end of the book, teachers and students should **not** conduct a similar spiritual discovery without considerable support and advice, ensuring that local cultural protocols are followed.

I Can't Have Bannock but the Beaver Has a Dam

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Bernalda Wheeler, *Cree & Saulteaux*

Reading Level: 1 – 2

Illustrator

Herman Bekkering

Curriculum Areas:

► English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

connections, cause and effect, traditional foods

Publisher

Eaglecrest Books

Pub. Date: 1993

Pages: 26

Description

A young boy asks his mother to make some bannock. The mother explains she can't use her stove until the hydro line is fixed. It all comes down to the fact that a beaver has cut down a tree for his dam. The picture book is set in a modern-day home where traditional foods are cooked.

Features

► includes a recipe for bannock

I Have a Drum

Author and Illustrator

Noreen Pankewich, Stó:lō

Reading Level: 1 – 2

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

cultural pride, sharing

Publisher

School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson)

Pub. Date: 2006

Pages: 14

Description

Alex brings his drum to school to show to his class. They are all proud of Alex and the drum he made, and Alex is proud of his grandfather.

I Help (Niwechihaw)

Author and Illustrator

Caitlin Dale Nicholson, Cree / Tahltan

Reading Level: pre-K – 1

Other Contributors

inspired by and Cree translation by Leona Morin-Neilson, Cree

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

traditional knowledge, spirituality, trickster

Publisher

Groundwood Books

Pub. Date: 2008

Pages: 24

Description

This simple to read and beautifully illustrated book tells about a young boy and his Grandmother and the things they do together.

Features

- ▶ text is written in both Cree and English

Cautions:

- ▶ ceremonial use of tobacco is depicted

I Like Who I Am

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Tara White, *Mohawk*

Reading Level: 3 – 4

Illustrator

Lee Claremont, *Mohawk*

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

family, identity, belonging, self-esteem, ceremony, traditions

Publisher

Theytus Books

Pub. Date: 1993

Pages: 40

Description

A young girl is questioned by her classmates why she is on their reserve when she doesn't look like the other kids (because she has blonde hair and blue eyes). This discourages the girl from participating in traditional activities. After talking with her Grandmother, she returns to participating in activities, and even befriends the kids who teased her.

Jack and the Boys: Adventure on Gull Island

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Delia Dumont and Lorraine Adams ed.,
Haida

Reading Level: 3 – 5

Illustrator

Lorraine Adams, *Haida*

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

adventure, friendship, fishing, canoeing

Publisher

Eaglecrest Books

Pub. Date: 2010

Pages: 56

Description

Adrien and Glynn have made it to the finals in the soccer tournament. When the game ends, the boys aren't concerned about the score. Instead, they are watching their dog, Jack. Why is he with the boy from the other team?

Features

- ▶ part of a series featuring Jack the dog and his human friends
- ▶ high interest, low vocabulary chapter book for young readers, particularly appealing for boys

Jack and the Boys: Eagle's Cry

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Delia Dumont and Lorraine Adams, *Haida*

Illustrator

Lorraine Adams, *Haida*

Publisher

Eaglecrest Books

Reading Level: 3 – 5

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

adventure, hiking, wildlife rescue, animal welfare, compassion

Pub. Date: 2010

Pages: 64

Description

Jack and the boys set off on a hike when suddenly they hear a gun shot. Jack leads the boys to an injured eagle. Was the eagle shot? Will he survive? Where did the shot come from?

Features

- ▶ part of a series featuring Jack the dog and his human friends
- ▶ high interest, low vocabulary chapter book for young readers, particularly appealing for boys

Jack and the Boys: Mountain Biking Adventure

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Delia Dumont; Lorraine Adams ed., *Haida*

Illustrator

Lorraine Adams, *Haida*

Publisher

Eaglecrest Books

Reading Level: 3 – 5

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education
- ▶ Physical Education

Themes & Topics:

adventure, friendship, emergency response, mountain biking

Pub. Date: 2010

Pages: 64

Description

Adrien and Glynn head up the trails on their mountain bikes. Suddenly they spot smoke coming from one of the cabins.

Features

- ▶ part of a series featuring Jack the dog and his human friends
- ▶ high interest, low vocabulary chapter book for young readers, particularly appealing for boys

Jack and the Boys: Soccer Adventure

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Delia Dumont; Lorraine Adams ed., *Haida*

Reading Level: 3 – 5**Illustrator**

Lorraine Adams, *Haida*

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education
- ▶ Physical Education

Themes & Topics:

team sports, fair play, friendship, responsibility

Publisher

Eaglecrest Books

Pub. Date: 2010**Pages:** 60**Description**

Brian and Adrien head out in their canoe to Gull Island with their dog, Jack. They are all having a great time fishing and exploring the island until something goes terribly wrong!

Features

- ▶ part of a series featuring Jack the dog and his human friends
- ▶ high interest, low vocabulary chapter book for young readers, particularly appealing for boys

Jenneli's Dance

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Elizabeth Denny, *Métis*

Reading Level: 3 – 5**Illustrator**

Christopher Auchter, *Haida*

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Dance
- ▶ Health and Career Education
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

adventure, friendship, emergency response, mountain biking

Publisher

Theytus Books

Pub. Date: 2008**Pages:** 44**Description**

Children of all ages will be able to relate to the main character in *Jenneli's Dance*. Jenneli is the child who doesn't seem to excel at anything, the child who feels as if she isn't good at anything. She is often the victim of bullying and teasing. Jenneli is shy and feels different from the other children at school. Her hair and skin are darker, her eyes are an unusual colour, and the bannock in her lunch is different from the bread in the other students' lunches. She is also certain that



other students are not even aware of her favourite music: fiddle music. No wonder Jenneli deals with low self-esteem.

Jenneli's Dance is a story that illustrates the importance of recognizing and appreciating each other's differences. It highlights the need to expose children to a broad range of skills, talents and cultural traditions in order to develop that appreciation of difference.

The Jingle Dancer

Author and Illustrator

Noreen Pankewich, *Stó:lō*

Reading Level: 1 – 2**Curriculum Areas:**

► English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

dance, culture, family

Publisher

School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson)

Pub. Date: 2006**Pages:** 16**Description**

In a clear demonstration of cultural pride and family ties, Jenna tells her friends about the upcoming pow wow. Her friends are excited and want to attend the pow wow with her.

The Journey: North American Indigenous Games

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Lorraine Adams, *Haida*

Reading Level: 4 – 6**Illustrator**

Lorraine Adams, *Haida*

Curriculum Areas:

► English Language Arts
► Health and Career Education
► Physical Education

Themes & Topics:

team sports, fair play, nutrition, commitment, self-confidence, cultural pride

Publisher

Eaglecrest Books

Pub. Date: 2010**Pages:** 64**Description**

Follow Michelle's personal journey as she participates in the North American Indigenous Games. As Michelle travels on her own for the first time, she meets athletes from all over North America, participates in a sport she loves, and is introduced to her Aboriginal culture.

Features

- high interest, low vocabulary chapter book
- since it features a teenage protagonist, this book would also be appropriate for older students with reading difficulties

The Journey of Dog Salmon

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Bruce Martin, *Tla-Keesh-Pihk-Uh*; adapted by Donna Klockars & Terri Mack, *Da'naxda'xw Awaetlala*

Reading Level: 1 – 2

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Health and Career Education

Illustrator

Terri Mack, *Da'naxda'xw Awaetlala*

Themes & Topics:

salmon, bullying

Publisher

Strong Nations Publications

Pub. Date: 2001

Pages: 18

Description

Dog Salmon is the bully of the river and is taught how important change is.

