

The Way Forward: Reconciliation through Indigenously-Authored Children's Literature

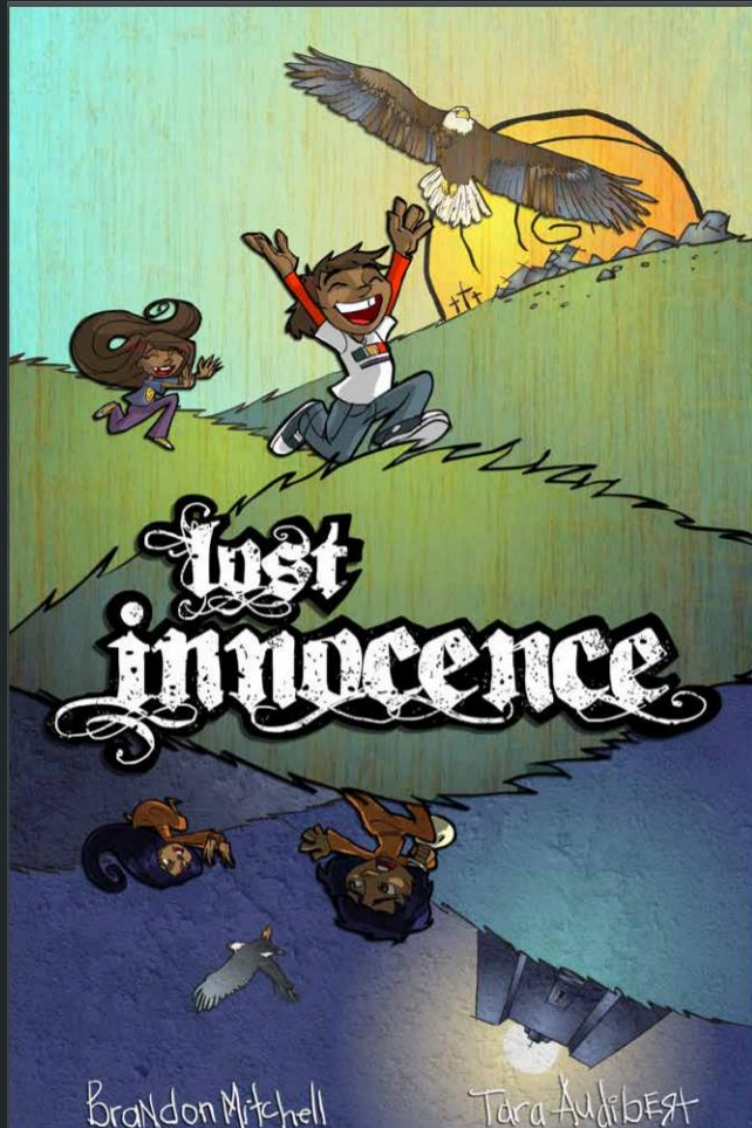
June 2018

Maria Tan & Sandy Campbell

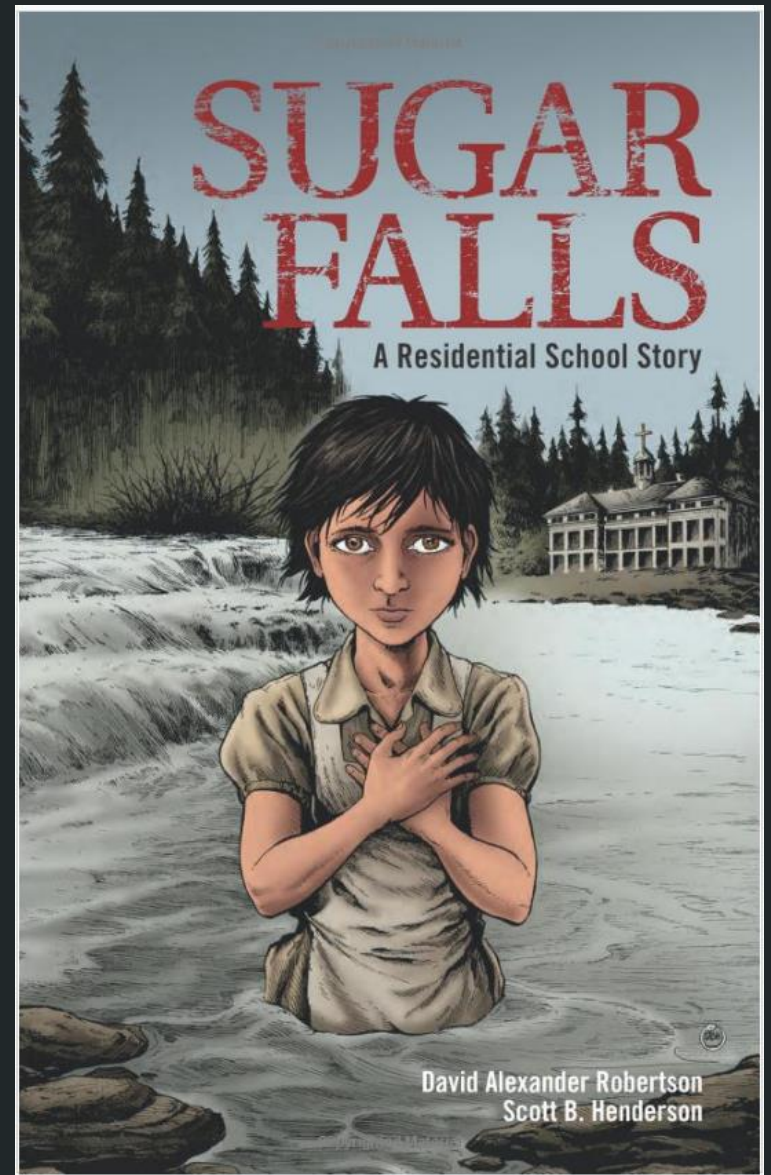
Scott Health Sciences Library, University of Alberta

Andrea Quaiattini

Schulich Library of Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, and Engineering, McGill
University



Mitchell, B. (2013). *Lost innocence*. Courtenay, BC: Healthy Aboriginal Network.

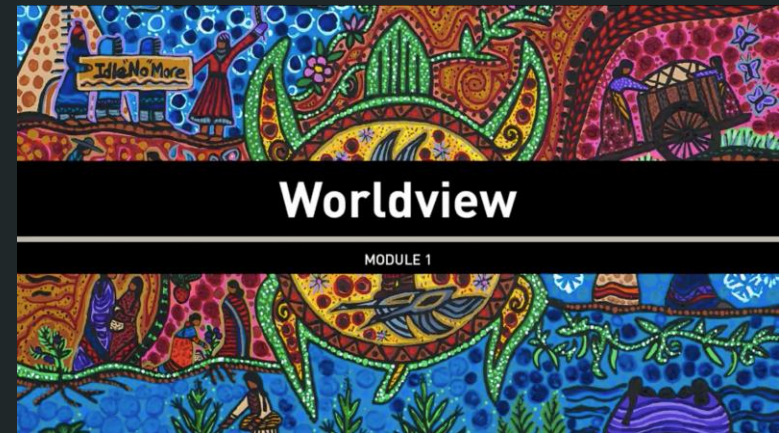


Robertson, D. A. (2011). *Sugar Falls: A residential school story*. Winnipeg, MB: HighWater Press

Through stories and storytelling, Indigenous societies transmit the central knowledge critical to survival, and provide a cultural framework for promoting happy, healthy communities....

