

## Annotated Bibliography

### **10 Most Significant Crossroads in Aboriginal History** by Jan Beaver

This book is one of the 10 series, geared towards grades 6-12. It uses multiple textual forms and visual images to present various viewpoints related to each of the cross roads described in the book.

### **13 Moons on a Turtle's Back** by Joseph Bruchac and Jonathan London

The thirteen scales on Old Turtle's back hold the key to the thirteen cycles of the moon and the changing seasons. These lyrical poems and striking paintings celebrate the wonder of the seasons, from the Northern Cheyenne's Moon of the Popping Trees to the Big Moon of the Abenaki.

### **A Different Game** by Silvia Olsen

*A Different Game* continues the story of Murphy who moved from his home in the city to a First Nation reserve. Now comfortable with his new life, Murphy and his soccer playing friends –The formidable Four—are facing tough tryouts. To everyone's surprise, Albert, the superstar player begins acting like a jerk and then does not make the team. Once the truth about Albert is discovered, the community must pull together because he is playing "a different game".

### **A Walk on the Tundra** by Rebecca Hainnu and Anna Ziegler

This charming book tells the story of Inuujaq who is bored and frustrated and with nothing else to do, joins her Grandma for a walk on the tundra. To Inuujaq's increasing amazement, the tundra is filled with interesting and useful plants. Her grandma tells her stories about each plant and different ways the plants can be used. A plant glossary at the back gives the scientific information as a companion to the traditional knowledge. There is also a glossary of Inuktitut words and phrases. The illustrations are wonderful, and the modern day story highlights some of the complexity of moving between two worlds.

### **Aboriginal Cultures in Alberta** by Susan Berry and Jack Brink

This is an excellent resource for teachers who need breadth and depth of information about Alberta's FNMI peoples in order to provide connections to different curricular areas.

### **Adventures of Rabbit and Bear Paws Series** by Chad Solomon & Christopher Meyer

This series of graphic tales are the adventures of the mischievous Ojibway brothers, Rabbit and Bear Paws set in 1750's colonized North America. The authors use traditional teachings from The Seven Grandfathers and a whopping dose of humour to create these books that are sure to be a hit. Books included in the series are:

- The Sugar Bush
- Tall Tale
- True Hearts
- The Voyageurs

**Note:** These books are listed by title in the order form.

### **Ancient Thunder** by Leo Yerxa

This wonderfully lyric text is inspired by the author's love of horses and the traditional clothing of the Plains People. Each page is a work of art (collage). A must have for teaching the art curriculum, particularly: fabric arts, representing texture, creating foreground and background

### **Art of the Old Ways: The Story of Pitseolak Ashoona and the Artists of the Far North** by Vanessa York

Cape Dorset is a community of many artistic talents. The story is centered on the life of one Inuit women's journey from a traditional Inuit life struggling to raise a family by herself, to that of becoming one of Canada's most famous artists: drawing, sculpting and painting the "Old Ways." Just as the story seems to come to an end, the reader can participate in a play script based on the life of Pitseolak Ashoona. The story also offers a description of the printmaking process. The authors have been meticulous at ensuring that people in the photographs are identified and their activities described. This is much better than using stock photos.

### **Belle of Batoche** by Jacqueline Guest

This is the story of friendship, honesty and integrity within the context of the historical attack of the Canadian government on the Métis of Batoche, MB in 1885. It would be a great novel study for Division II or part of a text set for an author study on Jacqueline Guest.

### **Berries** by Pam Holloway

This is a simple story for the beginning reader and part of the Cedar Reader Series. It uses the sentence frame "I see the \_\_\_\_\_" to show all the available berries. While the berries featured are from the west coast, this book was included to demonstrate how one can create books based on community knowledge.

### **Blackfoot Children and Elders Talk Together** by E. Barrie Kavasch

Children and Elders talk about their Aboriginal Blackfoot culture. Topics include Blackfoot ways, celebrations, the land, families, ceremonies, food and prayers.

### **Board Books**

This is a collection of books to be used to teach students how to read to their younger relatives and thereby encourage family literacy.