Just a Story

Author and Illustrator

Steven Keewatin Sanderson, *Cree*

Reading Level: 5 – 7+

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

mental health, anger management, neglect, support networks

Publisher

Aboriginal Health Network

Pub. Date: 2010

Pages: 48

Description

Wendy doesn't have any friends her age and feels overwhelmed at school. Her little brother is more social but he's quick to lose his temper and get into fights. Something is clearly bothering them both. Good thing they're open to getting help and breaking down the stigma of mental health.

Features

- graphic novel format is appealing for many reluctant readers

Cautions:

- Violence — contains some mildly violent imagery.
- Other — the topic of parents fighting is sensitive for many students and will have to be approached with caution.

Just a Walk

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Jordan Wheeler (Cree)

Illustrator

Christopher Auchter, *Haida*

Publisher

Theytus Books

Reading Level: 3 – 5

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

adventure

Pub. Date: 2009

Pages: 32

Description

A young boy named Chuck goes for a simple walk that turns into a day of crazy adventure. Chuck encounters animals, fish and birds that lead him on a wild journey through their various habitats.

Learn the Alphabet with Northwest Coast Native Art

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Native Northwest, various

Illustrator

Native Northwest — Haida, Kwakwaka'wakw, Namgis, Salish, and Tsimshian

Publisher

Native Northwest

Reading Level: pre-K – K

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

alphabet

Pub. Date: 2010

Pages: 10

Description

This alphabet book features beautiful First Peoples artwork from a range of Haida, Kwakwaka'wakw, Namgis, Salish, and Tsimshian artists.

Learn the Colours with Northwest Coast Native Art

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Native Northwest, various

Reading Level: pre-K – K

Illustrator

Native Northwest — Bella Bella, Haida, Kwakwaka'wakw, Namgis, Salish, and Tsimshian

Curriculum Areas:

► English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

colours

Publisher

Native Northwest

Pub. Date: 2010

Pages: 10

Description

This “learn the colours” book features beautiful First Peoples artwork from a range of Bella Bella, Haida, Kwakwaka'wakw, Namgis, Salish, and Tsimshian artists.

Learn to Count with Northwest Coast Native Art

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Native Northwest, various

Reading Level: pre-K – K

Illustrator

Native Northwest — Haida, Kwakwaka'wakw, Namgis, and Tsimshian

Curriculum Areas:

► English Language Arts

► Mathematics

Themes & Topics:

counting

Publisher

Native Northwest

Pub. Date: 2010

Pages: 10

Description

This counting book features beautiful First Peoples artwork from a range of Haida, Kwakwaka'wakw, Namgis, and Tsimshian artists.

Learn and Play with Northwest Coast Native Art

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Native Northwest, various

Illustrator

Native Northwest — various

Publisher

Native Northwest

Reading Level: pre-K – K

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics

Themes & Topics:

early literacy, symbols, counting, colours

Pub. Date: 2010

Pages: 18

Description

This early reader book features simple text and activities supported by beautiful First Peoples artwork.

The Legend of the Caribou Boy

Author, Editor, or Compiler

John Blondin, *Dogrib*

Illustrator

Ray McSwain, *Dene*

Additional Contributors

translated by Mary Rose Sundberg

Publisher

Theytus Books

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

legends, tradition

Pub. Date: 2009

Pages: 40

Description

A young boy is having trouble sleeping at night. He is being called to fulfill his destiny, a destiny which lives on today in the traditions and culture of the Dene people and their relationship to the caribou and the land on which they live.

The Legend of the Caribou Boy is a beautifully illustrated picture book retelling a traditional Dogrib story.

Features

- text is printed in both Dogrib and English
- an accompanying CD-ROM contains audio narration of the story in both Dogrib and English

The Little Duck (Sikihpsis)

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Beth Cuthand

Illustrator

Mary Longman

Additional Contributors

Cree text by Stan Cuthand

Publisher

Theytus Books

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

belonging, self-esteem

Pub. Date: 2000

Pages: 28

Description

Little Duck lives all alone in a muddy swamp close to a camp of Plains Cree People. When he observes the Crees' beauty and grace, the lonely duck decides he would like to be a Plains Cree dancer. He decorates himself, weaving bright green leaves into a wreath to wear as a headdress. The little duck also ties cattail leaves to his tail feathers and paints his face and chest with clay and salt. Unfortunately, when the duck begins to dance, he constantly finds himself trampled beneath the feet of the other dancers. "I'll never be a Cree," the little duck cries. "I'll always be lonely."

The Little Duck is an engaging story with almost universal appeal. Because the desire to fit in with one's surroundings is of importance to most people, the story transcends cultural boundaries. The book contains the important message that we should be striving to improve our sense of self-worth.

Features

- text is in both English and Cree

The Little Hummingbird

Author and Illustrator

Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas, *Haida*

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

animals, determination

Publisher

Greystone Books

Pub. Date: 2010

Pages: 32

Description

This inspiring children's book — a revised edition of the award-winning *Flight of the Hummingbird* — is based on a South American indigenous story about a courageous hummingbird who defies fear and expectations in her attempt to save the forest from fire. The story is supplemented by a natural and cultural history of hummingbirds, as well as an inspiring message from Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai.

The evocative artwork by internationally renowned Haida artist Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas complements the optimistic tale that encourages everyone to take responsibility for their home and the planet.

The Littlest Sled Dog

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Michael Kusugak, *Inuit*

Illustrator

Vladyana Krykorka

Publisher

Orca Book Publishers

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Curriculum Areas:

► English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

belonging, adventure

Pub. Date: 2008

Pages: 32

Description

Igvillu is a little dog with big dreams. One of her favourite dreams is of becoming a sled dog. When Igvillu is adopted from her kennel by an Inuit storyteller and moves to northern Canada, she comes face-to-face with real sled dogs. Igvillu loves living in the North, chasing siksiks and dreaming about her future. She's a dog who believes anything is possible!

This beautiful picture book incorporates a clever, joyful, playful celebration of creative language in sound, rhyme, rhythm, and repetition.

Mayuk the Grizzly Bear

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Sechelt Nation

Reading Level: 3

Illustrator

Charlie Graigan, *Sechelt*

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

legends, grizzly bears, oral tradition

Publisher

Northwood Editions

Pub. Date: 1993

Pages: 40

Description

This story from the Sechelt oral tradition tells of three brave hunters and their encounter with a cunning grizzly bear.

The Moccasins

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Earl Einarson, *Ktunaxa*

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Illustrator

Julie Flett, *Cree/Métis*

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

family, belonging

Publisher

Theytus Books

Pub. Date: 2008

Pages: 16

Description

This endearing story is of a young Aboriginal foster child who is given a special gift by his foster mother. Her gift of warmth and thoughtfulness helps her young foster child by encouraging self-esteem, acceptance, and love.

This story, based on the author's personal experience, was written for children of any background with a positive message of unconditional love.

Murphy and Mousetrap

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Sylvia Olsen, *Tsartlip*

Reading Level: 4 – 5

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

roles and responsibilities, seasonal cycles, traditional learning

Publisher

Orca Book Publishers

Pub. Date: 2005

Pages: 122

Description

Murphy's mother is moving with him and his cat, Mousetrap, back to their home reserve. Murphy has trouble fitting in wherever he goes, and he struggles with defining his identity as a light-skinned First Nations boy. Somehow, Murphy learns to find the strength that is within himself.

Features

- ▶ high interest, easy to read
- ▶ particular interesting for boys / reluctant readers

My Elders Tell Me

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Marion (Roze) Wright, *Kwakwaka'wakw*

Reading Level: 3 – 4

Illustrator

Judy Hilgemann

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education
- ▶ Science
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

seasons, traditional life, family

Publisher

Tri-Bands Education Committee and School District No. 85 (Vancouver Island North)

Pub. Date: 1996

Pages: 106

Description

Based on input from the elders of Quatsino, Fort Rupert, and Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw, Marion Roze Wright gathered materials and consensus for this anthology, rendered as a season-by-season story about two nine-year-old cousins who live near Port Hardy.