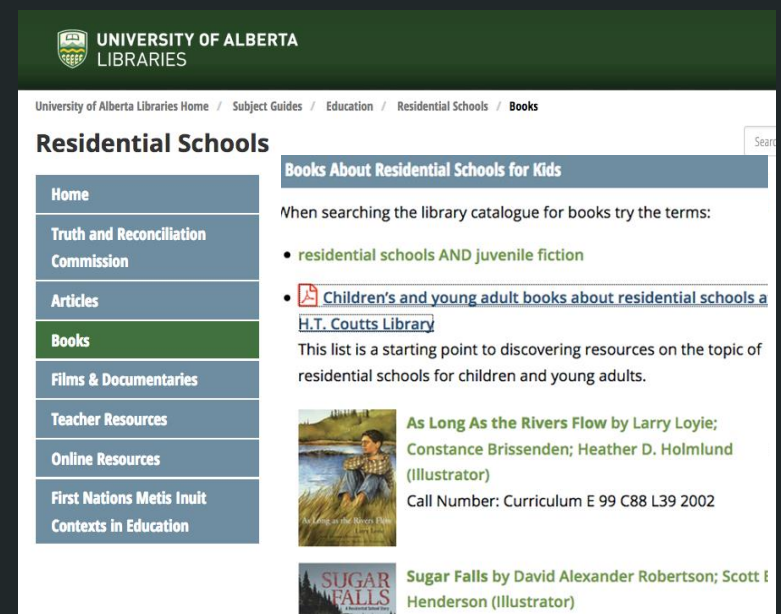
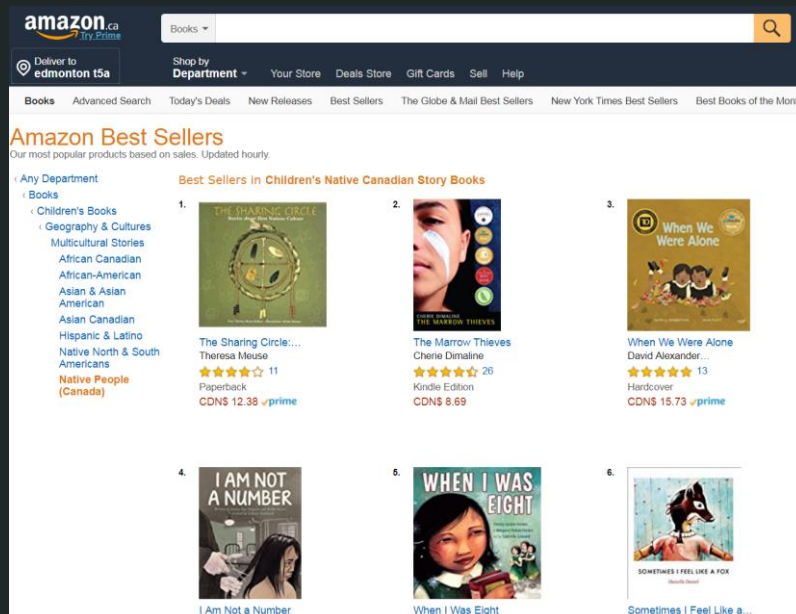
[Stories] can also act as guides for how to live and engage with the world...stories connect the past to the present and to future generations....

(University of Alberta. *Indigenous Canada* (Online Course).
Worldview: Storytelling. Retrieved from
<https://www.coursera.org/learn/indigenous-canada>



Data Collection

- Amazon 100 “Bestsellers in Children’s Native Canadian Storybooks” July-August 2017
- Publishers, academic & public libraries



Inclusion Criteria

1. Canadian Fictional work aimed at children or youth (0-18yo)
2. Canadian Indigenous author or illustrator
3. Truth & Reconciliation-relevant content

Results

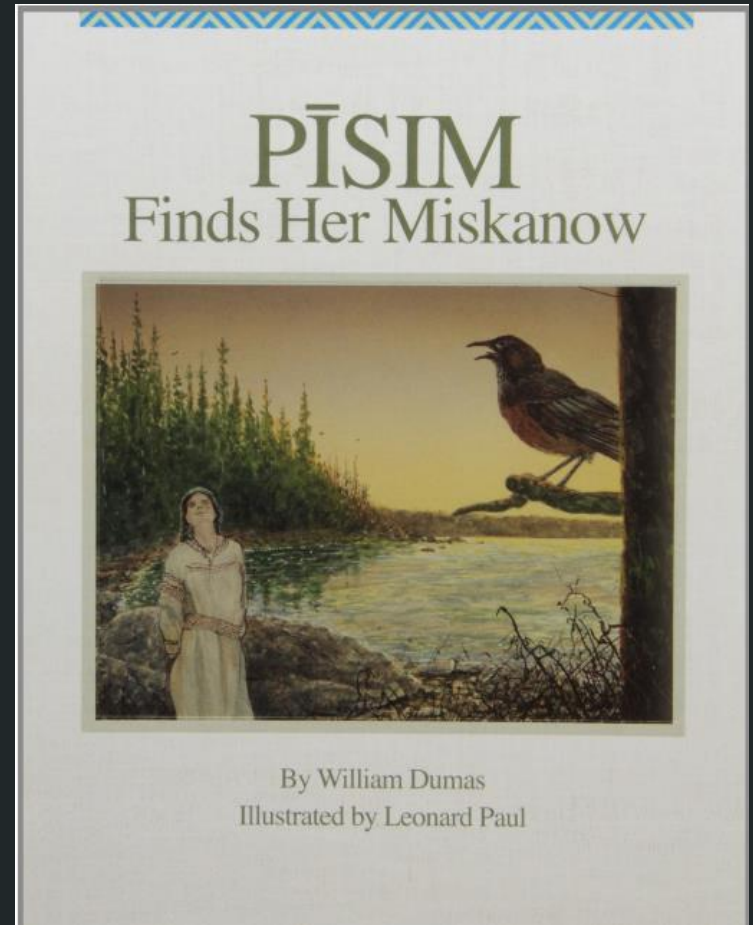
- More material than we thought
- Written for a range of ages
- Diverse Indigenous groups, regions, languages
- Enough on Residential Schools for separate analysis
- >100 themes

Limitations

- Amazon's algorithm
- Not exhaustive
- Books we couldn't access
- Indigenous authorship could not always be determined
- Possible missed themes (human error)

Ways of Moving Forward

The elders have been telling us for years that in order to move ahead we have to know where we are in the present and where we have been. Once you are grounded in the present and the past, you can move forward.