There are 4 titles included in this collection:

- I see Me
- Nighty-Night-
- You are brave
- Learn the Alphabet with Northwest Coast Native Art

**Note:** The titles are listed separately in the order form

### **Buffalo** by Beverly Brodsky

This book is a magnificent collage bringing together visual imagery, teachings, historical detail and tribal song poems. By using a multi-layered perspective, Brodsky conveys a depth of understanding. A must have for any collection on art, poetry, or history of the demise of the buffalo.

### **The Bulrush helps the Pond** by Ken Carriere

This dual language book (English and Swampy Cree) provides young readers with an appreciation of the fragility and interdependence of the Prairie wetland system. It is especially rich in the links between traditional and western knowledge. **(Note:** while the book is about the bulrush, most of the pictures portray the cattail. These are not the same plant!)

### **Camping at the Lake** by Dianne Meili

This book is particularly good for our Alberta children as it takes place on the Kootenay plains. Part of the Literacy Place series, it is an excellent tool for guided reading. Wonderful illustrations depict a close and important relationship in First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture: grandparent and grandchild. While the reading level is suited for Division 1, the concepts will be excellent for Grade 4.

### **Chuck in the City** by Jordan Wheeler

A humorous, rhyming tale of a young Cree boy who comes to the city for the first time, only to immediately get lost. The bright detailed illustrations are in anime style.

### **Code Talkers** by Mary Anne Wollison

This book is part of a series of multi-textual graphic tales for readers in older grades. It is the fictional story of two brothers who became Navajo code talkers during World War II. This is an excellent resource for a guided reading program as one book contains multiple genres of texts: graphic tale, informational, timeline etc.

### **The Contest** by Caroline Stellings

Spunky Rosy is eager to win the Anne of Green Gables look-alike contest. It doesn't matter that her hair is black, that she has very little money to spend on the costs of the contest, or that her asthma throws a gigantic wrench into her plans. Rosy is determined and her family and friends rally around. This is a wonderful, funny and moving story of a Mohawk girl and her dreams.

### **Come and Learn with me** by Sheyenne Jumbo and Mindy Willet

*Come and Learn With Me* introduces the reader to Sheyenne Jumbo and her family- "real people" of the Samba K'e Dene Band from the Northwest Territories. Through simple narrative and spectacular photographs we are privy to their stories, land, traditions and history. This is part of an excellent series-each one worth purchasing.

### **Coyote Christmas: A Lakota Story** by S.D. Nelson

*Coyote Christmas* is a story about the cunning coyote that would do anything to get a meal. The story teaches about making choices and that there is good in all that we do. When we make choices that are not good, there are consequences to our actions. This story could be used in a grade 3-5 classroom as an example of a modern trickster tale.

### **Eagle Boy** Retold by Richard Lee Vaughan

Eagle boy begins the story as an orphan in his coastal village. He is laughed at and teased by other children in the village for feeding fish to the eagles in the sky. When winter comes, and food is scarce, it is Eagle boy who has the ability to feed the entire village. Traditional values of

generosity, forgiveness and self-sufficiency are presented. Rich illustrations help tell the story of how an outcast becomes a hero.

### **Falling Star** by Robert Cutting

This book is part of a series of multi-textual graphic tales for readers in older grades. *Falling Star* is the story of the adopted son of Standing Bear (band of Chief Sitting Bull) and his experiences watching the demise of the traditional way of life of the Lakota people. It also describes how Chief Sitting Bull came to stay in Canada for a time. This is an excellent resource for a guided reading program as one book contains multiple genres of texts: graphic tale, informational, timeline etc.

### **Fatty Legs and A Stranger at home** by Christy Jordan-Fenton & Margaret Pokiak-Fenton

*Fatty Legs* is an informative, true story about the effects of residential school on a brave young Inuit girl in her quest to learn how to read. Her spirit, dignity and resilience remain intact against all the atrocities that she experiences. Archival photos and striking artwork add to the authenticity of this story. Many young readers will be attracted to this memoir. *A Stranger at Home* continues the story of Olemaun as she reintegrates back into her home community.