This wide-ranging volume provides some Kwakwaka'wakw language terms and educational sidebars, and contains factual information as it tells the story of two cousins and their adventures and experiences throughout the seasons. An index allows readers to quickly find specific information they may be seeking.

My Family Has Fun

Author and Illustrator

Noreen Pankewich, *Stó:lō*

Reading Level: pre-K – K**Curriculum Areas:**

► English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

family, fun

Publisher

School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson)

Pub. Date: 2006**Pages:** 18**Description**

This book shows an extended family enjoying each other's company and spending quality time together.

My Name Is Seepeetza

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Shirley Stirling, *Interior Salish*

Reading Level: 5 – 7**Curriculum Areas:**

► English Language Arts
► Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

residential schools, identity, coming of age

Publisher

Groundwood Books

Pub. Date: 1992**Pages:** 126**Description**

Seepeetza is renamed Martha Stone when she is enrolled in residential school. At the school, Seepeetza finds strict and unhappy nuns, arbitrary and unfair rules, and a denial of everything being First Peoples means to her.



Told in diary format, this easy-to-read novel is based on the author's own experiences at the Kamloops residential school.

Cautions

- Socio-economic — depictions of extreme hunger of the children
- Violence — scenes of abuse of the children by the nuns, occasional fights between students at the school, one student hangs himself
- Language — occasional use of ethnic slurs pertaining to First Peoples, Chinese people, and Irish people
- Ethical/Legal — Seepeetza used chewing tobacco but it made her sick; at home Seepeetza's father drinks occasionally

Neekna and Chemai

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Jeannette C. Armstrong, *Okanagan*

Illustrator

Barbara Marchand, *Okanagan*

Publisher

Theytus Books

Reading Level: 3 – 4

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Science
- Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

roles and responsibilities, seasonal cycles, traditional learning

Pub. Date: 2008

Pages: 44

Description

Neekna and Chemai are two little girls growing up in the Okanagan Valley in pre-contact time. Through these two friends, we learn about the seasonal life patterns of the Okanagan people.

No Time to Say Goodbye: Children's Stories of Kuper Island Residential School

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Sylvia Olsen with Rita Morris and Ann Sam, *Tsartlip*

Illustrator

Connie Paul, *Tsartlip*

Publisher

Sono Nis Press

Reading Level: 7+

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

residential schools, family, oral history

Pub. Date: 2001

Pages: 188



Description

This book, based on the memories of members of the Tsartlip First Nation, is the fictionalized story of five Aboriginal children sent to residential school. The stories are sometimes sad and sometimes funny, but are all very engaging.

Cautions:

- Socio-economic — extreme hunger of some of the children in the residential schools
- Violence — depictions of mistreatment of children in the schools throughout
- Language — some racial slurs, some homophobic slurs such as “fairy”
- Ethical/Legal — children steal food because they are very hungry

Northwest Coast Native Animals

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Native Northwest, various

Illustrator

Kelly Robinson, *Nuxalk*, *Nuu-Chah-Nulth*

Publisher

Native Northwest

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

animals, lessons

Reading Level: K

Pub. Date: 2010

Pages: 12

Description

Each animal has many lessons to teach us. For example, we learn to care for our habitat, to live cooperatively with others, to have courage, to think before we act, and to be wise and respectful.

The Old Man with the Otter Medicine

Author, Editor, or Compiler

John Blondin, *Dogrib*

Illustrator

Archie Beaverho, *Dogrib*

Additional Contributors

translated by Mary Rose Sundberg

Publisher

Theytus Books

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

legends, survival

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Pub. Date: 2008

Pages: 40

Description

It is winter and the people are starving. There are no fish. They must seek the help of a medicine man to save them. The Old Man with the Otter Medicine tells of medicine power, the struggle for survival, and an important part of the history and culture of the Dene people as it has been passed down through stories for generations.

Features

- ▶ text is printed in both Dogrib and English
- ▶ includes a Dogrib orthography and pronunciation chart
- ▶ an accompanying CD-ROM contains audio narration of the story in both Dogrib and English

People of the Land

Authors and Illustrators

Lil'wat, Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh nations

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Science
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

legends, oral tradition

Reading Level: 5 – 7+

Publisher

Theytus Books

Pub. Date: 2009

Pages: 110

Description

Spectacular imagery adorns this rich anthology of the Lil'wat, Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations stories and legends. These stories link people to the land and to each other and pass on traditional knowledge and history. These sacred teachings — which range from creation stories to naming stories — are collected in an anthology of stories willingly shared by the respected storytellers of each nation.

The book is a unique commemorative collection that celebrates the four host First Nations on whose ancestral territories the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games were held.

Ready for School

Author and Illustrator

Noreen Pankewich, *Stó:lō*

Reading Level: K – 1

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

school, home, family

Publisher

School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson)

Pub. Date: 2006

Pages: 26

Description

This book is about a typical morning at home, preparing to go to school.

The Rabbits' Race

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Deborah L. Delaronde

Reading Level: 3 – 4

Illustrator

Virginia McCoy, *Métis*

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

friendship, sharing

Publisher

Theytus Books

Pub. Date: 2009

Pages: 50

Description

When his grandfather is invited to participate in the school's Grandparents Day celebrations, Joey does not know what to expect. His grandfather gently reassures him before going on stage and launching into a beguiling tale of two groups of rabbits that must co-exist in the forest and share their resources to survive. The wisdom of the elder rabbits plays a pivotal role in the story which provides a valuable lesson for Joey and his classmates.

Racin' Jason

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Elise Wagner, *Ojibwe*

Reading Level: 4 – 6

Illustrator

Janet Kaszonyi, *Métis*

Curriculum Areas:

► English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

horses, responsibility, companionships

Publisher

Theytus Books

Pub. Date: 1995

Pages: 52

Description

After helping his Mishoomis (Grandfather) save an orphaned Appaloosa colt from a bog, Jason takes a special interest in caring for it. At school, the bullies make fun of his affection for the funny-looking colt he hopes to race one day. With support from his Grandparents, Jason raises and trains the colt. On the day of the big race, Jason and the colt are ready. The teasing only makes Jason more determined than ever to win.

Features

- good “first novel” / introduction to the novel form
- includes an Ojibwe glossary

Raven and Eagle

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Ray Qwulshemut Peter, *Cowichan*

Reading Level: K – 1

Additional Contributors

Donna Klockars, Natalie Bryce, Larry Bob, Kim Stewart, and Terri Mack

Curriculum Areas:

► English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

identity, being yourself

Publisher

Strong Nations Publications

Pub. Date: 2001

Pages: 16

Description

Raven learns a powerful lesson from his friend, Eagle: learn and understand from others, but most importantly, be yourself!