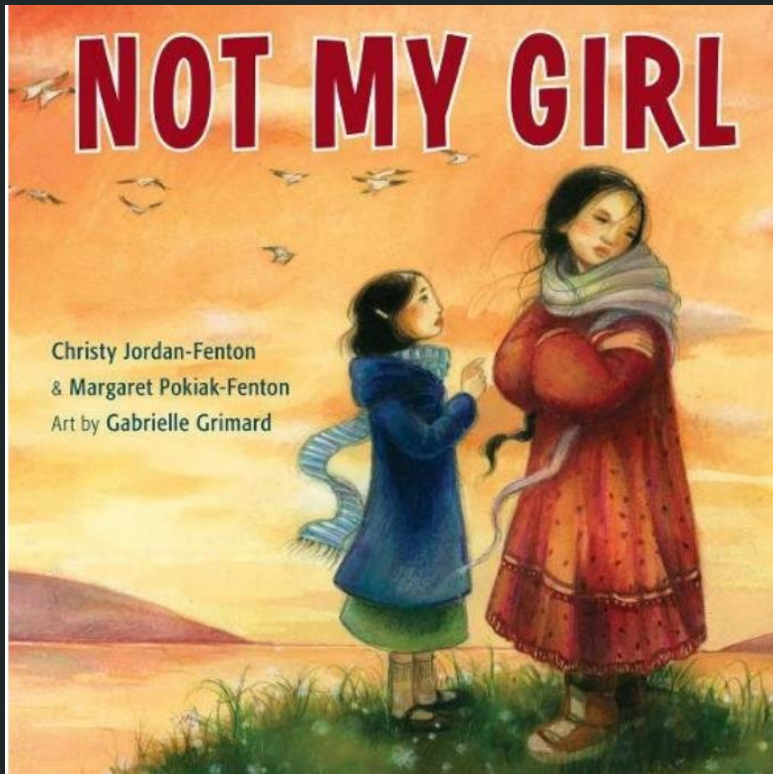
Dumas, W., & Paul, L. (2013). *PĪsim finds her miskanow* =: *Pisim miskam ōmiskanow*. [Winnipeg]: HighWater Press.

Two-eyed seeing

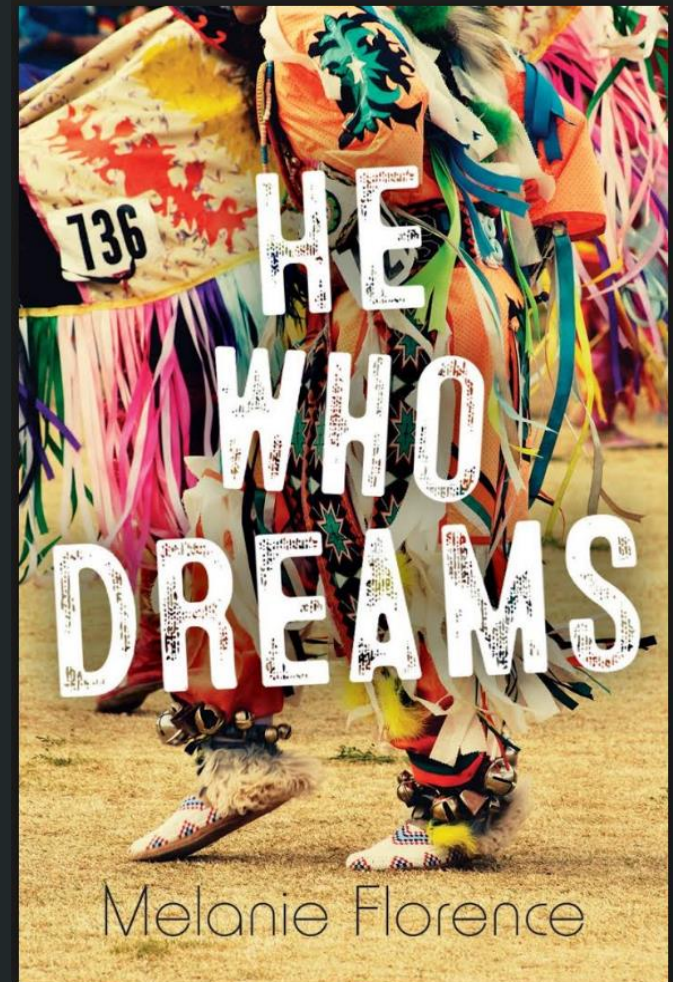
...learning to see from our one eye with the strengths of (or, best in) the Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of (or, best in) Western knowledges and ways of knowing...and, most importantly, learning to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all.

(Marshall, A. (2012). Reflection 5: Two-eyed seeing in medicine. *Determinants of Indigenous Peoples' health in Canada*)

Two-eyed seeing



Jordan-Fenton, C., Grimard, G., & Pokiak-Fenton, M. (2014). *Not my girl..* Toronto: Annick Press



Florence, M. (2017). *He who dreams.* Victoria, British Columbia: Orca Book Publishers.