### **Flip Point of Perspectives, FNMI Titles include:**

- *First Nations: This Land Was Theirs & First Nation: Reserve Life* - **Author:** Vanessa York
- *First Nations: Traditional customs & First Nations: Moving Forward*- **Author:** Libby Bretton
- *Fur Trade: Cause of Conflict & Fur Trade: Booming Business* – **Author:** Anthe Crawley
- *Western Expansion: The Last, Best West & Western Expansion Aboriginal Homelands* - **Author:** Elizabeth Brereton
- *Upper Canada: First Nations & Upper Canada Early Settlers*- **Author:**Karen Alexander

The Flip Point of View series is a set of 24 books for Canadian students that examine a topic from two different perspectives, both equally weighted. Each novel engages the student by providing opportunities for debate, discussion, and critical thinking. Each novel includes a table of contents, timelines, glossaries, quotes, maps, illustrations, historical photographs from across Canada, case studies, biographies, and teacher lesson plans that fit with the Alberta Social Studies curriculum. The kit contains some of these titles as well as some cautionary notes.

### **Great Women from our First Nations** by Kelly Fournel

Each of these women role models have risen above specific circumstances and have either made, or are making, a positive difference to their communities. Regrettably, this book is somewhat dated and contains women from the United States as well as Canada so that many current (Canadian) First Nations women activists are not represented. However it is a great beginning!

### **Here is the Arctic Winter** by Madeline Dunphy

The lyrical repetitive text makes this book a good choice for reading with students. The detailed illustrations are compelling and engaging and create the mood of a long dark time. This cumulative tale is an excellent springboard to a unit on northern communities, ecosystems, drawing and sketching as well as light and shadow!

### **How Chipmunk Got his Stripes** by Joseph Bruchac and James Bruchac

Big Bear brags and brags. He claims that he is so big and strong, he can do anything. Brown Squirrel doesn't believe Big Bear and a contest is proposed. The consequences of losing a bet, causes Big Bear to lash out and give Chipmunk a lasting memory! This tale is told by many Native American story tellers along the East coast.

### **How Coyote stole the summer** by Stephen Krensky

Poor Coyote is freezing and tired of living in winter all year round. He listens to Raven who spells out exactly how the animals can capture summer from Old Woman. Raven, Wolf, Moose, Elk, Stag and Antelope develop a plan to steal summer from Old Woman and her children. The simple language and illustrations help tell a humorous tale. There is an afterward to explain where the story comes from, as well as a glossary.

### **Idaa Trail** by Wendy Stephenson

John and his cousins spend the summer with their grandparents on a canoe trip that follows a hundred year old trade route of the Dogrib people. The children's grandparents had traveled this trail as youngsters and wanted to show their grandchildren how "the land is like a book". As they travel, the children become physically much stronger as well as learning a great deal of traditional knowledge. The grandparents teach by using story and demonstration. When the children finish their journey they are full of new abilities, knowledge and a greater appreciation of their ancestors.

### **I like Who I am** by Tara White

What happens when a blond, blue-eyed Mohawk moves to her First Nation reserve and is accused of not being Mohawk? This story is wonderful for exploring bullying and what it means to identify as part of a culture and life on a First Nation reserve. It pushes against the way the media represents life on reserves as mainly violence and abuse. Loving relationships, supportive friends and inner strength help Celina turn life around!

### **I Loved Her** by Shezza Ansloos

This is the recollection of a young Métis girl of her beloved Grandmother. Each two page spread covers different memories including singing and playing together at the piano, dressing up for tea parties, taking walks through the garden, and so forth. Love, laughter and sharing ring through the pages. For students who have experienced the loss of a family member, this book is a must.

### **Inuksuk Journey** by Mary Wallace

A lush and evocative journey through the north, this book provides a rare glimpse of high Arctic living. Photographs, sketches and paintings illuminate the text, which is a series of journal entries over an eight day trip.