Raven series

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Terri Mack, *Da'naxda'xw Awaetlala*

Reading Level: pre-K – K

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

early literacy and numeracy

Publisher

Strong Nations Publications

Pub. Date: 2010

Pages: 8 (each)

Description

The Raven Series is a set of six books written for the emergent reader and learner. Each book focusses on a specific learning intention that builds on strengthening learning with the support of an adult. The titles and their learning intentions are:

- *Raven and the Box* — based on oral retell
- *Raven and Duck* — concepts
- *Raven Can Count* — number sense
- *I Spy Raven* — rhyme and perspective
- *Raven Sings the ABC's* — letter recognition
- *Raven Makes a Necklace* — colours and patterns

Returning the Feathers: Five Gitxsan Stories

Author, Editor, or Compiler

M.Jane Smith — Xsiwis, *Gitxsan*

Reading Level: 3 – 5

Illustrator

Ken N. Mowatt — Maasliki'insxw, *Gitxsan*

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Health and Career Education
- Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

coming of age, sustainability, family, legends

Publisher

Creekstone Press

Pub. Date: 2004

Pages: 72

Description

The title of this collection of five Gitxsan stories was chosen to thank and pay tribute to the Gitxsan storytellers of the past, some of whom were the author's mentors and teachers as she was growing up and learning the art of storytelling. *Returning the Feathers* includes four traditional stories: the origin of the Gitxsan people; how the blue jay and the mosquito came to live in northwestern BC; and the time when the porcupine first discharged its quills. The fifth in the



anthology is an original story, inspired by the appearance of an egret at the author's smokehouse. These stories serve to connect the author to her ancestors, and give readers a taste of the rich cultural heritage of the Gitxsan people.

Cautions

- Violence — the second story, “K'alidakhl,” includes scenes of killing and domestic violence, and should be used with caution.

A River Lost

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Lynn Bragg, *Arrow Lakes Tribe, Colville Confederated Tribes*

Illustrator

Virgil “Smoker” Marchand, *Arrow Lakes Tribe, Colville Confederated Tribes*

Publisher

Hancock House Publishers

Reading Level: 4 – 6

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Science
- Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

Grand Coulee Dam construction, salmon life cycles, human impact on ecosystems, settlement patterns, role of Elders

Pub. Date: 1995

Pages: 32

Description

When the Grand Coulee Dam was constructed, the community on the banks of the river was forced to move away from its ancestral land and the people lost their homes and many traditional practices. The story opens as the great-grandmother, Toopa, is about to leave her home, and she tells her great-granddaughter of their old ways of life that could not continue, such as salmon fishing, seasonal nomadic practices, and trading with other peoples.

Features

- intertwining real history with a fictionalized narrative
- strong factual basis for the story

Cautions:

- Students may need some explanation about land settlements and compensation (Arrow Lakes tribe was not compensated for the loss of their lands until fifty years after the dam's construction).
- Safety — Toopa waited until the last minute before leaving her home when the lake began to flood.

River Run

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Brandon Mitchell, *Mi'gmaq*

Reading Level: 5 – 7+

Illustrator

Tara Audibert, *Mi'gmaq*

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

anti-smoking, traditional cultural use of tobacco

Publisher

Aboriginal Health Network

Pub. Date: 2010

Pages: 40

Description

This graphic novel tells the story of a group of youth who learn the traditional use of tobacco while on a canoe trip. One of the youth, who smokes, gets her world opened up along the way.

Features

- ▶ graphic novel format is appealing for many reluctant readers

Salmon Boy: A Legend of the Sechelt People

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Donna Joe, *Sechelt*

Reading Level: 3 – 4

Illustrator

Charlie Craigan, *Sechelt*

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Science
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

legends, salmon

Publisher

Harbour Publishing

Pub. Date: 1999

Pages: 18

Description

Simple and compelling drawings illustrate this dynamic story that teaches respect for the environment and describes the life cycle of the salmon.

Sealiya

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Kwitelut t — Lena Jacobs, *Squamish*

Reading Level: K – 2

Illustrator

Xwa-lack-tun — Rick Harry, *Squamish*

Curriculum Areas:

► English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

community, oral tradition

Publisher

Traffod Publishing

Pub. Date: 2010

Pages: 26

Description

In this richly illustrated picture book, Elder Lena Jacobs shares a story from her childhood when her uncle shot and killed a pregnant mother seal.

Features

► text is included in both Skwxwú7mesh sníchim and English

Secret of the Dance

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Andrea Spalding and Alfred Scow,
Kwakwaka'wakw

Reading Level: 2 – 4

Illustrator

Darlene Gait, *Coast Salish*

Curriculum Areas:

► English Language Arts
► Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

potlatch, history, dance

Publisher

Orca Book Publishers

Pub. Date: 2006

Pages: 32

Description

The picture book *Secret of the Dance* is a fictionalized version of a real incident in the childhood of Kwakwaka'wakw elder Alfred Scow. Alfred's family sailed from Gilford Island to isolated Kingcome inlet to attend a forbidden potlatch. His parents forbade him to attend so he wouldn't be apprehended if they were raided by the authorities. Alfred sneaked inside to watch and recognized the Hamatsa.

The episode happened over seventy years ago, and Alfred couldn't remember many of the details. He also realized that many implications of the event only became clear to him as an adult. Alfred



and Andrea created fictional conversations and situations coloured by authentic details from Alfred's childhood to tell the entire story from a child's point of view.

Beautifully written and incorporating fantastic, creative illustrations of Coast Salish designs, this book shows students the relevance of traditional practices.

Features

- a Teacher Guide is available online at www.orcabook.com/client/PDFs/TeachersGuides/Picturebooks/secretofthedance.pdf

Set A

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Lorraine Adams, *Haida*

Illustrator

Lorraine Adams, *Haida*

Reading Level: 2 – 4

Curriculum Areas:

- English Language Arts
- Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

family, community, home, school

Publisher

Eaglecrest Books

Pub. Date: 2009

Description

The stories in this set of 30 short picture books reflect experiences of First Nations children involved in cultural activities and in everyday life at home and school. The books are carefully levelled to assist teachers in choosing texts that are appropriate for children at various stages of reading.

The titles in this set are:

- At the Beach
- My big Brother
- Snack Time
- Here Comes the Bus
- The Big Puddle
- The Water Slides
- Animals at the Fair
- Stuck in the Tree
- Dorothy's Mittens
- I Like to Read
- Skipping Rocks
- Everett Rides his Horse
- Come and Play, Peaches
- Wilson's Canoe Ride
- Chicken's Ride
- Climbing the Enormous Rock
- Choosing a Kitten
- Hope's Necklace
- Shone Plays the Fiddle
- Summer Adventure
- Climbing the Apple Tree
- A Gift for Kohkum
- The Basketball Game
- Gonzo is Missing
- Dorian's Cast
- Collecting Eggs
- The Lemonade Stand
- The New Boats
- Time to Play Soccer
- Dennis Rides his Bike

Set B

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Lorraine Adams, *Haida*

Illustrator

Lorraine Adams, *Haida*

Publisher

Eaglecrest Books

Reading Level: 2 – 4

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

family, community, home, school

Pub. Date: 2009

Description

The stories in this set of 50 short picture books reflect experiences of First Nations children involved in cultural activities and in everyday life at home and school. The books are carefully levelled to assist teachers in choosing texts that are appropriate for children at various stages of reading.

The titles in this set are:

- The Lost Necklace
- Helping with Baby
- Bonkers is Hungry
- Going to the Store
- Hungry Red Fox
- Helping Grandma
- Fluffy's Accident
- The Tree Fort
- Picking Blackberries
- The Best Bread
- Fun on the Sled
- Crabs for Dinner
- Anthony's New Glasses
- Tree Fort Adventure
- New Slippers
- The Fishing Trip
- The Picnic
- Hot Moose Stew
- The Dream Catcher
- Best Friends
- Lost and Found
- At the Park
- Going Camping
- The Sleepover
- Dean's Fish
- Spear Fishing with Dad
- Daffodils for You
- The Raven Necklace
- Where is Fluffy
- The Dog Sled Ride
- The Powwow
- A Bunny to Love
- Going Outside
- In the Forest
- My Grandma
- Picking Flowers
- School is Fun
- My Grandpa
- The Raven
- Big and Little
- My Buddy
- My Family
- Louie's Hat
- The Hungry Pony
- The Water Toys
- Holly's Surprise
- Alysha's Flat Tire
- The Eagle
- The Frog
- The Hawk Drum



Sharing Our World: Animals of the Native Northwest Coast

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Native Northwest, various

Illustrator

Native Northwest, various

Publisher

Native Northwest

Reading Level: K

Curriculum Areas:

► English Language Arts

Themes & Topics:

animals, symbolism

Pub. Date: 2010

Pages: 24

Description

This richly illustrated book offers readers an introduction to the symbolism and cultural context of various animals from the Northwest Coast.