We are the land, the land is us

Neekna and Chemai



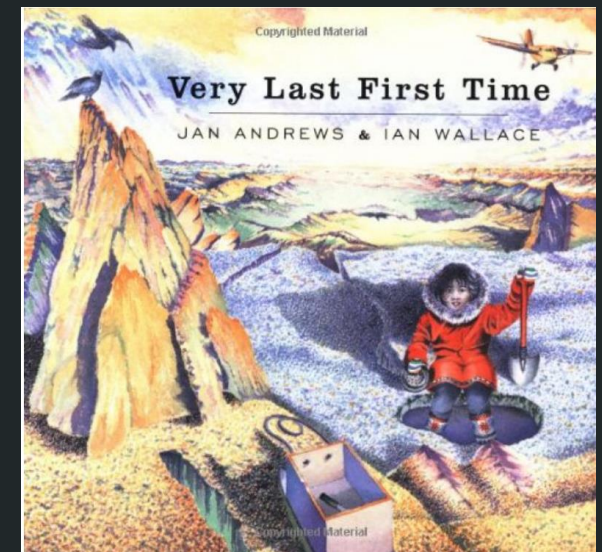
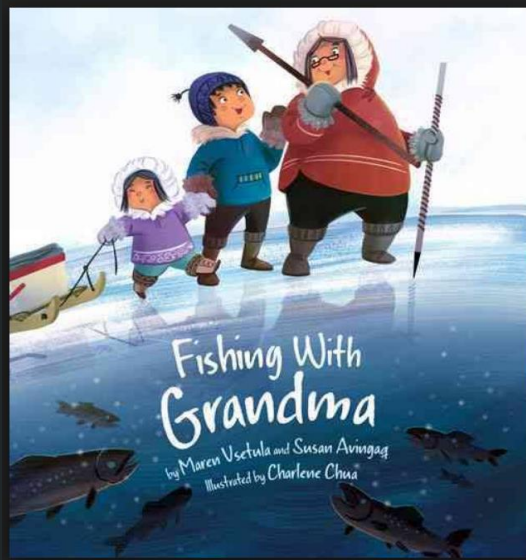
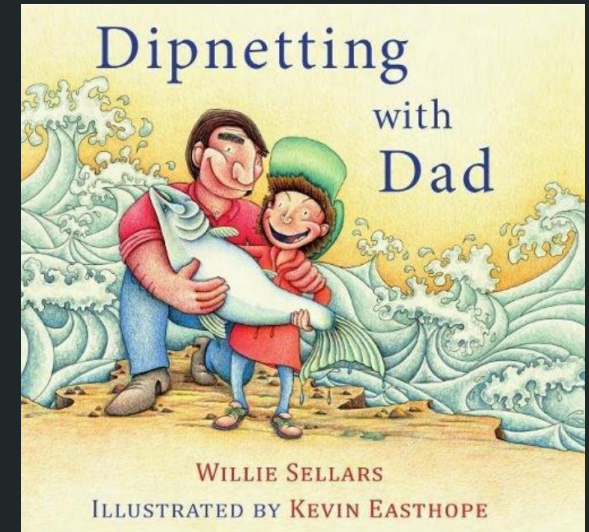
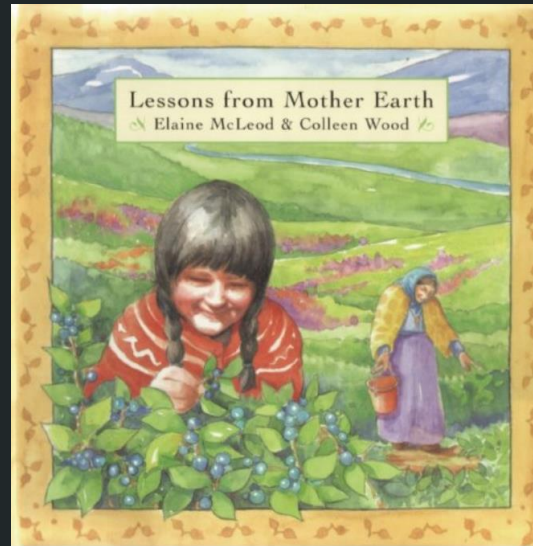
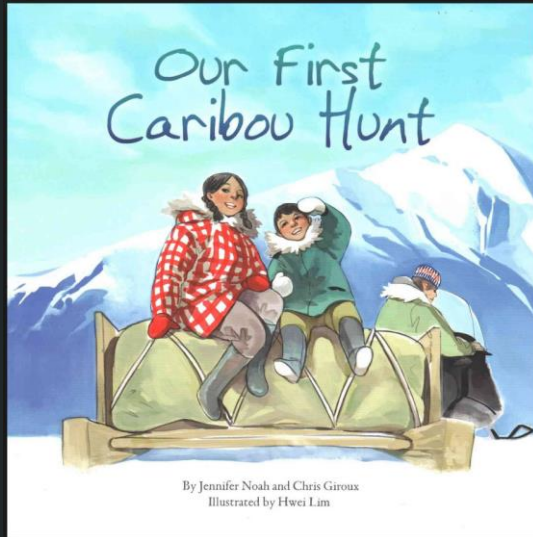
Jeannette C. Armstrong

Illustrated by Barbara Marchand

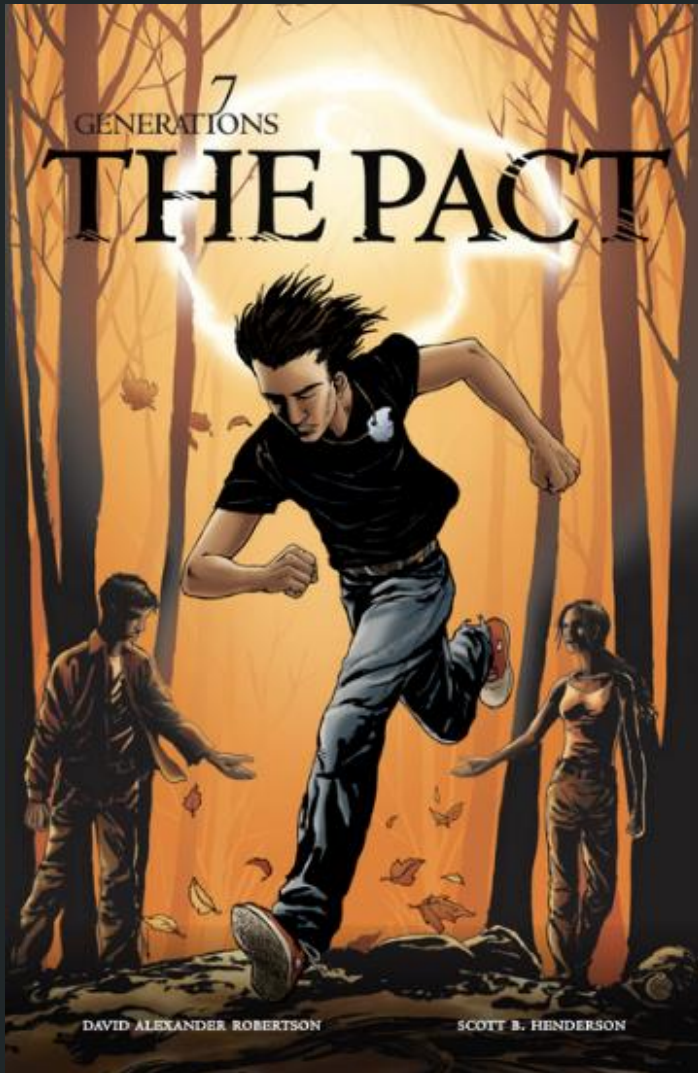
“We must honour our relatives, the animals, the fish, and the plants that share their lives so that we may have life. If we do not honour them and forget how important they are to us, we begin to destroy them. If their lives are in danger, so are ours.”

Armstrong, J. C. (2007). *Neekan and Chemai*. Penticton, BC: Theytus Books.

