

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

The Importance of Storytelling

Empowering the Spirit

This guide is intended to facilitate conversation after viewing the video clip,
The Importance of Storytelling



General synopsis

Learn how storytelling is a traditional way of sharing the culture and values of a community and remains a valuable teaching tool for today.

Key understandings

Quote.. **"... storytelling are our unwritten books and our way of teaching and learning."**

Jerry Wood, Cree First Nation Elder, Grant MacEwan University

- Storytelling sets the foundation and precedes literacy development.
- Storytelling can act as a bridge to share information, learn about rules and values of the Aboriginal community.
- Engaging students through storytelling conveys learning lessons and helps students reflect on their own lives.
- Storytelling and stories can support students in developing self-confidence and identity.
- Storytelling contributes to students' appreciation and understanding of multiple perspectives.
- Storytelling can give students a window into human behavior through plot and characters conveyed in stories.

Questions for reflection and discussion

- In this video, which statements are most memorable for you? Why?
- Why is storytelling such an integral part of how First Nations, Metis and Inuit Elders share knowledge?
- In his opening statement, Elder Jerry Wood shares how stories are teachings and there is always a teaching to be learned in every story. How does this align with your experience as a teacher or as a learner?
- Describe an example of a story you shared with your students that became a pathway for learning? Why did this story become a powerful learning experience?
- Jerry Wood urges that storytelling continues in our lives as a way of teaching and learning.. How can storytelling have a place in the lives of today's students? What would be the impact for the students?

(see next page for more questions)

Questions for discussion (continued)

- Dr. Jacqueline Ottman believes that story precedes literacy development before language is expressed verbally. How does this resonate with you? Why?
- What new understandings about storytelling come to mind after viewing this video?
- What might be some changes to your present teaching practice that you are prepared to make after seeing the video? Why?

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 First Nations, Métis and Inuit students as part of Alberta Education's Business Plan.

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



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Alberta Regional Consortia