Shi-shi-etko

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Nicola I. Campbell, *Interior Salish / Métis*

Illustrator

Kim LeFave

Publisher

Groundwood Books

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Curriculum Areas:

► English Language Arts

► Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

family, nature, change, residential schools

Pub. Date: 2005

Pages: 32

Description

In just four days young Shi-shi-etko will have to leave her family and all that she knows to attend residential school. She spends her last days at home treasuring the beauty of her world — the dancing sunlight, the tall grass, each shiny rock, the tadpoles in the creek, her grandfather's paddle song. Her mother, father and grandmother, each in turn, share valuable teachings that they want her to remember. And so Shi-shi-etko carefully gathers her memories for safekeeping.

Richly hued illustrations complement this gently moving and poetic account of a child who finds solace all around her, even though she is on the verge of great loss.

Caution:

This story touches on the concept of residential schools but does not deal with the realities of those schools. Teachers wishing to use this book are strongly encouraged to also use its sequel, *Shin-chi's Canoe*. These two stories together present a compelling and age-appropriate introduction to the topic of residential schools.

Shin-chi's Canoe

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Nicola I. Campbell, *Interior Salish / Métis*

Illustrator

Kim LeFave

Publisher

Groundwood Books

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

residential schools, family, nature

Pub. Date: 2008

Pages: 32

Description

A sequel to Shi-shi-etko, *Shin-chi's Canoe* tells the story of Shi-shi-etko's younger brother Shin-chi and his experience during his first year at residential school. In this haunting and beautifully illustrated story, Shin-chi is not excited to go to school, unlike his sister Shi-shi-etko. Much more of the realities of residential school are shown in this story — hungry children, missing home, hard work, haircuts, and scalps washed with kerosene are not glossed over, but are dealt with in an age-appropriate way. But Shin-chi finds solace in his toy canoe, friendship, nature, and the memory of his grandfather's prayer song.

Cautions:

- ▶ Socio-economic — The students at the residential school are very hungry, and are fed “porridge and burnt toast” while the teachers eat “bacon, eggs, and potatoes”.
- ▶ Violence — Shi-shi-etko remembers her hair being cut and her head being washed with kerosene.
- ▶ Ethical/Legal — Some of the children at the residential school steal food.
- ▶ Safety — Children are transported to the residential school in the back of a cattle truck.

The Special Visitor

Author and Illustrator

Noreen Pankewich, *Stó:lō*

Reading Level: 1 – 2

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

cultural, traditions

Publisher

School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson)

Pub. Date: 2006

Pages: 14

Description

Brenda attends the local school to share with the students the art of making pine needle baskets. Students watch and learn as the needles are wound to make an eventual basket.

Spirit of the White Bison

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Beatrice Culleton, *Métis*

Reading Level: 5 – 7+

Illustrator

Robert Kakaygeesick Jr., *Ojibwe*

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

bison, Aboriginal-European contact

Publisher

Portage & Main Press

Pub. Date: 1996 (revised)

Pages: 64

Description

A young bison growing up on the plains in the late 1800s faces peril at the hands of soldiers, who are destroying the great buffalo herds as a way to control native tribes. He is befriended by an Aboriginal warrior and a European hunter who try to save him and his herd from annihilation.

This book introduces readers to an era in Canadian history through a unique perspective. In eight easy-to-read chapters, the devastation of the buffalo is portrayed in a simple, straightforward manner. Cyclical aspects of life are evident even in the black-and-white illustrations where a circle is incorporated into almost every delicately drawn depiction.

Stories of Robin Town: Newcomers Arrive

Author, Editor, or Compiler

James Andrew McDonald

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Illustrator

Gerald Samson, *Tsimshian*

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

family, governance, land use, traditional learning, oral history

Publisher

Gila Kyew Nluulk Head Start and Daycare

Pub. Date: 2008

Pages: 16

Description

This story explains how Kitsumkalum came to consist of two Tsimshian Eagle clans.

Features

- ▶ one of a series of picture books depicting the history of the Kitsumkalum people (additional titles in the series are in progress)
- ▶ story incorporates Tsimshian text in context, and provides translation and pronunciation guide

Stories of Robin Town: The Robin People

Author, Editor, or Compiler

James Andrew McDonald

Illustrator

Gerald Samson, *Tsimshian*

Publisher

Gila Kyew Nluulk Head Start and Daycare

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

traditional knowledge, spirituality, transformation, sustainability, responsibility, feasting system, governance

Pub. Date: 2008

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Pages: 20

Description

This story describes how the ancestors of the Kitsumkalum people come to live in the Kitsumkalum Valley, and the mysterious people who Nisgeel and his family encountered on their search for a new home.

Features

- ▶ one of a series of picture books depicting the history of the Kitsumkalum people (additional titles in the series are in progress)
- ▶ story incorporates Tsimshian text in context, and provides translation and pronunciation guide

Stories of Robin Town: The Salmon Are Gone

Author, Editor, or Compiler

James Andrew McDonald

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Illustrator

Gerald Samson, *Tsimshian*

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

land use, reciprocity, oral history

Publisher

Gila Kyew Nluulk Head Start and Daycare

Pub. Date: 2008

Pages: 20

Description

This book describes how two clans were relocated to another area within their traditional territory due to a rock slide that affected their salmon supply.

Features

- ▶ one of a series of picture books depicting the history of the Kitsumkalum people (additional titles in the series are in progress)
- ▶ story incorporates Tsimshian text in context, and provides translation and pronunciation guide

Unusual Friendships: A Little Black Cat and a Little White Rat

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Beatrice Culleton Mosionier, *Métis*

Reading Level: 3 – 4

Illustrator

Rebecca Belmore

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

friendship, trust, belonging, Métis culture

Publisher

Theytus Books

Pub. Date: 2002

Pages: 28

Description

This story of an unusual friendship between a black cat and a white rat is full of colourful Métis affectations. The black cat is not accepted at the cat show as he is not considered a purebred. The white rat fiddles a tune, encouraging all the cats to learn to jig. They join together and achieve status and respect for who they are.

This story is written in a complete rhyming pattern with colourful illustrations that are enjoyable for children of all ages.

We Visit Granny

Author and Illustrator

Noreen Pankewich, *Stó:lō*

Reading Level: K – 1

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

family, relationships

Publisher

School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson)

Pub. Date: 2006

Pages: 20

Description

A visit to Granny's house is always fun, especially when the snacks are shared by all. This book shows a quality relationship between a grandmother, her son, and her granddaughter.

We'gyet Wanders On: Legends of the Northwest

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Ksan Book Builders (Kitanmax School of Northwest Coast Indian Art), *Gitxsan*

Reading Level: 6 – 7+

Illustrator

Ken Mowat, Vernon Stephen, and Sandy Heybroek

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

legends, trickster

Publisher

Hancock House

Pub. Date: 2006 rev.

Pages: 72

Description

The legends collected here are the ancient stories of 'Ksan who have lived in northern British Columbia for over six thousand years. We-Gyet is the essence of every person's frailties exaggerated into gentle humour or ribald laughter. His adventures always ends in disaster. His blunders and tricks changed the face of the earth, and the shapes of many of earth's creatures.

The stories in this collection show the relevance of traditional stories to modern life, and teach about the interconnectedness of people, animals, and land.