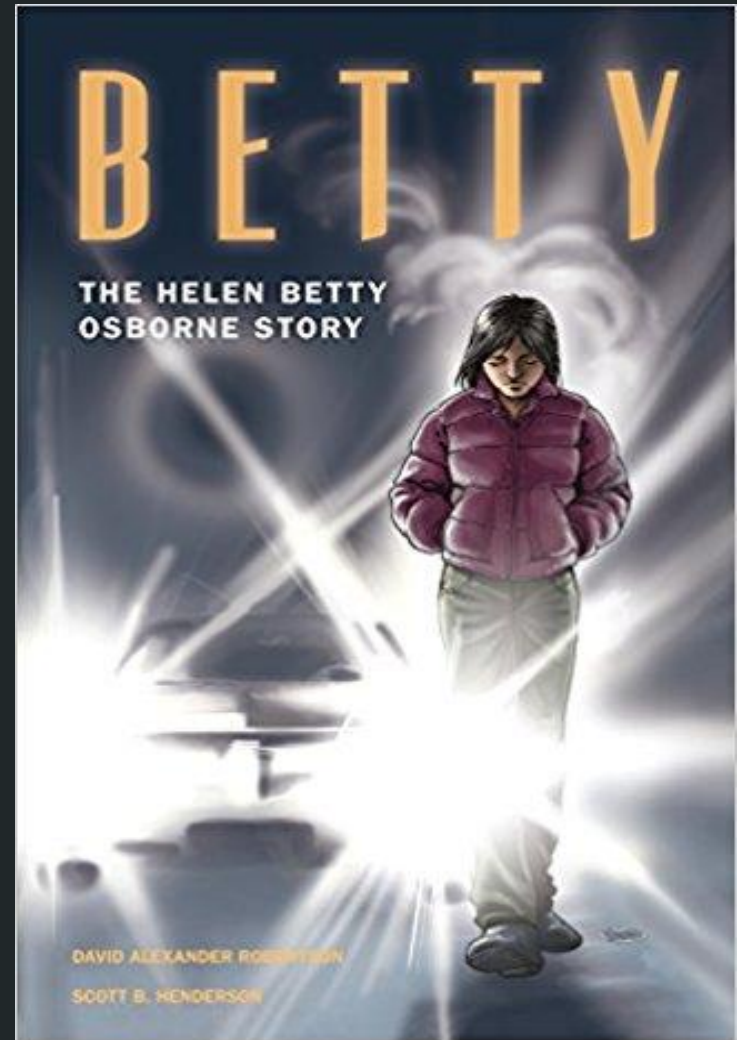
Celebrating Traditional Ways



Understanding Trauma & Current Issues



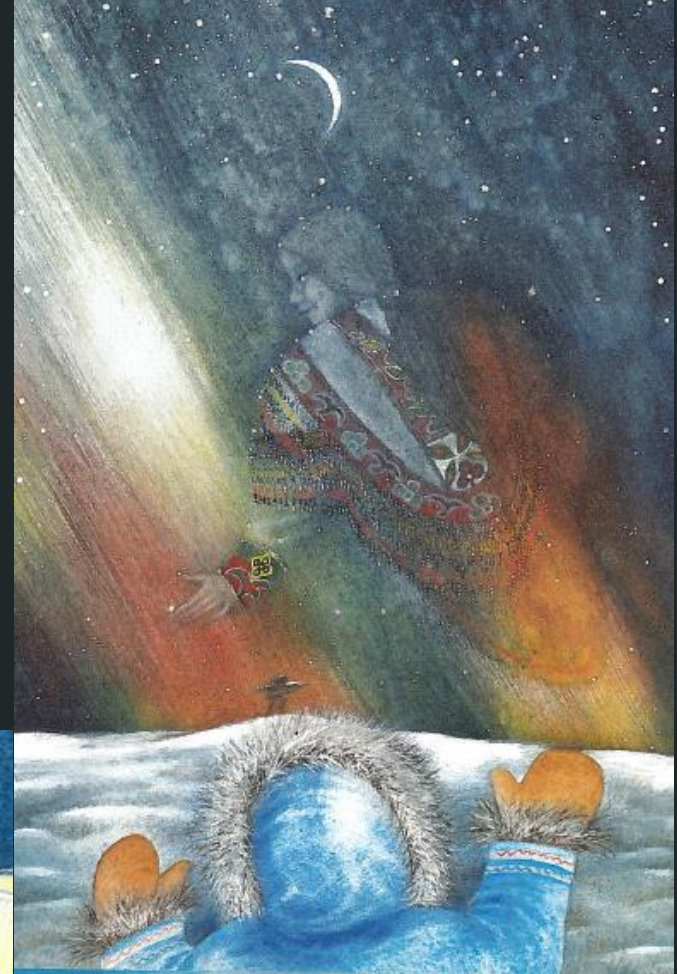
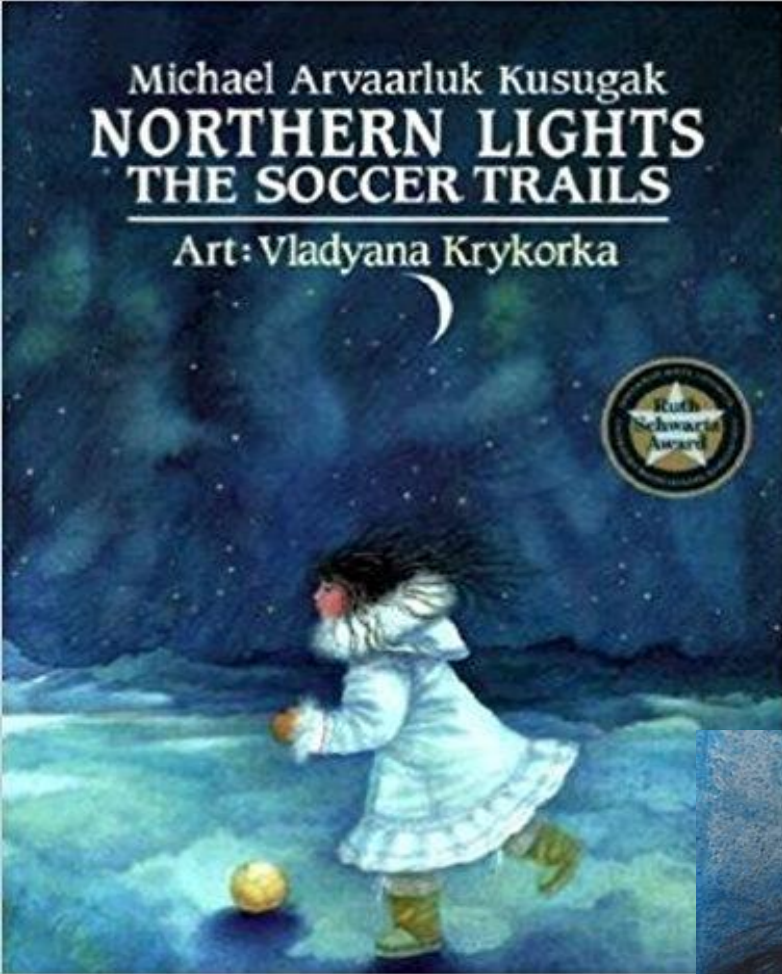
Robertson, D. A. (2011). *The pact*. Winnipeg, MB: HighWater Press.

