

This learning guide is designed for use by Professional Learning Communities, learning coaches and teacher leaders or as a self-paced study.

Storytelling: Its Many Forms

Empowering the Spirit

This guide is intended to facilitate conversation after viewing the video clip:
Storytelling: Its Many Forms



General synopsis

This video explores the power of storytelling in engaging students and giving voice to their personal expression through song, music, dance, writing and performance. First Nations, Métis and Inuit educators, artists and scholars share their reflections on the importance of storytelling and how this tradition of imparting knowledge permeates their cultures and world views.

Key understandings

- The expression of First Nations, Métis and Inuit song, dance, music, art, writing and performance tell stories that are rich in traditional culture and learnings.
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit traditions, knowledge and protocols are passed through the many forms of story expression.
- Students discover their voices and ideals through their personal experience of traditional stories.
- Storytelling permeates First Nations, Métis and Inuit traditional cultures and is key to understanding the human condition.
- Storytelling supports students in gaining an appreciation of their individualism in relation to their culture.
- Engaging students through storytelling and its many forms helps students reflect on their own lives.

Questions for reflection and discussion

- In this video, what is the main idea or theme that resonates the most with you? Why?
- In her opening statement, Judy Toews talks about how traditionally knowledge and traditions are passed through story and how these stories can engage students. Share an example of how a story engaged your students and created a powerful learning experience. Explain what this learning experience meant for you.
- What did you hear in this video that is encouraging you to rethink your understanding of storytelling and its place in First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures.
- Why are forms of storytelling integral to how knowledge is shared and appreciated? How is this valuable to students?
- Aaron Paquette shares how he would like to see a return to the old ways of learning where everyone has a voice and is encouraged to use that voice through song, dance, storytelling, music, writing, and drama. What does this statement mean to you?
(see next page for more questions)

Questions for discussion (continued)

- Describe an example of how you honored the voices of your students through a learning experience similar to one illustrated in this video. What was the outcome for your students?
- Narcisse Blood states that our land is a storied landscape with many layers of stories and that the way to get around it is 'way finding'. What does this quote mean to you? How would you explain it to someone else?
- How can using story and its many forms enhance teachers' practice and their ability to engage students?
- After seeing the video, what are some changes to your current teaching practice that you are inspiring to make? Why?
- Based on your reflections and discussions about this video, what are the next steps for you and your colleagues?

For more information

Walking Together: FNMI Perspectives in Curriculum. This Alberta Education digital resource is designed to help teachers understand the holistic nature of First Nations, Métis and Inuit ways of knowing, to provide opportunity for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples to share their perspectives on topics important to them, and to demonstrate First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives in teaching and learning experiences.

www.learnalberta.ca/content/aswt/

Our Words, Our Ways: Teaching First Nations, Métis and Inuit Learners. This Alberta Education resource provides information about First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures and perspectives, and sample strategies for meeting the needs and recognizing the gifts of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students.

<http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/resources/cross/ourwordsourways.aspx>

FNMI Collaborative Framework: Building Relationships. A guide to strengthen collaborative processes between school authorities, parents, communities and other stakeholders.

<http://education.alberta.ca/admin/fnmi/collaborativeframework.aspx>

Moving Forward: Implementing FNMI Collaborative Frameworks. A professional development resource supporting success for FNMI students as part of Alberta Education's Business Plan.

<https://education.alberta.ca/media/6664478/movingforwardbooklet.pdf>



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