Features

- ▶ text is in both English and Gitxsan



Where Did You Get Your Moccasins

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Bernelda Wheeler, *Cree & Saulteaux*

Illustrator

Herman Bekkering

Reading Level: K – 2

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education

Themes & Topics:

traditional life, sharing and respect

Publisher

Portage & Main Press

Pub. Date: 1993

Pages: 24

Description

This picture book tells the story of Jody, who attends an urban multi-ethnic school. When his classmates ask him about his moccasins, it gives Jody the opportunity to talk about his family and culture.

Which Way Should I Go?

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Bernelda Wheeler, *Cree & Saulteaux*

Illustrator

Kasia Charko

Reading Level: 3 – 4

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education
- ▶ Music

Themes & Topics:

family, loss, decision-making

Publisher

Sono Nis Press

Pub. Date: 2008

Pages: 40

Description

Joey is a happy Nuu-chah-nulth boy, eager to help and quick to see the bright side of things. But when he loses his beloved grandmother, the sun goes out in his world. Fortunately, she has left something of herself behind — a song, which keeps knocking on Joey's heart, and a dance, which urges him to get up on his feet and choose again. Choosing was what their song was about, and Grandma's lessons prove strong indeed. Joey chooses to remember Grandma with joy and to take up his daily life again with a spring in his step.

Features

- ▶ a corresponding Teacher Guide is available online at www.sononis.com/tg135.pdf
- ▶ to hear the song featured in the book, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=89IOGqfjESU

Yamohza and His Beaver Wife ***(Yamoózha Eyits'o Wets'ékeé Tsá)***

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Vital Thomas, *Thcho*

Reading Level: 3 – 4

Illustrator

Archie Beaulieu, *Dene*

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Social Studies
- ▶ Science

Themes & Topics:

legends, environment, connections to the land

Publisher

Theytus Books

Pub. Date: 2007

Pages: 44

Description

A powerful medicine man, Yamozha is prominent in many Dene stories. *Yamozha and His Beaver Wife* is based on an oral legend of the Dene people. In this legend, Yamozha forgets his promise to his wife and as a result she turns into a giant beaver. He follows her all over Denedeh but is unable to catch her. This story tells of how this great medicine man shaped the land in the Tchco region and its surrounding areas into what it is today.

Yetsa's Sweater

Author, Editor, or Compiler

Sylvia Olsen, *Tsartlip*

Reading Level: 2 – 3

Illustrator

Joan Larson

Curriculum Areas:

- ▶ English Language Arts
- ▶ Health and Career Education
- ▶ Social Studies

Themes & Topics:

family, traditional knowledge, seasonal practices

Publisher

Sono Nis Press

Pub. Date: 2006

Pages: 40

Description

On a spring day, young Yetsa, her mother, and her grandmother gather to prepare the sheep fleeces piled in Grandma's yard. As they prepare the fleece, laughter and hard work connect the three generations. Through Yetsa's sensual experience of each task, the reader joins this family in an old and vibrant tradition: the creation of Cowichan sweaters. Each sweater design tells a story. In *Yetsa's Sweater*, that story is one of love, welcome, and pride in a job well done.

Features

- ▶ a corresponding Teacher Guide is available online at <http://www.sononis.com/tg126.pdf>



Index of Resources

For detailed information about each of these resources, refer to the **Resource Annotations** section earlier in this guide.

Note that grade-level designations for these texts are suggestions only, and many can be used at younger or older grades for different contexts and purposes (e.g., a primary level storybook can be used at the intermediate level to examine how value lessons can be presented in a simple way; an intermediate level text can be read aloud to younger students).

Note also that the Nations identified for each book may refer to the cultural content of the text, the authorship, or both.

Title	Nation(s)	Grades	Resource Topics & Themes
The Adventures of Txamsm series: <i>Txamsm Brings Light to the World</i>	Tsimshian	3 – 4	legends, trickster, life lessons
The Adventures of Txamsm series: <i>Txamsm and Chief Kingfisher</i>	Tsimshian	3 – 4	legends, trickster, life lessons
The Adventures of Txamsm series: <i>Txamsm and the Children</i>	Tsimshian	3 – 4	legends, trickster, life lessons
The Adventures of Txamsm series: <i>Txamsm Visits Chief Echo</i>	Tsimshian	3 – 4	legends, trickster, life lessons
<i>After School</i>	Stó:lō	K – 1	school, friendship, fun
<i>Alego</i>	Nunavut	2 – 3	ocean shoreline ecosystems, family, traditions
<i>B Is for Basketball: An Alphabet Book</i>	Haida	2 – 3	sports, community, teamwork, fair play
<i>Beaver Seals Fire</i>	Salish	2-3	legends, fire, relationships, teamwork
<i>Byron through the Seasons</i>	Dene	3	seasons, seasonal activities
<i>The Canoe He Called Loo Taas</i>	Haida	2 – 3	canoes, paddling
Caring for Me series: <i>Eat, Run, and Be Healthy</i>	Cree Anishnabe, Inuit	2-3	nutrition, exercise, hydration, rest, sleep
Caring for Me series: <i>Eyes, Ears, Nose, and Mouth</i>	Cree Anishnabe, Thompson	2-3	personal hygiene, health care, family medicine, oral health
Caring for Me series: <i>Healthy Choices, Healthy Lives</i>	Cree Anishnabe, Inuit	2-3	healthy choices — alcohol and tobacco use during pregnancy
Caring for Me series: <i>Living Safe, Playing Safe</i>	Cree, Anishinabe, Inuit/Montagnais	2 – 3	accident & injury prevention, passenger safety

Title	Nation(s)	Grades	Resource Topics & Themes
Caring for Me series: <i>Looking After Me</i>	Penticton, Inuit/Montagnais	2 – 3	self-care, self-confidence, family relationships, abuse prevention, interpersonal communication
Caring for Me series: <i>Taking Care of Mother Earth</i>	Cree, Métis, Inuit/Montagnais	2 – 3	sustainability, recycling, composting, gardening
<i>Catching Spring</i>	Tsartlip	4 – 5	fishing, work, reservation life
Cedar Readers series	Kwakwaka'wakw	pre-K – 1	nature & environment (various), masks, cedar, counting
<i>Ch'askin: A Legend of the Sechelt People</i>	Sechelt	3 – 4	legends, Thunderbird
<i>Chiwid</i>	Tsilhqot'in	7+	season cycles, relationships, spirituality, co-operation, resource sharing, transformation, rights and justice
<i>Christmas at Wapos Bay</i>	Cree	4 – 6	family, teamwork, survival
<i>Chuck in the City</i>	Cree, Haida	3 – 5	adventure, safety
<i>The Class Hike</i>	Stó:lō	K – 1	plants, respect for the environment
<i>Counting on Hope</i>	Coast Salish / Lamalcha, Tsartlip	6 – 7+	
<i>Dancing in My Bones</i>	Métis	4 – 6	heritage, culture, relationship
<i>Dancing with the Cranes</i>	Okanagan	3 – 4	loss, renewal, life cycle
<i>Darkness Calls</i>	Cree	5 – 7+	bullying, depression, suicide, mental health
<i>Discover the Animals: Colouring and Learning Book</i>	various	pre-K – 1	animals, colouring
<i>Dream Catcher</i>	Woodland Cree	5 – 7	transition and change, spiritual connection, traditional art
<i>Explore the Animals: Colouring and Learning Book</i>	various	pre-K – 1	animals, colouring
<i>Exploring Quatsino</i>	Kwakwaka'wakw	3 – 4	village life, traditions, family
<i>Exploring Ts'axis</i>	Kwakwaka'wakw	3 – 4	village life, traditions, family
<i>Exploring Tsulquate</i>	Kwakwaka'wakw	3 – 4	village life, traditions, family
<i>Fiddle Dancer</i>	Timiskaming, Métis	4 – 6	heritage, culture, relationships, community, family
<i>A First Nations Alphabet: ABC Book</i>	Stó:lō	pre-K – 1	literacy, culture, traditions
<i>A First Nations Alphabet to Read and Draw</i>	Stó:lō	1 – 2	culture, vocabulary, drawing
<i>Goodbye Buffalo Bay</i>	Cree	6 – 7	residential school, coming of age, role of Elders
<i>Hide and Sneak</i>	Inuit	pre-K – 2	life lessons, traditional stories, adventure