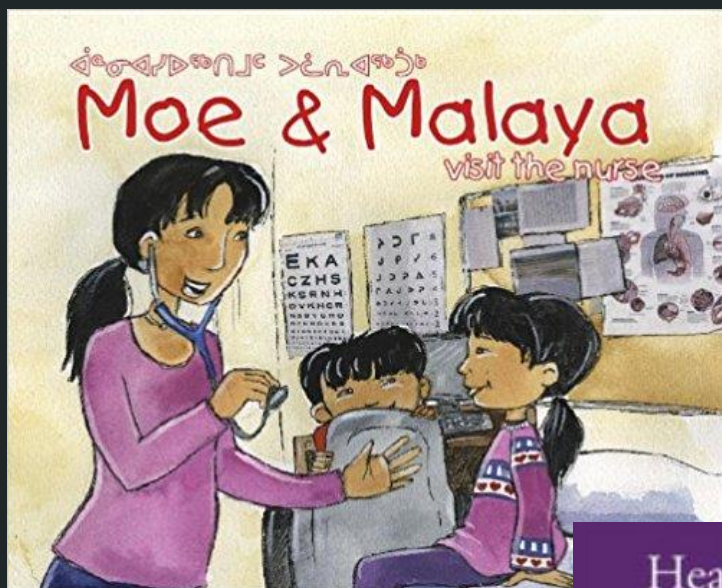


Robertson, D. A. (2015). *Betty: The Helen Betty Osborne story*. Winnipeg, MB: HighWater Press.

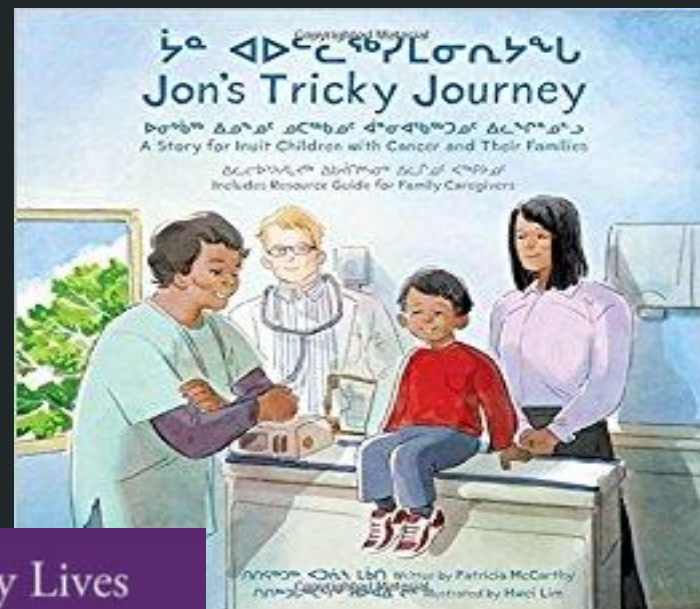
Michael Arvaarluk Kusugak
**NORTHERN LIGHTS
THE SOCCER TRAILS**

Art: Vladyana Krykorka



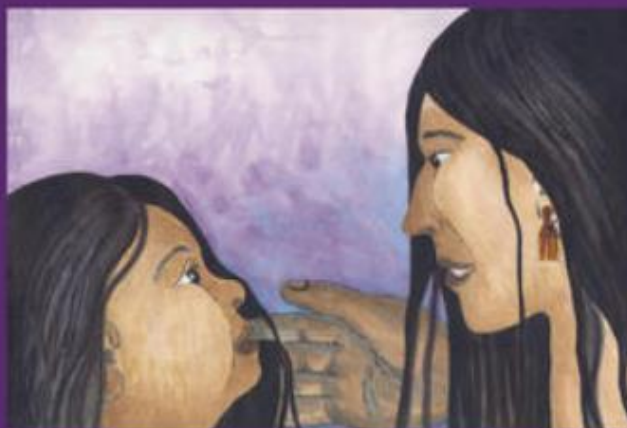


Nelson, O. (2010). *Moe & Malaya visit the nurse*. Iqaluit, Nu: Inhabit Media.



McCarthy, P. (2017). *Jon's tricky journey: A story for Inuit children with cancer and their families*. . Iqaluit, NU: Inhabit Media

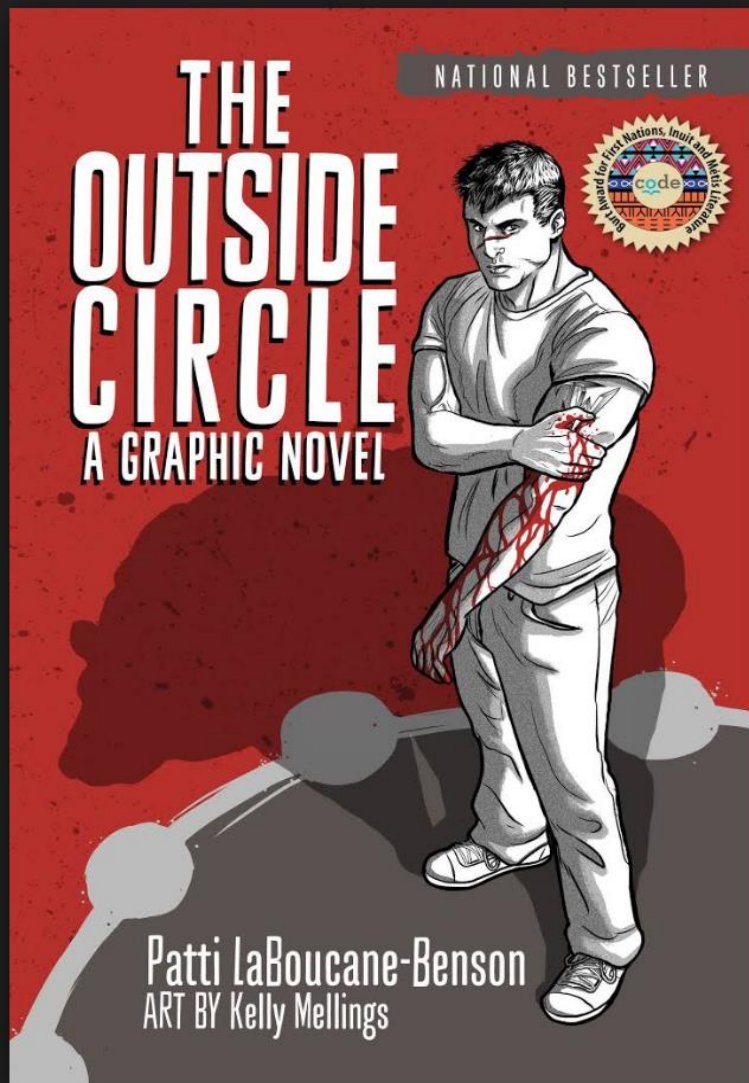
Healthy Choices, Healthy Lives



By Karen W. Olson / Illustrated by Marie-Micheline Hamelin

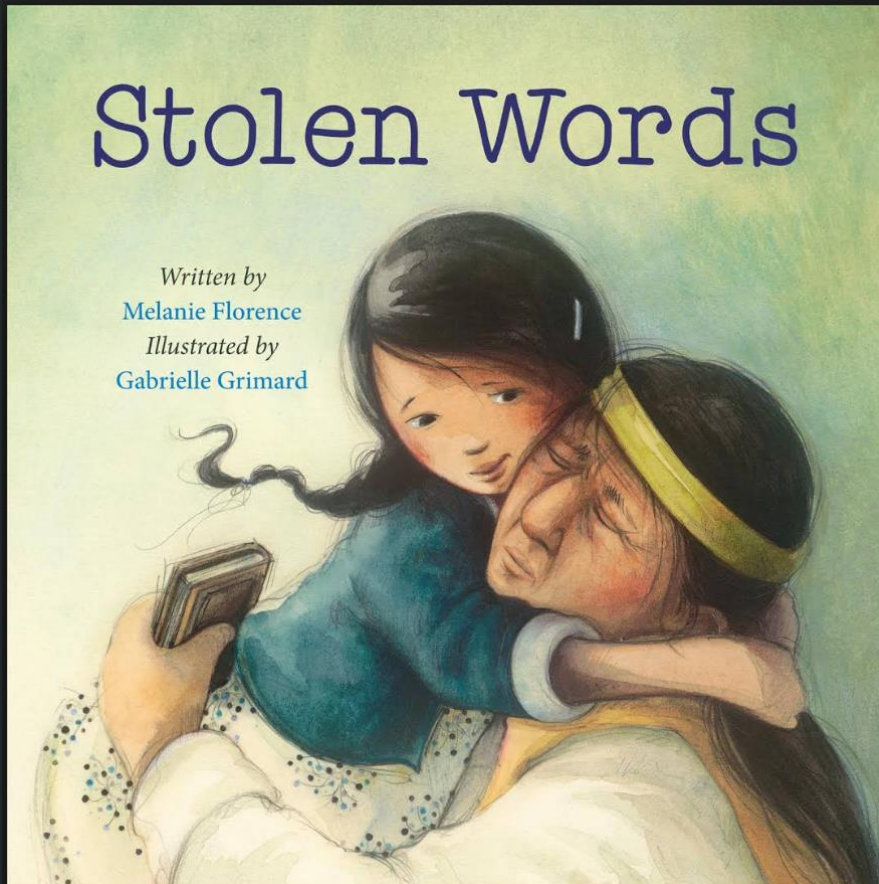
Olson, K. W., & Hamelin, M. (2005). *Healthy choices, healthy lives*. Penticton, B.C.: Penticton Indian Band, Health Department .

Justice & Traditional Healing

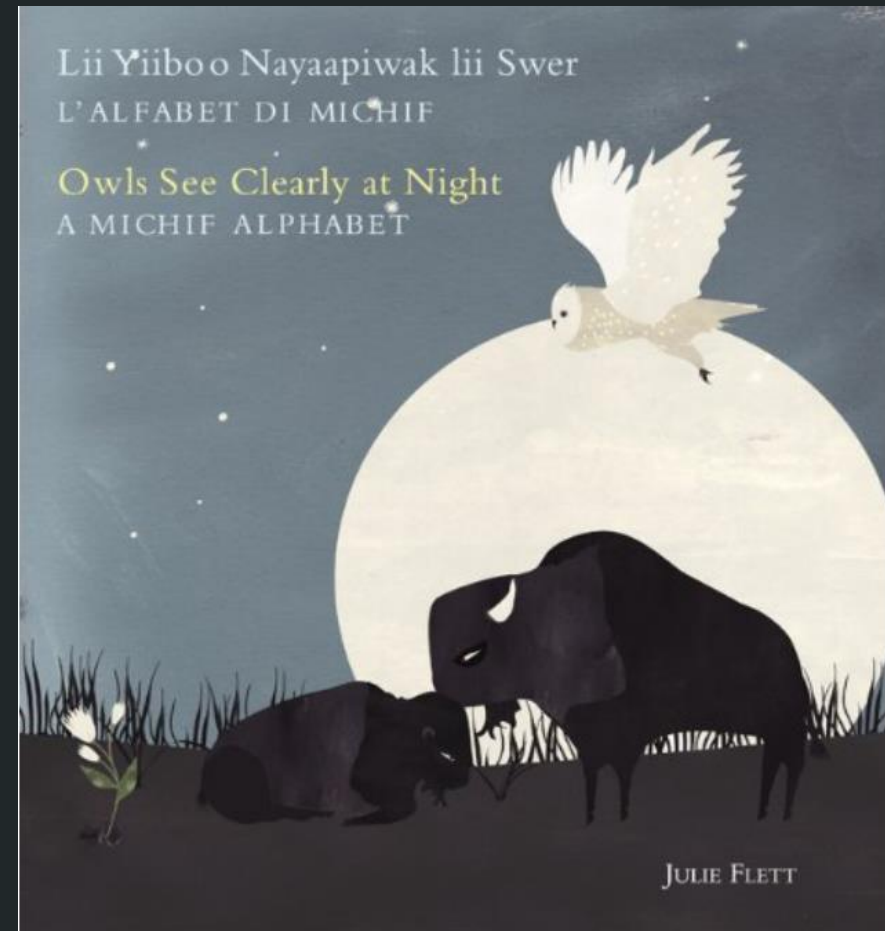


LaBoucane-Benson, P. (2015). *The outside circle: A graphic novel*. Toronto, ON: House of Annick Press.

Preserving & Revitalizing Language

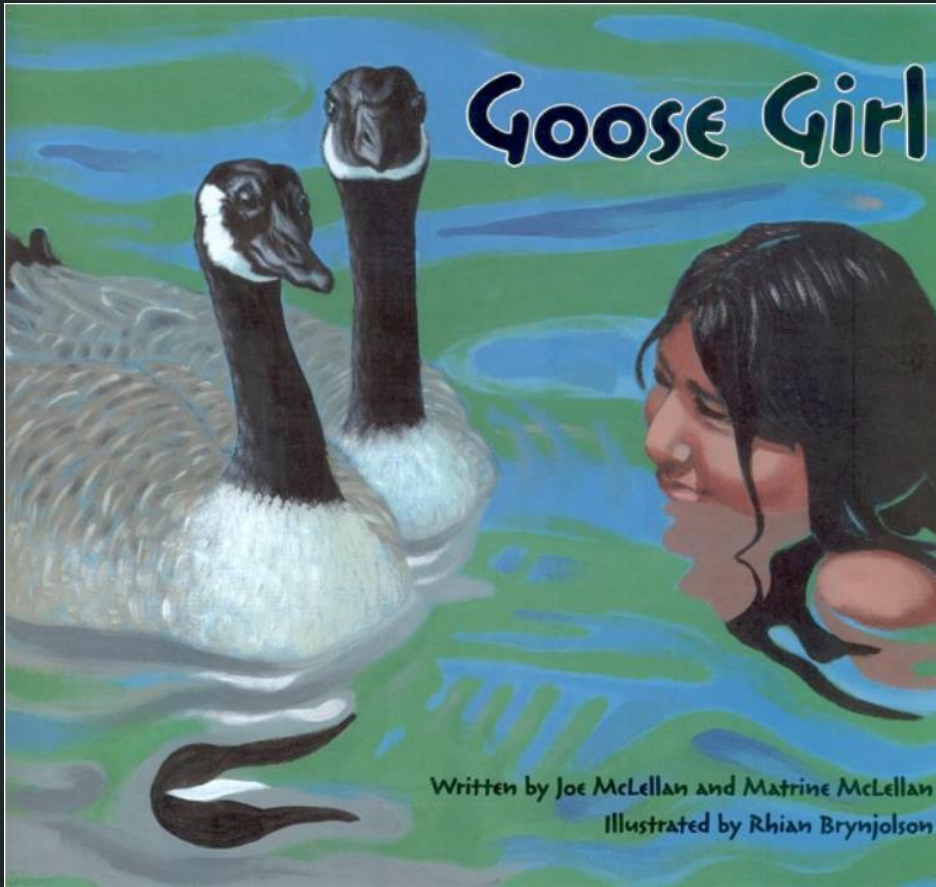


Florence, M. (2017). *Stolen words*. Toronto, ON: Second Story Press.



Flett, J. (2010). *Lii yiiboo nayaapiwak lii swer: L'alfabet di michif [Owls see clearly at night: A michif alphabet]*. Vancouver, BC: Simply Read Books.

Understanding Traditional Naming

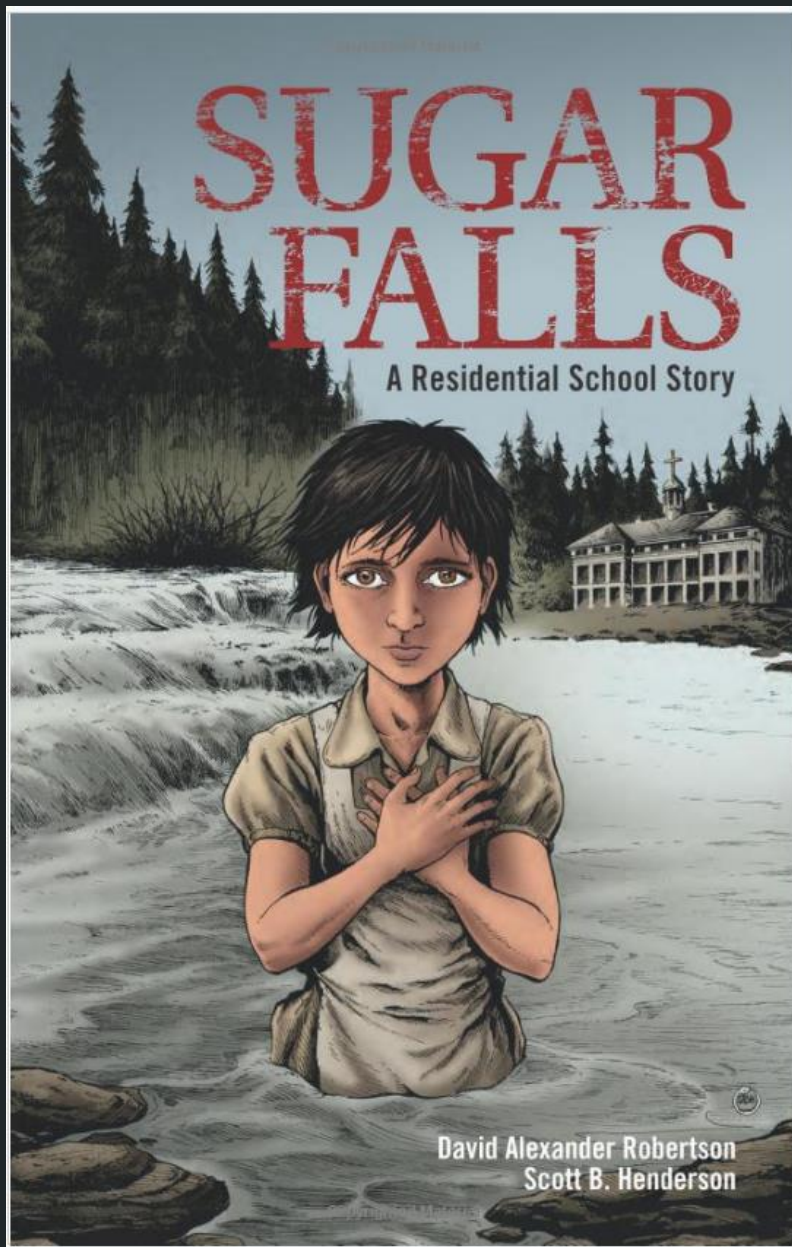


“You will still be Marie, but Niskaw makes you more than Marie. It makes you able to bring the teachings and the healings of the geese to our people.”

McLellan, J., Brynjolson, R., & McLellan, M. (2007). *Goose girl*. Winnipeg: Pemmican Publications.

Relevance to Practice

- Building cultural competence
- Informing collection development
- Supplementing course curricula
- Supporting reader's advisory



“Telling these stories is how we will create change. We need to look at the past to teach others our stories and then look forward, together with knowledge and healing.” (p.40)

Acknowledgments

Brenda Wolfe, Scott Health Sciences Library

Thank you!

Resources on ERA

Selected Children's Fiction by Canadian Indigenous Authors Related to Truth and Reconciliation Themes

<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3WP9TN53>

The Residential School Experience Through the Eyes of Indigenous Children's Authors (Poster)

<https://doi.org/10.7939/R3DF6KH5H>

Image Credits

- Andrews, J., & Wallace, I. (1985). *Very last first time*. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre.
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- Arvaarluk-Kusugak, M. (1993). *Northern lights: The soccer trails*. Willowdale, ON: Annick Press.
- Avingag, S. (2015). *Fishing with grandma*. Iqaluit, NU: Inhabit Media.
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- Jordan-Fenton, C. (2014). *Not my girl*. Toronto, ON: Annick Press.
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- McLellan, J., Brynjolson, R., & McLellan, M. (2007). *Goose girl*. Winnipeg: Pemmican Publications.
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- Robertson, D. A. (2011). *The pact*. Winnipeg, MB: HighWater Press.
- Sellars, W. (2014). *Dipnetting with dad*. Halfmoon Bay, BC: Caitlin Press.
- Van Camp, R. (2015). *Three feathers*. Winnipeg, MB: HighWater Press.