### **Inuit Still** by Jeanne Bushey

Naomi, a young Inuk girl, shares her story of living in a modern Inuit community while wearing traditional clothing, playing traditional games and going out on the land. Glimpses of life in the past and how traditions, culture and language have been carried forward are shared. This book is a wonderful demonstration of bi-cultural competency.

### **The Inuit Thought of It** by Alootook Ipellie with David MacDonald

*The Inuit Thought of It* explores more than 40 ideas crucial to survival of the Inuit. From items familiar to us today like kayaks and parkas to inventive concepts that shaped their lives including bone games and the iconic Inuksuk this book celebrates the creativity of a remarkably resourceful people. While describing the traditional and contemporary ways of the Inuit, this book gives an opportunity to understand the survival techniques of the Inuit. It also provides a vast amount of cultural information to the reader through photographs of both past and present.

### **I Shall Wait and Wait** by Alooktook Ipelli

Part of a series on graphic poetry, this poem teaches us the importance of patience, dedication and love of family. It is small, but powerful, and can be used for multiple areas of the curriculum.

### **Jingle Dancer** by Cynthia Leitich Smith

Jenna dreams about her grandmother's jingle dancing and would love to do the same. There is one problem, how to get enough jingles in time for the pow-wow. A modern young Muscogee Nation girl solves the problem in a way that illustrates many of the values in her culture: sharing, gratitude, love, kinship and family.

### **Kookum's Red Shoes** by Peter Eyvindson

The legacy of residential school is shared in a respectful and engaging way through this story. The elderly Kookum remembers how her life was changed forever, yet we see how her humour, goodness and loving ways are maintained throughout. This compelling picture book will help teachers introduce a painful and shameful part of our shared Canadian history. Although the reading level is Division 1, the topic and concepts make it more suitable for Grade three and up.

### **The Lost Island** by E. Pauline Johnson

Tillicum (grandfather) shares an inherited vision and reality with his grandson about the many things that the Salish People have lost: lands, forests, beliefs, dress, and stories. The vision is one of despair, struggle and yet hope. *The Lost Island* contains stunningly vivid water color illustrations that bring the story to life. The author is a famous poet.

### **The Legend of the Caribou Boy** by John Blondin

This book could be used in a division II English Language Arts class during a unit covering legends. The read-along CD provides reading support for ESL or lower level readers. There is a strong glossary of Dene language at the back of the book.

### **Life Cycle of a Salmon** by Andrea Royston

*Salmon* takes the reader through the six year life cycle of a salmon. Each page contains vivid photographs as well as a pictorial time line. A glossary, index and additional books to read section provides guided reading lesson ideas for non-fiction reading.

### **The Middle of Everywhere** by Monique Polak

Noah Thorpe is spending the school term in George River, up in Quebec's far north. He is somewhat disdainful of his Inuit peers at first but through a series of adventures and

experiences, begins to understand that he has a lot to learn. A wonderful book about survival, friendship and bi-cultural competency.

**The Moccasins** by Earl Einarson

In this story, the author shares his personal life with a foster mother who keeps his culture alive with a pair of lovingly made moccasins. The illustrations follow the boy from childhood through adulthood, when he in turn becomes a parent. The foster mom taught the author well because he becomes a loving and affectionate parent who wants his own child to experience the feel and smell of the moccasins.

**Muskrat will be Swimming** by Cheryl Savageau

Young Jeannie loves her community but feels sad and frustrated when classmates call her a lake rat. Jeannie confides in her grandfather who, through story, reminds her of the importance of the muskrat. With lyrical text and exquisite illustrations of wetland life, this book puts traditions into the context of modern life. A wonderful book with many cross- curricular connections.

**Inuksuk Journey** by Mary Wallace

A lush and evocative journey through the north, this book provides a rare glimpse of high Arctic living. Photographs, sketches and paintings illuminate the text, which is a series of journal entries over an eight day trip.

**Mwâkwa Talks to the Loon** by Dale Auger

This is the story of Kayâs who uses his gift of knowing where to find animals (four-legged, winged and swimmers) to provide for his people. Soon however, he began to love the admiration of the people, more than he loved hunting and the people grew hungry. To Kayâs' sorrow, he had lost his gift and it remained lost until he listened to the Elders and followed their guidance. This book is written partly in Cree with a pronunciation guide at the back.

**The Night Wanderer: A Native Gothic Tale** by Drew Hayden Taylor

Tiffany Hunter, a teen Anishinabe girl, has lived on Otter Lake reserve her entire life. A mysterious lodger moves into her basement and sinister events begin to occur. Tiffany is at first unaware of anything happening as she is preoccupied with her non Aboriginal boyfriend and the relentless fighting with her father. This is a chilling tale that adds a new slant to vampire fiction. Good for grade 7-9.

**Niwechihaw: I Help** by Caitlin Dale Nicholson and Leona Morin-Neilson

This simple story is told simultaneously in Cree and English. It explores a young child's relationship to his Kokhom as they go for a walk in search of rose hips. Beautiful paintings help illustrate many of the cultural traditions.

**Nokum is my Teacher** by David Bouchard / Illustrated by Allen Sapp

This thoughtful book is written as a dialogue between, a young boy and his grandmother or Nokum. The boy asks why he should have to learn to read and wonders if knowledge of the world outside their reserve has value. Nokum knows that reading opens up a world of possibilities, even though she never learned to read. Nokum skillfully guides her grandson to a new understanding of the larger world outside, while still retaining respect for the way of the

people. Cree artist, Allen Sapp has provided the illustrations. Some books come with a CD that has the story in English and Cree, as well as drumming by the group Northern Cree.

**Proud to be Inuvialuit** by James Pokiak and Mindy Willett

*Proud to be Inuvialuit* introduces the reader to the Inuvialuit “real people” of the Western Arctic community of Tuktoyaktuk, their stories, land, traditions and history. This is part of an excellent series-each one is worth purchasing.

**Raven: A Trickster Tale from the Pacific Northwest** by Gerald McDermott

Many First Nations peoples have stories about tricksters (Raven, Coyote, Wisahkecahk, to name a few). They are generally humorous, with a strong message regarding how one ought to behave or how to treat others. The beautiful illustrations of this book make it a wonderful teaching tool for art as well as being included in a text set on Tricksters. This would also be an excellent book to help with the learning about a community in another part of Canada.

**Rebel Leader** by Jan Beaver

This book is part of a series of multi-textual graphic tales for readers in older grades. *Rebel Leader* is the story a young Métis fiddler who is gifted with a fiddle that has been passed down since the days of Louis Riel. Through flashbacks and non-narrative writing, the reader learns about the formation of the Métis Nation and the eventual demise of its leader, Louis Riel. This is an excellent resource for a guided reading program as one book contains multiple genres of texts: graphic tale, informational, timeline etc.

**Red Parka Mary** by Peter Eyvindson

A heart-warming story of how a young boy learns to look beyond outward appearances and discover the kindness and love of Mary, his elderly neighbour. As they get to know each other, Mary teaches the boy many things. At Christmas the boy presents Mary with a gift of a warm red parka and Mary gives the boy the biggest and best gift of all- the gift of her love. Colourful, life-like illustrations help tell this gentle yet powerful story.

**The Salmon Bears** by Ian McAllilster & Nicholas Read

Stunning photographs add to the rich text in this book about the Great Bear Rainforest of British Columbia. This book is included because of the special place bears have in both the life cycle of the salmon, and many First Nations stories.

**Secret of the Dance** by Andrea Spalding and Alfred Scow

This story is based on a true story that happened to retired Judge Alfred Scow, Elder of the Kwick'wa'sut'eneuk people. He was born in 1927 during a time when traditional ceremonies were outlawed by the Canadian government. In *Secret of the Dance*, Wat'l'Kina's family defies the Indian Agent, just as many other families did to go far afield in order to practice a potlatch ceremony in secrecy.

**Shin-chi's Canoe** by Nicola Campbell



This poignant sequel to award winning *Shi-shi-etko* tells the story of two young siblings in residential school. In telling this story, Nicole Campbell draws on interviews with her family and Elders who survived residential school. In spite of the devastation of a long separation, collection in a cattle truck, daily hard work and meager meals, strong family ties prevail. Beautiful illustrations help make this a story of hope and resilience.

**Shi-Shi-Etko** by Nicola Campbell

This beautifully illustrated story is a moving account of how a young girl spends her last day with family before leaving for residential school. Just before she leaves, mother, father and grandmother share valuable teachings.

**Skeleton Man** by Joseph Bruchac

Molly wakes up one morning to discover her parents are gone. She is turned over to her great-uncle, a mysterious man totally unknown to her. The uncle rarely speaks to Molly and locks her in her room at night. By remembering what her parents told her about trusting dreams, Molly is able to solve the mystery of her parent's disappearance. The original Skeleton Man is a traditional Mohawk story. Bruchac's novel respectfully incorporates traditional Mohawk lore into this page-turning chiller. A short and easy read; it will attract reluctant readers.

**Smiler's Bones** by Peter Lerangis

*Smiler's Bones*, is the heartfelt story of Minik, his father and the plight of Inuit people who were taken from their home in Greenland to New York city in 1897. Explorer Robert Peary took them to the American Museum of Natural History as living "Eskimo" exhibits. It is a compelling, engaging story of loss, deception, exploration and survival based on historical facts from the book *Give Me My Father's Body: The Life of Minik, the New York Eskimo* by Kenn Harper.

**There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Trout** by Teri Sloat

A fast paced, rollicking retelling of there was an old lady who swallowed a fly, this is sure to delight all readers. It is set on the west coast, with many familiar icons. Great for early literacy, for a text set on cumulative stories, or just a great read-aloud.

**Turtle's Race with Beaver** by Joseph Bruchac and James Bruchac

Upon awakening, after her long winter nap, Turtle sees that her pond has been taken over by Beaver. Beaver challenges Turtle to a race: whoever wins can stay while the other must find a new home. The one who wins the race demonstrates courage in the face of adversity, creativity and amazing perseverance.

**Walking with Aalasi: An introduction to Edible and Medicinal Arctic Plants** by Anna Ziegler, Aalasi Joamie and Rebecca Hainnu

In this book Aalasi Joamie shares her traditional knowledge about plants in some of the northern regions of Canada. Spectacular photographs, charts as well as written text (in Inuktitut and English) teach about plants and their uses, but also how the knowledge was learned and passed down. A good resource to show how Indigenous knowledge and western science work together.

**War Games** by Jacqueline Guest

Ryan Taber's father is on his first tour of duty in Afghanistan. Ryan can't wait for his father to be gone, and then perhaps he can finally do the things he really wants to do; play *Desert Death*. Ryan thinks he can finally be the person he wants to be, not the soldier his father wants him to be. Without his father, Ryan quickly slips into a world of deceit. Deceiving friends and family and most of all himself, he must quickly learn that not all is what it seems.

**Which Way Should I Go?** by Sylvia Olsen with Ron Martin

This book is about a happy young Tia-o-qui-aht boy and the loving relationship he has with his grandmother. His grandmother always gives the young boy choices and teaches him her song "Which Way Should I Go?" But when his grandmother dies the young boy grieves and is very unhappy, until he discovers he has a choice in grief too. The book portrays a First Nations family living in modern time and the wisdom that is passed from one generation to the next. The delightful illustrations support this ultimately joyful story.

**Wisahkecahk Flies to the Moon** by Freda Ahenakew

This book, written in English and Cree, is another story to add to the collection of the famous trickster tales. In this one Wisahkecahk flies to the moon, and before the tale is up, provides the legend of the creation of muskeg. As a sideline, it explains the origins of the long legs of the crane. A simple and beautifully illustrated short story.

**Zoe and the Fawn** by Catherine Jameson

A delightful story of a young girl and her father and their search for the mother of a visiting fawn. Each time they spot a new animal Zoe wonders if that is the mother they are looking for. After searching over a small hill, in the tall grass, and at a creek they return home to a surprise. The repetitive text and textured, vibrant illustrations make this gentle book a great addition to a young reader's collection. Animal names featured in both English and Okanagan Syilx.