Title	Nation(s)	Grades	Resource Topics & Themes
<i>Hockey Challenge</i>	Haida	3 – 5	team sports, fair play, acceptance and inclusion, gender stereotypes, commitment
<i>Honouring the Salmon: An Anthology Told in the Voices of the Tsimshian</i>	Tsimshian	4 – 6	salmon, history, traditional life
<i>Hooshum for Everyone</i>	Stó:lō	1 – 2	traditions, sharing, new experiences
<i>How Raven Stole the Sun</i>	Tlingit, Apache, Pueblo	2 – 3	legends, culture, trickster
<i>How the Robin Got Its Red Breast</i>	Sechelt	3	legends, oral tradition, traditional life
<i>How the Coho Got His Hooked Nose</i>	Stó:lō, Cheam	3 – 5	salmon, legends
<i>How the Fox Got His Crossed Legs</i>	Tłıchǫ / Dogrib	2 – 3	legends, animals, trickster
<i>I Am Raven</i>	Métis, Kwakwaka'wakw	4 – 6	traditional knowledge, spirituality, trickster
<i>I Can't Have Bannock but the Beaver Has a Dam</i>	Cree & Saulteaux	1 – 2	connections, cause and effect, traditional foods
<i>I Have a Drum</i>	Stó:lō	1 – 2	cultural pride, sharing
<i>I Help</i>	Cree / Tahltan	pre-K – 1	traditions, family
<i>I Like Who I Am</i>	Mohawk	3 – 4	family, identity, belonging, self-esteem, ceremony, traditions
<i>Jack and the Boys: Adventure on Gull Island</i>	Haida	3 – 5	adventure, friendship, fishing, canoeing
<i>Jack and the Boys: Eagle's Cry</i>	Haida	3 – 5	adventure, hiking, wildlife rescue, animal welfare, compassion
<i>Jack and the Boys: Mountain Biking Adventure</i>	Haida	3 – 5	adventure, friendship, emergency response, mountain biking
<i>Jack and the Boys: Soccer Adventure</i>	Haida	3 – 5	team sports, fair play, friendship, responsibility
<i>The Jingle Dancer</i>	Stó:lō	1 – 2	dance, culture, family
<i>Jenneli's Dance</i>	Métis	2 – 4	self-esteem, cultural pride
<i>The Journey: North American Indigenous Games</i>	Haida	4 – 6	team sports, fair play, nutrition, commitment, self-confidence, cultural pride
<i>The Journey of Dog Salmon</i>	Tla-Keesh-Pihk-Uh, Da'naxda'xw Awaetlala	1 – 2	salmon, bullying
<i>Just a Story</i>	Cree	5 – 7+	mental health, anger management, neglect, support networks
<i>Just a Walk</i>	Cree, Haida	3 – 5	adventure

Title	Nation(s)	Grades	Resource Topics & Themes
<i>Learn the Alphabet with Northwest Coast Native Art</i>	various	pre-K – K	alphabet
<i>Learn the Colours with Northwest Coast Native Art</i>	various	pre-K – K	colours
<i>Learn to Count with Northwest Coast Native Art</i>	various	pre-K – K	counting
<i>Learn and Play with Northwest Coast Native Art</i>	various	pre-K – K	early literacy, symbols, counting, colours
<i>The Legend of the Caribou Boy</i>	Dogrib, Dene	2 – 3	legends, tradition
<i>The Little Duck</i>	Cree	2 – 3	belonging, self-esteem
<i>The Little Hummingbird</i>	Haida	2 – 3	animals, determination
<i>The Littlest Sled Dog</i>	Inuit	2 – 3	belonging, adventure
<i>Mayuk the Grizzly Bear</i>	Sechelt	3	legends, grizzly bears, oral tradition
<i>The Moccasins</i>	Ktunaxa, Cree, Métis	2 – 3	belonging, family
<i>Murphy and Mousetrap</i>	Tsartlip	4 – 5	bullying, racism, reserve life, fitting in
<i>My Elders Tell Me</i>	Kwakwaka'wakw	3 – 5	seasons, traditional life, family
<i>My Family Has Fun</i>	Stó:lō	pre-K – K	family, fun
<i>My Name Is Seepeetza</i>	Interior Salish	5 – 7	residential schools, identity, coming of age
<i>Northwest Coast Native Animals</i>	Nuxalk, Nuuchah-Nulth	K	animals, lessons
<i>Neekna and Chemai</i>	Okanagan	3 – 4	roles and responsibilities, seasonal cycles, traditional learning
<i>No Time to Say Goodbye</i>	Tsartlip	7+	residential schools, family, oral history
<i>The Old Man with the Otter Medicine</i>	Dogrib	2 – 3	legends, survival
<i>People of the Land</i>	Lil'wat, Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh	5 – 7+	legends, oral tradition
<i>The Rabbits' Race</i>	Métis	3 – 4	friendship, sharing
<i>Racin' Jason</i>	Ojibwe, Métis	3 – 5	horses, responsibility, companionships
<i>Raven and Eagle</i>	Cowichan	K – 1	identity, being yourself
<i>Raven series</i>	Da'naxda'xw Awaetlala	pre-K – K	early literacy
<i>Ready for School</i>	Stó:lō	K – 1	school, home, family
<i>Returning the Feathers: Five Gitxsan Stories</i>	Gitxsan	3 – 5	coming of age, sustainability, family, legends

Title	Nation(s)	Grades	Resource Topics & Themes
<i>A River Lost</i>	Arrow Lakes, Colville Tribes	3 – 4	Grand Coulee Dam construction, salmon runs
<i>River Run</i>	Mi'gmaq	5 – 7+	anti-smoking, traditional cultural use of tobacco
<i>Salmon Boy: A Legend of the Sechelt People</i>	Sechelt	3 – 4	salmon, legends
<i>Sealiya</i>	Squamish	K – 2	community, oral tradition
<i>Secret of the Dance</i>	Kwakwaka'wakw, Coast Salish	3 – 4	potlatch, history, dance
Set A	Haida	pre-K – 1	family, community, home, school
Set B	Haida	pre-K – 1	family, community, home, school
<i>Sharing Our World: Animals of the Native Northwest Coast</i>	various	2 – 3	animals, symbolism
<i>Shi-shi-etko</i>	Interior Salish, Métis	2 – 3	family, nature, change, residential schools
<i>Shin-chi's Canoe</i>	Interior Salish, Métis	2 – 3	residential schools, family, nature
<i>The Special Visitor</i>	Stó:lō	1 – 2	cultural, traditions
<i>Spirit of the White Bison</i>	Métis, Ojibwe	5 – 7+	bison, Aboriginal-European contact
<i>Stories of Robin Town: Newcomers Arrive</i>	Tsimshian	2 – 3	family, governance, land use, traditional learning, oral history
<i>Stories of Robin Town: The Robin People</i>	Tsimshian	2 – 3	traditional knowledge, spirituality, transformation, sustainability, responsibility, feasting system, governance
<i>Stories of Robin Town: The Salmon Are Gone</i>	Tsimshian	2 – 3	land use, reciprocity, transformation, oral history
<i>Unusual Friendships: A Little Black Cat and a Little White Rat</i>	Métis	3 – 4	friendship, trust, belonging, Métis culture
<i>We Visit Granny</i>	Stó:lō	K – 1	family, relationships
<i>We-gyet Wanders On: Legends of the Northwest</i>	Gitxsan	6 – 7+	legends, trickster, life lessons
<i>Where Did You Get Your Moccasins?</i>	Cree, Saulteaux	K – 2	traditional life, sharing and respect
<i>Which Way Should I Go?</i>	Tstartlip, Nuuchah-nulth	3 – 4	family, loss, decision-making
<i>Yamohza and His Beaver Wife</i>	Thcho	3 – 4	legends, environment, connections to the land
<i>Yetsa's Sweater</i>	Tsartlip	2 – 3	family, traditional knowledge, seasonal practices



Publishers and Distributors

The following pages provide web site contact information for the publishers of all the titles listed in this guide.

Note that many of these publishers and distributors specialize in First Peoples resources, and are adding new titles frequently. Schools doing a comprehensive evaluation of First Peoples texts should consult these web sites on a regular basis for the most up-to-date information about the latest releases.

Abbeville Press Publishers

New York

www.abbeville.com

Aboriginal Health Network

Courtenay, BC

www.thehealthyaboriginal.net/

Annick Press

Vancouver, BC

www.annickpress.com/

Benjamin Brown Books

Vancouver, BC

www.benjaminbrownbooks.com

Cedar Moon Creations Limited

pam.holloway@shaw.ca

Coqualeetz Cultural Education Centre

Chilliwack, BC

www.coqualeetza.com/

Core Learning Resources

(distributor for many BC publishers)

Nanaimo, BC

www.corelearningresources.com/

Coteau Books for Kids

Regina, SK

www.coteaubooks.com

Creekstone Press

Smithers, BC

www.creekstonepress.com/

Eaglecrest Books

Duncan, BC

www.eaglecrestbooks.com/home.htm

Fifth House Publishers

Markham, ON

www.fifthhousepublishers.ca

Gabriel Dumont Institute

Saskatoon, SK

www.gdins.org

Gila Kyew Nluulk Head Start and Daycare

Kitsumkalum, BC

headstart@kitsumkalum.bc.ca

Greystone Books (D&M Publishers)

Vancouver, BC

www.dmpibooks.com/greystone-books

Groundwood Books (House of Anansi Press)

Toronto, ON

www.groundwoodbooks.com/

Harbour Publishing

Madeira Park, BC

www.harbourpublishing.com/index.php

Hancock House Publishers

Surrey, BC

www.hancockhouse.com

Mckellar & Martin Publishing Group Ltd.

Vancouver, BC

www.mckellarmartin.com

More Than Words Publishers

North Vancouver, BC

www.mtwpublishers.com

Native Northwest

Vancouver, BC

www.nativenorthwest.com/

New Star Books

Vancouver, BC

www.newstarbooks.com

Nightwood Editions

Gibsons, BC

www.nightwoodeditions.com

**Orca Book Publishers**

Victoria, BC
www.orcabook.com

Portage & Main Press

Winnipeg, MB
www.portageandmainpress.com/

**School District No. 73
(Kamloops/Thompson)**

Kamloops, BC
www3.sd73.bc.ca

Sono Nis Press

Winlaw, BC
www.sononis.com

Strong Nations Publications

www.corelearningresources.com/

Theytus Books

Penticton, BC
www.theytus.com/

Trafford Publishing

Bloomington, IN
www.trafford.com/

**Tri-Bands Education Committee and
School District No. 85** (Vancouver Island
North)

Port Hardy, BC
www.sd85.bc.ca/

**Tsimshian Nation and School District No.
52** (Prince Rupert)

www.sd52.bc.ca/abed/

University of Nebraska Press

Lincoln, Nebraska
www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/



Appendix: Evaluation Form

The following form was used in the evaluation of the resources listed in this guide. Schools may wish to use this form as a starting point for their own local resource evaluation processes for authentic First Peoples texts.

FNESC Evaluation of Literature for First Peoples

Title:		Curriculum Areas:	
Author, Editor or Compiler:			
Last name First name First Nation:			
Illustrator:		Grade Appropriateness:	
Last name First name First Nation:		Themes (Subject Headings):	
Other Contributors (give detail re FN as appropriate):			
Publisher's Name:		Website:	
Ordering Address:		Ordering E-mail:	
Pub. Date:	Pages:	Fiction (mark if applicable) →	
Fry Reading Level (FRL) and/or SMOG Index:			

I. Authority

1. Authorship qualification: experience, education, previous work of author, community or FN affiliation (see also criteria re accuracy – in relation to **sources**, documentation, research)
2. Reputation of publisher or sponsoring agency
3. Edition: new, revised., supplement, based on other work (supply title)

Check and/or comment on II through VI using this scale:

**** Unparalleled *** Very Good ** Fair * Poor N/A - Not applicable

II. Scope

4. Purpose fulfilled
5. Depth of topic coverage
6. Recent, up-to-date
7. Bibliography, scholarship

Comments:

****	***	**	*	N/A

III. Presentation

8. Creative
9. Sincere
10. Original
11. Readable

Comments:

****	***	**	*	N/A

IV. Format

12. Physical Makeup
 - a. Readable font
 - b. Sturdy binding
 - c. Good graphics (tables, charts, diagrams, explanatory illustrations)
 - d. Quality paper
13. Arrangement
 - a. Preface
 - b. Table of contents
 - c. Accessible footnotes
 - d. Index
 - e. Appendices

Comments (description of arrangement):

****	***	**	*	N/A

V. Treatment

14. Accuracy
 - a. Reliable sources
 - b. Careful documentation
 - c. Thoroughly researched
 - d. Factual information
15. Authenticity
 - a. Cultural portrayals consistent with First Peoples' values and attitudes
 - b. Contributions of First Peoples to contemporary society
 - c. Recognition of diversity among First Peoples – distinct societies, communities, ways of life, languages

****	***	**	*	N/A

	****	***	**	*	N/A
d. Recognition of First Peoples as enduring, not vanishing or assimilated					
e. Respectful portrayals of First Peoples' languages and dialects					
f. Valid description of individual First Peoples' lives, past or present					
g. Realistic portrayal of gender roles					
16. Objectivity (not applicable to fiction)					
a. Devoid of obvious or subtle anti-First Peoples prejudice					
b. Avoidance of stereotypes					
c. Positive values, clear of negative inference					
d. Sensitive language, free from loaded or offensive words					
e. Portrayal of human strengths and weaknesses					
f. Respectful presentation of an event, issue, problem					

Comments:

VI. Illustrations

	****	***	**	*	N/A
17. Authentic depictions of First Peoples ways of life, past or present					
18. Creative					
19. Quality workmanship					
20. Captions compatible with text					

Comments (include type of illustrations):

VII. Special Features

21. Does the book have distinctive features? If so, identify:

22. Has the publication been recommended by a person or group knowledgeable about First Peoples? If so, identify:

VIII. Conclusion (if resource is of significant value, please complete Resource Description & Social Considerations)

- ☐ of significant value to the FNEESC resource list
☐ of marginal value to the FNEESC resource list
☐ of no value to the FNEESC resource list

IX. Evaluation Completed by

Date:

Resource Description and Social Considerations

Resource Description:

Strengths of Resource:

-

Instructional Uses:

-

Social Considerations: If the portrayal of the social considerations requires a **caution**, please explain, using examples from the resource.

Ability/Disability:

Sexual Orientation:

Belief Systems:

Socio-economic:

Violence:

Language:

Ethical/Legal:

Humour:

Safety:

