

#1 Picture Books, Juvenile Fiction and Non-Fiction, Biography, and Cultural Tradition

(Compiled by Dorothea M. Susag dotsusag42@gmail.com)

Annette, Chelsea (**White Earth Ojibwe**). *Discovering the Little Brothers*. Illustrated by Luke Durand. Grand Rapids, MN: DMcD Productions, 2009. www.discoveringojibwe.com ISBN: 978-0-9771521-5-5 unpaginated
Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #6

Summary: The story book includes a pronunciation key of the double vowel system for Ojibwe words in the story, a CD with the recorded story with Tracks 1-11 "Teachings," an index of Ojibwe words and English translations, and a bibliography.

Armstrong, Jeanette (**Okanagan**). *Enwhisteetkwa: Walk in Water*. Penticton, BC: Theytus Books, 1982. 44 pp.

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3

Juvenile Fiction and Cultural Tradition - Grades 3 and up

Summary:

In four "Season" chapters in the mid-1800's in British Columbia at the time of early contact with the *Sema* (Non-Indians), the narrator remembers her life as a young girl, beginning with a "soft" song sung by her grandmother. Smoothly integrating individual stories and dialog with ordinary seasonal and daily activities of the Okanagan people, *Enwhisteetkwa* beautifully communicates an interesting and very believable story.

Bateson-Hill, Margaret. *Shota and the Star Quilt*. Illustrated by Christine Fowler. Consultant, Gloria Runs Close to Lodge (**Oglala**) Lakota text by Philomine Lakota. New York: Anna McQuinn, 1998. 27 pp. ISBN - 1-84089-021-5.

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3

Juvenile Fiction and Cultural Tradition - Grades 2 - 6

Summary:

Shota and the Star Quilt is a modern story set in Minneapolis. Central to the story is the Lakota star patterns, and children can follow the patterns at the back of the book to create their own. The book also includes information about the Lakota, their language and their culture. The story emphasizes the importance of tradition and love.

Bouchard, David (**Métis**). *Nokum is My Teacher*. Paintings by Allen Sapp (**Cree Elder**) and singing and drumming by Northern Cree drum group. Calgary, Alberta, Canada: Red Deer Press, 2006. ISBN: 0-88995-367-8 (Bilingual Cree and English audio recording also)

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #5

Picture Book, Poetry, Paintings Grades 2 and up

Summary:

This book is not "illustrated." It is art, and the paintings vividly amazing. Two voices appear on each page of text in both English and Cree: a child who doesn't want to go to school, who finds life "confusing," and who looks to his grandmother—Nokum—for answers to so many questions; and the grandmother who persists in getting the child to answer the questions for himself. Ultimately, he realizes that she is right and that he should learn to read. "I now have come to see a need. I'll use it as we use our songs/ And hope it

serves us just as long.” Grandmother replies: “I’m waiting, child, to lend a hand/When I know that you need me/ For now your Nokum is content/ To watch you learn to see.”

Boyden, Linda. ***Powwow’s Coming***. Illustrated by the author. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 2007. 30 pp. ISBN: 978-0-8263-4265-2

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #6

Picture Book - Grades K and up

Summary:

“Powwow’s coming, hear the beat? / Powwow’s coming, dancing feet./ Powwow’s coming, hear the drum?/ Powwow’s coming, everyone!” Through contemporary image and sound in language children can’t help but love, this book provides a powerful contradiction to four centuries of misconceptions and stereotypes of Indians.

Bragg, Lynn (**Métis**). ***A River Lost***. Illustrated by Virgin “Smoker” Marchand (**Coleville**). Blaine, WA: Hancock House Publishers, Ltd, 1996. 32 pp. ISBN: 0-88839-383-0

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #5, #6

Non-fiction Picture Book – Grades 3 and up

Summary:

With the building of the Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River came devastating consequences for the Arrow Lake tribal people and their traditional ways of life and patterns of trade between the Coastal and Plains peoples. With no fish ladders, the salmon could no longer swim upstream to spawn past the dam. “Sinee mat” and her great-grandmother “Toopa” tell the engaging story of life before and after the dam. What is lost and how do people survive?

Although a children’s book, *A River Lost* could be used as an introduction to two novels: *Wind from an Enemy Sky* by D’Arcy McNickle, probably about Kerr Dam in the Mission Mountains, or *Green Grass Running Water* by Thomas King, about the impact of a fictional-but-real dam built somewhere north of Glacier Park.

AR Book: Bruchac, Joseph. (**Abenaki/Slavic**) ***A Boy Called Slow***. Illustrated by Rocco Baviera. New York: Philomel Books, 1994. 28 pages. ISBN 0-8037-2078-5

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #6

Juvenile Fiction – Grades 3 - 9

Summary:

A boy, born to the Hunkpapa band of the Lakota Sioux, is called “Slow” until one winter a group of Lakota meets a Crow war party. Slow has the chance to earn his new name. “And so it was that the boy who was once called ‘Slow’ gained the name *Tatan’ka Iyota’ke*, a name which is known well, for *Tatan’ka Iyota’ke*, means Sitting Bull—one of the greatest of all the Lakota warriors.” This is his story.

AR Book: Bruchac, Joseph (**Abenaki/Slavic**). ***Buffalo Song***. Illustrated by Bill Farnsworth. New York, NY: Lee and Low Books, Inc., 2008. ISBN: 078-1-58430-280-3

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #5

Historical Fiction Picture Book Grades 2 and up

Summary:

According to the introductory notes, fewer than 1,500 buffalo remained in North America in the 1870’s. One of the individuals who contributed to their preservation was Walking Coyote, who gathered and protected orphan buffalo calves on the Flathead Indian Reservation. Michael Pablo purchased Walking

Coyote's herd and then formed a partnership with Charles Allard. This herd "grew into the hundreds" and reminded the Salish people of the spirit their people had always shared with the buffalo. However, after allotment on the Flathead, the free range disappeared, and the American Congress refused to purchase the herd. In hopes of preserving the herd, Pablo and Allard shipped and sold over 700 to the Canadian government. This story about the Pablo-Allard buffalo herd is one of the most striking examples of ways the buffalo were protected from extinction.

Bruchac's *Buffalo Song* tells of one buffalo calf's survival. In his acknowledgements, Bruchac relates how he came to know this story, particularly through *I Will Be Meat for My Salish People*. The Afterword provides further historical information about this remarkable achievement. Today, over 25,000 buffalo thrive in North America.

AR Book: Bruchac, Joseph. (Abenaki/Slavic) *Crazy Horse's Vision*. Illustrated by S.D. Nelson. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2000. 33 pp.. ISBN 1-880000-94-6

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #6

Juvenile Historical Fiction – Grades 3 - 8

Summary:

Based on the life of the dedicated young Lakota boy, *Crazy Horse's Vision* shows how he grew up to be one of the bravest defenders of his people. In the "Author's Note," Bruchac provides background of the Lakota peoples and the oral tradition and mystery that surrounded the life of Crazy Horse. Nelson's "Illustrator's Note" describes the influences for his paintings in this book.

AR Book: Bruchac, Joseph. (Abenaki/Slavic) *Jim Thorpe's Bright Path*. Illustrated by S.D. Nelson. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2004. 38 pp. ISBN 1-58430-166-X

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #5, #6

Juvenile Biography – Grades 3 - 8

Summary:

A story of the early years of Jim Thorpe, the son of a mixed-blood father (Sac and Fox) and a Pottowatomie woman, is born a twin in Indian Territory that would become Oklahoma. Jim Thorpe and his brother, Charlie, grow in the "old ways" and skills that made his father's people strong. But his father believes his boys need "white man's knowledge to survive." So he enrolls them in a boarding school twenty-three miles from their home. After three years, Charlie dies of pneumonia while at school. Devastated, Jim runs the twenty-three miles, and begs his father to let him stay home. To prevent his son from running away from school again, Pa Thorpe sends him to Haskell in Lawrence, Kansas – 300 miles away. There Jim learns manual tasks, "useful to white society," and there he learns to play football with a hand-made ball of scrap-leather stuffed with rags.

Again, following a family crisis, Thorpe runs the 300 miles home when he hears his father has been shot in a hunting accident. Although he recovers, Pa sends his son to another school closer to home – Garden Grove, where he learns about electricity. While there, a recruiter from Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania who is impressed with Jim's track accomplishments encourages Jim to transfer.

The rest of the book tells of Jim's introduction to high-jumping and competitive football. The last three pages complete the story of the person U.S. Congress would eventually resolve in 1999 to name "America's Athlete of the Century."

AR Book: Bruchac, Joseph. (Abenaki/Slavic). *Many Nations: an Alphabet of Native America* BridgeWater Paperback, 1998. ISBN: 0-8167-4460-2

**Essential Understandings #1, #3,
Children's Picture Book**

Summary:

Illustrated by Robert F. Goetzl, *Many Nations* teaches the alphabet while it depicts the diversity and beauty of Native American cultures and communities. Each page begins with a different Native American culture, or an animal, or an experience important to Native people: *Anishinabe, Blackfeet, Choctaw, Dakota . . . Eagle, Fox . . . Tuscarora, Umpqua, Visions . . .* "X marking the four directions," and finally *Zuni*. The illustration takes up most of each page, and the text is a series of parallel noun phrases: "Otoe fathers teaching sons how to walk with care. Penobscot mothers singing little ones to sleep."

AR Book: Bruchac, Joseph. (**Abenaki/Slavic**) *Navajo Long Walk*. Illustrated by Shonto Begay. Washington, D.C: National Geographic Society, 2002. 47 pp ISBN 0-7922-7058-4

Essential Understandings #1, #5, #6

Juvenile Fiction – Grades 3 - 9

Summary:

From the book jacket: "1864, the tragic story of a proud people's forced march from their homeland to Bosque Redondo, a reservation so desolate that 'only the wind could live there.' The general in charge believes it is his duty to 'kill the Indian and save the man.' This is how the Army would 'civilize' the Navajos. It is also a story of triumph, of the eventual proud return of the survivors to Dinetah, of their determination to live in peace."

AR Book: Bruchac, Marge (**Abenaki**). *Malian's Song*. Illustrated by William Maughan. Hanover, VT: University Press of New England and the Vermont Folklife Center, 2005. 30 pp. ISBN: 0-916718-26-3

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #5, #6

Historical Fiction – Grades 3 and up

Summary:

On October 4, 1759, the English attacked an Abenaki village on the St. Francis River, near the St. Lawrence, north of Montreal. *Malian's Song* is based on this true story and facts that directly contradict a report in a soldier's journal. "Jeanne Brink, a modern-day Abenaki descendant living in Vermont, told the little-known version of the brutal attack to the Vermont Folklife Center. In the text that interweaves Abenaki and English, Abenaki historian Marge Bruchac presents a story of a people's strength and fortitude in the face of unspeakable loss." (Book Jacket)

Buckley, Ray (**Lakota/Tlingit/Scots**). *Christmas Moccasins*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2003. 26 pp. ISBN: 0-687-02738-1

Essential Understanding #2

Picture Book Grades 2 and up

Summary:

Through poetic imagery and illustrations in full color by Ray Buckley, *Christmas Moccasins* begins on a winter night as a boy and his grandmother walk home – her moccasins making "rounded snow-hugs" in the snow. The speaker wonders if the trees remember another cold night in October when three drunken teens mugged them and stole his grandmother's moccasins, and she suffers frostbite and the loss of two toes.

After that night, the grandmother beads three pairs of moccasins, even the bottoms. On Christmas Eve, she and her grandson walk to where the three boys live. "We're here to do the Creator's work," she tells her grandson. As they leave, she touches the trees to let them know "It's ok." The story closes with a reminder of

the impact of forgiveness on all: "In the small house were captives of God's love. But we were truly free, liberated by the same love."

Campbell, Maria. **(French Canadian/Cree). *People of the Buffalo: How the Plains Indians Lived.*** Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1976c. 47 pp
ISBN: 0-88894-329-6

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #6

Juvenile History/Culture - All ages

Summary:

Countering stereotypes of the romanticized Plains Indians, this book describes how Plains Indians lived, communicating the spiritual connection among all aspects of life, where "every part of life and all forms of life made up 'the whole.'" *People of the Buffalo* describes the area and languages of the people, other means of communication, the traditional respect for tribal territories, Beliefs and Ceremonies, and the importance of sacred ritual, the Family, Shelter, Food, Storage and Utensils, Clothing, Transportation, and Warfare. "Today Indian people are . . . going back to their spiritual way of life. That is the most important weapon of all: to know who you are and where you come from." (47)

Campbell, Maria. **(French Canadian/Cree). *Riel's People: How the Métis Lived.*** Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1978c. 47 pp ISBN: 0-88894-393-8

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #6

Juvenile History/Culture - All ages

Summary:

In the late 1880's, Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont led a Métis rebellion. The descendents of the people who followed them continue to live in north-central Montana. Blending drawings with story, this book describes how the Métis lived while it also tells the story of Riel and Dumont.

AR Book: Campbell, Nicola I **(Interior Salish/Métis). *Shin-chi's Canoe.*** Illustrated by Kim LaFave. Berkeley, CA: Groundwood Books, 2008. 34 pp. ISBN: 13-978-09-88899-857-6

Essential Understandings #2, #5, #6

Picture Book Grades 2 and up

Summary:

In this sequel to her first book, *Shi-shi-etko*, Campbell maintains the same vivid imagery and powerful insight. Shi-shi-etko will return to boarding school, but this time her younger brother will come along. She has learned that they will cut her braids once she gets to school, so she asks her Yayah to cut them off before she goes and to put them away in a safe place. Shi-shi-etko and her brother ask their father for their very own canoe when they return in the spring, and he gives them a tiny canoe to remind them of home. At the school, the two children are separated and forbidden to speak their language. The rest is an all-too-common story of loneliness, ritual, training for manual labor, mass every day, never enough food, and a little mischief. When the Sockeye Salmon return in the spring, the cattle truck take the children back home where their father presents them with their very own dugout canoe.

AR Book: Campbell, Nicola I **(Interior Salish/Métis). *Shi-shi-etko.*** Illustrated by Kim LaFave. Berkeley, CA: Groundwood Books, 2005. 28 pp. ISBN: 0-88899-659-4

Essential Understandings #2, #5, #6

Picture Book Grades 2 and up

Summary:

Growing up native in British Columbia's Nicola Valley, the author writes in prose poetry the hundred-year-long story of most native children in Canada: the leaving of family and home to attend Indian Residential (Boarding) School, sometimes hundreds of miles away from home. Children were sent away to "learn European culture and religion. Parents were put in jail if they didn't send their children to these schools. Can you imagine a community without children? Can you imagine children without parents?" writes Campbell in her introduction.

Shi-shi-etko "loves to play in the water" and has four days to spend with her family before a cattle truck will take her and other children far away from home. First she bathes in the creek with her mother who tells her that they will not see each other "until the wild roses bloom in the spring and the salmon have returned to our river. I want you to remember the ways of our people." Then she visits her Yayah (grandmother) and sleeps under her patchwork quilt. The next day her father takes her on a canoe ride on the lake where they can hear "the whistling birds and their paddles breaking the surface of the lake, surrounding them with ripples." On the third day, her yayah gives her a small deer-hide bag, and they walk into the trees so Shi-shi-etko can put sprigs of "blueberry, salmonberry, saskatoon and huckleberry bushes" in her memory bag. The last image in the book is the truck taking the children away, but Shi-shi-etko will survive because she has "memorized" the landscape of home.

Aside from the powerful story of family love and loss, and hope, the writing and illustrations are truly wonderful works of art.

AR Book: Cuthand, Ruth(**Cree**). *The Little Duck - Sikihipsis*. Cree translation by Stan Cuthand. Illustrated by Mary Longman(**Saulteaux**). Penticton, British Columbia: Theytus Books, Ltd., 2003. ISBN: 1-894778-10-3

Essential Understandings: #1, #3

Picture Book Grades K and up

Summary:

Written in both Cree and English, *The Little Duck* tells the story of a lonely mud duck who admires the Cree people and their happy way of life. Although he tries to fit in by dressing himself as a dancer, he finds it difficult to communicate because he can only speak in "duck quacking sounds," and he doesn't understand Cree. A kind old woman points an invitation for him to join the dance, but the men and women accidentally step on him. "Bruised and battered, the little duck waddled broken hearted, back to the swamp." When he is most sad, he hears many mud ducks overhead, "calling, glorious wonderful mud duck words . . ." He realizes then that he'll never be lonely again.

The Little Duck reminds us of "The Ugly Duckling" story, as it poses questions about language, culture, and identity, and our need for selfworth and belonging.

Crow, Allan (**Ojibwe**). *The Crying Christmas Tree*. Illustrated by David Beyer (**Cree**). Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada: Pemmican Publications, Inc. 1989. 14 pp.

ISBN: 0-921827-13-X

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #6

Picture Book Grades K-4

Summary:

In *The Crying Christmas Tree*, set a "long time ago" on the Whitefish Bay Reserve in Ontario, a grandmother cuts down a little tree to surprise her grandchildren for Christmas. They laugh at the little tree and promise to get their Kokum a better one. In a dream, she hears the tree crying. Although she feels sad and angry, Kokum's husband convinces her that the grandchildren might learn a lesson from this. And they

do. They bring in the tree and decorate it. When they see how far she had walked to get that little tree, they realize she must have loved them very much. This is a very realistic story about “what Christmas is all about.”

Dawavendewa, Gerald (**Hopi-Cherokee**). *The Butterfly Dance*. New York: Abbeville Press, 2001. 29 pp. ISBN: 0-7892-161-5

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #6

Picture Books

Summary:

This is the story of a young Hopi girl, Sihumana or Flower Maiden who prepares for her first Butterfly Dance. The story concludes with an explanation of The Butterfly Dance, a Glossary, and The Hopi.

De Coteau Orié, Sandra (**Oneida**). *Did You Hear Wind Sing Your Name?* Illustrations by Christopher Canyon. New York: Walker and Company, 1995. ISBN: 0-8027-7485-7 28 pp.

Essential Understandings #1, #3

Picture Book, Poetry and Art Grades K- and up

Summary:

The art and language in this amazing story of welcoming spring depict the Oneida people’s relationship with nature. On every page, through word and sensory image, the storyteller invites the reader to move into this wonderful “Sacred Circle of Spring.”

Ducharme, Linda. *The Bannock Book*. (**Métis**) Illustrated by Linda Ducharme. Winnipeg, Manitoba, 2007. ISBN: 978-1-894717-40-3

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3

Picture Book – Grades K and up

Summary:

With a child as a first-person narrator, this story shows how she makes bannock with her mother. The book also includes two separate recipes—one for diabetics and the traditional one, and it concludes with an explanation of diabetes.

Ducharme, Linda. *Pepere Played the Fiddle*. (**Métis**) Illustrated by Linda Ducharme. Winnipeg, Manitoba, 2006. ISBN: 1-894717-37-6

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3,

Picture Book – Grades K and up

Summary:

In the rhythm of a dance, *Pepere Played the Fiddle* celebrates the Métis fiddlers and their vital culture in word (including some Michif, the language of the Métis) and image.

Edwardson, Debby Dahl. (**Iñupiaq**). *Whale Snow*. Illustrated by Annie Patterson. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2004. 30 pp.

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #5

Picture Book – Grades 2 and up

Summary:

The culture and tradition of bowhead whaling in northern Alaska are portrayed in this story of Amiqqaq’s connection to a tradition through family and community.

Einarson, Earl(**Ktunaxa First Nation**). *The Moccasins*. Illustrated by Julie Flett (**Cree/ Métis**). British Columbia Arts Council: Theytus Books, 2005. 10 pp. ISBN:1-89477814-6

Essential Understandings #2

Picture Book, Memoir Grades K - 3

Summary:

A story about unconditional love, *The Moccasins* begins in a child's foster home, where he feels secure. His foster mother gives him a pair of beaded moccasins that he wears until they are too small for him. When he grows up, she visits him and gives him the worn moccasins so he can give them to his own child. "When I give [my child] the moccasins, I will tell him how safe and loved I felt. I will tell him how proud I am to be Native." Children will want to hear and read this story over and over again.

AR Book: Erdrich, Lise(**Turtle Mountain Chippewa**). *Bears Make Rock Soup and other stories*. Paintings by Lisa Fifield (**Ojibwe**). San Francisco, CA: Children's Book Press, 2002. 32 pp. ISBN: 0-89239-172-3

Essential Understandings #3

Picture Book K - 3

Summary:

A collection of stories created by the author and inspired by paintings that depict the special relationships between the plains and woodland Indians and such animals as bear, deer, moose, crows, and loons. No specific nation is ever named.

AR Book: Erdrich, Lise. (**Turtle Mountain Chippewa**). *Sacagawea*. Artwork by Julie Buffalohead(**Ponca**). Minneapolis, MN: Carolrkoda Books, Inc., 2003. 38 pages
ISBN: 0-87614-646-9

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #5, #6

Juvenile Biography - Grades 3-8

Summary:

A biography of the Shoshone girl Sacagawea from age eleven when she was kidnapped by the Hitdatsa to the end of her journey with Lewis and Clark, plus speculation about her later life in the "Afterword." In the "Author's Note," Erdrich explains the spelling, meaning, and pronunciation of the name. The end includes a map of the Lewis and Clark journey, together with a time line indicating dates relevant to Sakagawea.

Erdrich, Louise (**Turtle Mountain Chippewa/German**). *Grandmother's Pigeon*.

Illustrated by Jim LaMarche. New York: Hyperion Paperbacks for Children, 1999. 31 pp. ISBN 0-7868-0165-4

Essential Understandings #2,

Grades K and up

Summary:

Winner of Smithsonian Notable Book for children, *Parenting Magazine* Reading Magic Award, and Missouri Show Me Readers Award, *Grandmother's Pigeon* is the story of a family, left behind with memories and collections when their mysterious and mystical grandmother boards a porpoise for Greenland. First aiming west, then south, she calls out to the children, "I'll go the scenic route!"

A magical story about loss and grief, about hope and recovery, *Grandmother's Pigeon* is also about the way memory and imagination can heal. Just as the family must let go of grandmother when she leaves on the porpoise, they let the pigeons go. The story addresses several significant issues: the value and necessity of grandparents in children's lives, our need to protect the environment and endangered species, respect for all creatures' rights to freedom, the value of concrete treasures to remind us of those who have left or died, and

the truth that “what goes around comes around” in a positive way. Although *Grandmother’s Pigeon* is currently out of print, it may be obtained through inter-library loan or used through Amazon and Powell Books.

AR Book: Erdrich, Louise(**Turtle Mountain Chippewa/German**). *The Range Eternal*. Illustrated by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2002.

ISBN: 0-78680220-0

**Essential Understandings #2,
Grades K and up**

Summary:

This beautifully illustrated picture book is based on the memories of the author’s grandparents’ home and an old stove in the Turtle Mountains of South Dakota, where the narrator’s remembered treasure, “The Range Eternal, the warm heart of the house,” represents much more than a practical way to cook and heat a home. Erdrich’s story can serve as the prompt for students to think about family treasures, to consider the various ways a physical object might touch individuals, keeping family stories and relationships alive.

Eyvindson, Peter. *Red Parka Mary*. Illustrated by Rbian Brynjolson. Winnipeg, Manitoba: Pemmican Publications, Inc., 1996. ISBN: 978-9-921827-50-4 36 pp.

**Essential Understandings #2,
Picture Book K and up**

Summary:

A little boy is afraid of an old woman he meets on the way to school. But his fears disappear as the two become friends. She teaches him “how to snare a rabbit, how to skin it, how to thread a needle, how to make leather soft and supple, and finally how to line [his own] homemade moccasins with rabbit fur.” It’s a great book to pair with *Where Did You Get Your Moccasins* by Bernelda Wheeler.

Flett, Julie (**Metis Nation of Vancouver, BC**). *Owls See Clearly at Night: a Mischif Alphabet*. Simply Read Books, 2010. ISBN: 978-1-897476-28-4

**Essential Understandings #1, #3,
Picture Book K and up**

Summary:

With an Introduction to the Michif or Métis Language (Cree and French), this is an alphabet books that uses words in English as well as Michif: “Li Bafloo” or Buffalo; “La Niizh” or Snow. The illustrations are simple and easy for children to understand, and they, with the words, introduce the Métis culture and language to children of all ages. Because this language is at risk of disappearing, this book is part of a resurgence to celebrate the language and culture.

AR Book: Grace, Catherine O’Neill, and Margaret M. Bruchac (**Abenaki**). *1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving*. Photographs by Sisse Brimberg and Cotton Coulson. National Geographic Society, 2001. 48 pp. ISBN: 0-7922-7027-4

**Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, particularly #6
Juvenile Literature and History 4th and up**

Summary:

1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving questions the myths our children have learned about history, what we think and what we know, and this book include the voices of the Wampanoag, participants of the “First Thanksgiving.”

Greene, Jennifer (**Salish**). *Huckleberries, Buttercups, and Celebrations*. Antoine Sandoval, artist, (**Salish and Diné**). Arlee, MT: Npustin Press, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-9816834-8-5

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #6

History and Culture and Poetry 3rd and up

Summary:

This beautifully illustrated picture book, published on the Flathead Reservation, tells through poetry and art the cultural activities of the Salish people for each of the twelve months. The book also includes additional explanation of the Salish names for the months.

Harjo, Joy. (**Muskogee Creek**) *For a Girl Becoming*. Illustrated by Mercedes McDonald. Tuscon, AZ: University of Arizona Press, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-8165-2797-7

Essential Understandings #2, #5

Picture Book Poetry – Grades 4 and Up

Summary:

We want to hear these words read aloud over and over again. Beginning and ending with the mother who “labored there,” this artistically illustrated poem tells the journey of a woman from birth to adulthood, with the influences of all who positively guide the woman through her joys and sorrows. We will want to give this book to all our daughters.

AR Book: Harjo, Joy. (**Muskogee Creek**) *The Good Luck Cat*. Illustrated by Paul Lee. New York Harcourt, Inc., 2000. ISBN: 0-15-232197-7

Essential Understandings #2

Children’s literature – Grades K-3

Summary:

Few relationships are as sacred and close as children and their pets. Children grieve whenever their pets are injured or lost, often suffering grief that equals the loss of another human being.

In *The Good Luck Cat*, a pet survives to live beyond the designated life-span of nine, for cats. The narrator herself nearly causes Woogie to lose her “eighth life” when she wants to take the cat to a powwow. Disobeying her parents, she packs the cat in the trunk of the car—in the summer. Finally, after the cat disappears for four nights, the narrator sings Woogie’s “favorite song” and asks “her to come home,” and the narrator sees her cat running towards her in a dream. The next morning Woogie, a little the worse for wear, lies sleeping by her empty feed dish, the meat loaf all gone. An accomplished poet and musician, this wonderful story is Harjo’s first children’s book. Told in a child’s voice, the pages sound alive in words, phrases and images.

Harper, Maddie (**Ojibwe**). *“Mush-hole” Memories of a Residential School*. Illustrations by Carlos Freire. Toronto, Ontario: Sister Vision Press, 1993. 15 pp. ISBN: 0-920813-98-4

Essential Understandings #2, #5, #6

Picture Book, Non-fiction, Memoir Grades 3 and up

Summary:

With one child surrounded by clocks and gears, and another one crying beneath a strong hand, the cover art sets the heart-breaking tone of Harper's story. In the United States, they called them "boarding or industrial schools" but in Canada they were "residential schools." In both countries, the system of forced assimilation and devastating separation of families was the same.

Harper's story is about her eight-year experience at the Brantford School where they eat mush every morning. In this little book, she writes about clocks controlling their lives, the "bare ass" spankings, the death of her mother while Harper is away at the school, and the influence of the church.

After running away, she returns to the reserve where she no longer fits in. Her experience of confusion and low self-esteem is not uncommon for many native people, and she uses it as justification for turning to alcohol. Although she tries to find herself in the church that she's known in residential school, she admits it was not enough. In 1980, she meets some elders who show her the ways of the Creator and give her back her identity.

This story vividly portrays the ways boarding schools tragically impacted generations of native people. Although the images and some of the language might disturb children, what better way to foster understanding than to have them read one individual's "real story."

Hirschi, Ron. *People of Salmon and Cedar*. New York: Cobblehill Books, 1996. 42 pp. ISBN: 0-525-65183-7
Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #5, #6
Picture Book, Non-fiction Grades 3 and up

Summary:

Having worked for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe as their Fisheries Biologist, Hirschi's job was to protect salmon habitat during logging. This is the first published book for children to include the S'Klallam Indian language. This story includes quotes from Chief Seattle, original drawings and early photographs by Edward S. Curtis.

Hunsaker, Joyce Badgley. *They Call Me Sacagawea*. Helena, MT: TwoDot Press, 2003. 48 pp. ISBN: 0-7627-2580

Photo Essay Picture Book – Grades 2 and up

Summary: Hunsakers family bloodlines include Cherokee, Sioux, English, French, and Scots-Irish. Historical fiction (narrative) with full-color photographs of artifacts with a variety of non-fiction voices in side-bar texts.

Jaakola, Lyz (**Lake Superior Chippewa**). *Our Journey*. Illustrated by Karen Savage-Blue. University of Minnesota Duluth: Minnesota: Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, 2001 and 2004. ISBN: 0-9709443-0-6.

Essential Understandings #1, #3

Picture Book – Board book

Summary:

Using Ojibway and English, through greetings to the four directions, the earth, family, and to the Sun with *Anin* (Hello) and *Miigwech* (Thanks), children hear repetition supported with full-color paintings.

Jordan-Fenton, Christy and Margaret. (**Inuit**) *When I Was Eight*. Art by Gabrielle Grimard. New York, NY: Annick Press, 2013.

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #5, #6

Picture Book – Grades 3 and up

Summary:

In first person, Jordan-Fenton tells her own story about her first year at boarding school in Aklavik, Alaska. At home near the Arctic Ocean, she begs her father to let her go to school because Olemaun wants to learn to read. After she [wears away] at her father all winter, he finally lets her go. But once there, they cut her hair, change her name to Margaret, and scrubs floors, day after day. Still she persists, despite conflicts with a teacher/nun and with other students, and learns to read.

Margaret (Olemaun) is a great model for reluctant readers. At the end she writes: "I felt a great happiness inside that I dared not show . . . I was Olemaun, conqueror of evil, reader of books . . . I was brave, clever, and as unyielding as the strong stone that sharpens an ulu. I finally knew this, like I knew many things, because now I could read."

Kipp, Kathleen A. Connelly (**Blackfeet**). *Berry Boy in the Buffalo Days*. Illustrated by Moriah Ann Kipp. 23 pp. ISBN: 978-1-4535-1703-1

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #5, #6

Picture Book

Summary:

The Introduction of this engaging story provides background of the pre-contact Blackfeet or Pikuni people, the time of suffering after the Bear River (Marias River) Massacre, Boarding Schools, treaties that shrunk and eliminated much of their hunting territory, and the Blackfeet Reservation today. They called themselves "Neetseetahpee" or "Real People," and they followed the buffalo for countless generations from the Yellowstone River to the Saskatchewan River, and from the Rocky Mountains to the headwaters of the Missouri.

Set in the pre-contact time, Berry Boy is the son of Calf Woman (Kathy Kipp's Indian name), and he loves to eat fresh berries she picks for him. As he grows older, he learns the lessons he needs to be a responsible adult in the community. He learns to ride a horse and to hunt. One day he gets his first buffalo calf which provides shelter and food and tools for him and for his people.

Kreipe de Montano, Marty (**Potawatomi**). *Coyote in Love with a Star*. Illustrated by Tom Coffin(**Potawatomi**). New York: Abbeville Publishing, 1998. 30 pp.

ISBN: 0-7892-0162-3

Essential Understandings #1, #3

Picture Book

Summary:

On the Potawatomi Reservation in Kansas, Coyote is lonely, so he moves to New York City in search of work and friends. There he finds himself a job as Rodent Control Officer at the World Trade Center, and he falls in love with beautiful star.

AR Book: Kusugak, Michael Arvaarluk (**Inuit**). *Baseball Bats for Christmas*. Illustrated by Vladyana Krykorka. New York: Annick Press Ltd, 1990. 20 pp. ISBN: 1-55037-145-2

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3

Picture Book, Juvenile Fiction Grades 2 and up

Summary:

Arvaarluk is a little boy with asthma, and he loves Christmas. Every Christmas, Rocky Parsons would bring supplies in his Norseman aeroplane to Repulse Bay, at the top of Hudson's Bay in the Arctic Circle. In 1955 he brings something new, something the people have never seen except in Father Didier's books--six "standing ups" or Christmas trees. The children and their father know just what to do with them – make

baseball bats, and Arvaarluk plays all spring and summer until all the bats break and it's time for Rocky to bring more trees.

The story demonstrates the power of ingenuity to create happiness, and the way a boy can prevail over a chronic condition such as asthma.

AR Book: Kusugak, Michael Arvaarluk (**Inuit**). *Northern Lights The Soccer Trails*. Illustrated by Vladyana Krykorka. New York: Annick Press Ltd, 2005. 20 pp. ISBN: 1-55037-338-2

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3

Picture Book, Juvenile Fiction Grades 2 and up

Summary:

Beautifully illustrated, this is the sad but wonderful story of a child's loss and the comfort she receives when her grandmother tells her a story about what happens to people when they die and how they go up into the sky and play soccer, the game they all loved when they lived on earth. Kataujaq is comforted when she thinks of her mother being close to her every time she sees the Northern Lights.

Lacapa, Michael (**Apache/Hopi/Tewa**) and Kathleen Lacapa(**Irish, English, Mohawk**). *Less than Half, More than Whole*. Illustrated by Michael Lacapa. Taylor, AZ: Storytellers Publishing House, 2001. 34 pp. ISBN: 0-9741275-0-X

Picture Book - 3 and up

Summary:

Michael Lacapa, a traditional storyteller and educator, earned his MFA from the University of Arizona in Flagstaff. He and his wife wrote this wonderfully illustrated contemporary story together for their children and for all children who come from differing backgrounds and wonder "Where do I belong?"

When three boys are throwing rocks into the water, they lean over and see their very different reflections. "Scott's hair was yellow, and his eyes were the color of the sky. Will's skin was brown, and his hair black as night. Tony saw that he wasn't as dark as Will or as light as Scott." When Tony comments about the difference, his Indian friend remarks, "I think you're only half, or less than half" Indian. Disturbed, Tony asks his brother and sister about it. They understand because they asked the same question at his age, but for them it's not a problem. Throughout the story, Tony interacts with relatives who remind him that differences in color make butterflies, horses, corn, and people unique. His grandfather on the reservation tells him, "Just as the corn with its many colors is a gift to the people, so you are a gift from the Creator."

Less Than Half, More Than Whole concludes with the Lacapa's Glossary of Concepts, Terms, and Designs. Teachers could pair this with *Two Pairs Shoes* by Esther Sanderson.

Lakota Language Consortium and Delores Taken Alive. (**Lakota**). *Prairie Dog Goes to School*. Illustrated by František Valer. Bloomington, IN: Lakota Language Consortium, Inc., 2004. unpaginated. ISBN: 0-9761082-4-0

Essential Understandings #1, #3

A bilingual Lakota-English Picture Book K and up

Summary:

This counting book begins as the narrator sees Prairie Dog going to school. On his way, he is joined by eight other animals. Bear counts the students, and then there are "ten" animals. The story teaches the Lakota words for each number and each animal.

Lakota Language Consortium and Kayo Bad Heart Bull. (**Lakota**). *The Buffalo and the Boat*. Illustrated by František Valer. Bloomington, IN: Lakota Language Consortium, Inc., 2004. unpaginated. ISBN: 0-9761082-3-2

Essential Understandings #1, #3

A bilingual Lakota-English Picture Book K and up

Summary:

When a buffalo begins to travel in his “buffalo boat,” several animals ask to come along until the group outweighs what the boat can handle. A delightful story about natural consequences, each page begins with the Lakota version followed by the English. The glossary at the end features the animal next to the Lakota printed name, and the last page shows the Lakota and the English word.

LaDuke, Winona and Waseyabin Kapashesit(**Anishinaabeg**). *The Sugar Bush*. Photography by John Ratzloff. Barrington, IL: Rigby, 1999. 15 pp. ISBN: 0-7635-5707-2

Essential Understandings #1, #2

Non-fiction, Photo Essay - K and up

Summary:

How do the Anishinaabeg or Chippewa in Northern Minnesota make sugar? From the perspective of Waseyabin who lives “in the big woods,” sugar making begins with the revitalization of forests and their value to the White Earth Reservation people. With color photographs, readers can see how the sugar bush and its maple trees give sap, the juice that comes from the tree’s roots. Waseyabin and her friends collect the sap, transport it in buckets by wagon and team, and boil it to make gallons of syrup. This is an ancient practice that the young are learning from their elders.

Lawson, Cheri (**Salish**). *Chip the Buffalo*. Luminary Media Group, and imprint of Pine Orchard, Inc., 2006 www.pineorchard.com 27 pp. ISBN: 1-93050-61-4

Essential Understandings #2, #6

Non-fiction/Photo Essay - Picture Book Grades K and up

Summary:

Based on a true story, with stunning photographs by Tammy Beerntsen and painted illustrations of a meadowlark and killdeer, a buffalo, bluebird and eagle by J. Lawson, *Chip the Buffalo* shows how the Lawson family raised an orphaned buffalo calf on their buffalo ranch on the Flathead. The book includes “Facts about Buffalo” and some “Facts about Montana.” Even the youngest children will be drawn to the photographs and the very realistic and fun dialog, as well as the details about the care and development of buffalo. It would be hard to find a more engaging story and resource about buffalo.

Loewen, Iris (**Cree**). *My Kokum Called Today*. Illustrated by Gloria Miller. Winnipeg, Manitoba: Pemmican Publications, Inc., 1993. 20 pp. ISBN: 978-0-921827-36-8

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #6

Picture Book Grades K and up

Summary:

The eleven-year-old narrator and her mother live in a city, 200 miles away from an Indian Reserve where her Kokum (Grandmother) lives. Because there is a round dance on the reserve, the grandmother calls and asks them to come. In her anticipation of the trip, this young girl remembers all that her grandmother has taught her—Cree language, what plants are good for making medicine, how to make moccasins and bannock and jam. She can’t wait to see all her relatives and is eager to climb in the car for the long ride.

MacGregor, Carol Lynn. *Shoshoni Pony*. Illustrated by Dick Lee. Caldwell, ID: Caxton Press, 2003. ISBN: 0-87004043101

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #5, #6

Historical/Juvenile Literature- Picture Book Grades 2 and up

Summary:

The author is a native Idahoan and a historian who teaches history at Boise State University. According to the curator in the Sho Ban Museum in Fort Hall, ID, MacGregor and her work are widely accepted and praised by the Shoshoni people in Idaho.

Shoshoni Pony is the story of how the Shoshoni people lived before horses and the events that led up to their being the first tribe in the Northwest to obtain horses. One or two paragraphs of engaging detail appear on each page facing an illustration. A major event that would ultimately result in the Shoshoni having horses occurred in 1680 when the Pueblos drove the Spanish out of Santa Fe, leaving many horses behind. "The Comanches, Navajos and Apaches captured some of the Spanish horses from the Pueblos" and then traded them to other tribes. "By 1700, Northern Shoshoni Indians had horses they got from the Comanches" who spoke the same language as the Shoshoni. The rest of the book goes on to tell how they became excellent riders and trainers, trading their horses with other Northwest tribes as well as with Lewis and Clark. "Horses became the source of [the Shoshoni people's] wealth, security, and wellbeing."

Shoshoni Pony concludes with a glossary of fourteen words and a list of print resources the author used for information found in the book.

AR Book: Messinger, Carla (**Turtle Clan Lenape**) with Susan Katz. *When the Shadbush Blooms*. Illustrated by David Kanietakeron Fadden. Berkeley, CA: Tricycle Press, 2007.

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #5, #3, #6

Book Grades 2 and up

Summary:

The story features vivid illustrations with the past of the Lenape people on the left and contemporary Lenape on the right. It is divided into Moons and at the end, the authors tell the history of the Lenni Lenape, the people Europeans renamed "Delaware," and more about the Lenape Seasons. According to Karen Coody Cooper (Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma), Museum Training Coordinator, National Museum of the American Indian, "The book captures so much that is Native cycles, the particular roles and joys of people of different ages, plants and animals as integral parts of life, the richness of lives lived simply, and our connection to the past, and thus to the future. The language is crystalline, pure and sparkling, nothing wasted, nothing more needed."

Momaday, N. Scott (**Kiowa**). *Circle of Wonder: A Native American Christmas Story*. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1994. 40 pp. ISBN: 0-8263-2149-6

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #6

Picture Book - Grades 3 and up

Summary:

Written and illustrated by one of America's most notable novelists and poets, this is a story that springs from Momaday's own boyhood experience in Jemez Pueblo, New Mexico. *Circle of Wonder* is the story of Tolo, a mute boy, who lives alone with his memories and dreams because he has no voice. One Christmas Eve, he follows an image of his grandfather until he is centered in a world of "wonder and good will around the real gift of the fire, and beyond them were other wider circles, made of the meadow, the mountains, and the starry sky, all the fires and processions, all the voices and silences of all the world. Tolo knew then that he had been led to the center of the Holy Season . . . Never before had Tolo's heart been so full of joy (36)."

AR Book: Nelson, S. D. (**Dakota/Lakota Sioux**). *Gift Horse: A Lakota Story*. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 1999. 30 pp. ISBN: 0-8109-4127-9

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3

Picture Book/ Juvenile Literature Grades 2 and up

Summary:

The author's bold full-color illustrations, "done with acrylic paint on wood panel, are inspired by early ledger book drawings (1865-1935) of Plains Indian artists," says Nelson in his "Author's Note." Written in the first-person narrative of Flying Cloud, *Gift Horse* is a growing-up story about a boy whose father gives him Storm, a horse that he learns to love and care for, a horse that saves his life in a blizzard. With his horse, Flying Cloud learns essential lessons for surviving as an adult in this society, always keeping in mind the required skills for designation "warrior." Crow warriors steal many horses, including Storm, so Flying Cloud joins the raiding party to successfully rescue his horse. When he returns to his village, he is given "the shirt of a Lakota Warrior" that his mother and sister quilled for him. In his Author's note, Nelson explains the significance, meaning, or origin of several terms included in the text: Sioux and Lakota, Wakan Tanka, the Lakota and Cheyenne collaboration that defeated Custer, supernatural powers and symbols, rites of passage, sweat lodge, Vision Quest, the skills necessary to become a true Warrior, and counting coup.

Young people may easily compare and contrast the pre-contact Lakota rite of passage for young men as told in *Gift Horse* with Joe Medicine Crow's 20th Century story *Counting Coup* that is about rites of passage for the Crow. Both narratives answer these questions: What does it mean to be a man in my society and how can I achieve that status in the eyes of my community, not just myself?

AR Book: Nelson, S. D. (**Dakota/Lakota Sioux**). *Quiet Hero: The Ira Hayes Story*. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2006. unpaginated. ISBN: 1-58430-263-1

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 Picture Book/ Juvenile Literature Grades 3 and up

Summary:

Ira Hayes, one of six men who raised the flag on Iwo Jima, was a Pima Indian who served in the Marine Corps during WW II. When he returned to the United States, the media and military forced him into the limelight where he was counted as a hero, a title he never accepted for himself. This is a remarkably illustrated story of America during and after the war, of intense personal conflict, and of exploitation that resulted in personal heartache. In the Author's Note, Nelson provides black and white photographs of Hayes at different stages of his life, accompanied by photos and the story of Joe Rosenthal, the combat photographer who took the picture of the men raising the flag on Mount Suribachi.

Nicholson, Caitlin Dale with Leona Morin-Neilson (**Cree**). *Niwechiasw I Help*.

Berkeley, CA: Groundwood Books House of Anansi Press, 2008. 22 pp. ISBN-13: 978-0-88899-812-5

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3

Picture Book Grades K and up

Summary:

This beautiful book very simply portrays the relationship between a boy and his Kokum as they pick berries together. Each page has a simple sentence in both English and Cree.

AR Book: Ortiz, Simon J. (**Acoma Pueblo**). *The People Shall Continue*. Illustrated by Sharol Graves. San Francisco: Children's Book Press, 1977. ISBN: 0-90230-125-1

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7

Non-fiction/History/poetry – Grades 4 - 12

Summary:

A narrative poem from the point of view of American Indian peoples, *The People Shall Continue* recounts the history of European contact on the American Continent from 1492 to the present. At the end, the People see: “Black People, Chicano People/ Asian People, many White People and others/who were kept poor by American wealth and power/ The People saw that these People/ who were not rich and powerful shared/ a common life with them/ The People realized they must share /their history with them.” (23) The result of this sharing is a communal yet very personal power to overcome any debilitating conflicts. *The People Shall Continue* is an excellent overview for all ages of the "American" story from the tribal perspective; however, they need a background in American History to understand it.

Perez, Georgia. **(Nambe Pueblo). *Through the Eyes of the Eagle***. Illustrated by Patrick Rolo **(Ojibway)** and Lisa A.Fifield **(Oneida)**. Eagle Books Series. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Diabetes Translation, National Diabetes Prevention Center. 2002 +. ISBN:

Essential Understandings: #2, #3, #6

Picture Book – Grades 1 and up

Summary:

Concerned about the diabetes epidemic among Indian people, the author began working with a physician in 1994 to develop a curriculum for diabetes education. In her forward story, Perez says, “During the development of the curriculum, I dreamed of being visited by an eagle. The eagle was showing me how life for native Americans used to be and what native people can do to prevent diabetes now.” *Through the Eyes of the Eagle* came out of that dream and is the first in a series of four. The other books include “Knees Lifted High,” “Plate full of Color,” “Tricky Treats.” 1-800-232-4636, cdcinfo@cdc.gov; www.cdc.gov/diabetes

Rain That Dances, wearing a football jersey and his cap on backwards, is a young Indian boy who lives in a small village. He plays with his friends and he sings and dances with the men of his village. One day when he’s out fishing, he sees an eagle who tells him about what he sees across “this great land” that makes him sad. The men, women and children who used to work hard to take care of each other are no longer active. The children eat food not good for them, and the elders suffer from diabetes. Rain That Dances knows the eagle is right because he sees the evidence in his village. So he asks eagle what he can do. The eagle tells the boy that he can help teach his people how they can be “healthy and strong again.”

Perez, Georgia. **(Nambe Pueblo). *Tricky Treats***. Illustrated by Patrick Rolo **(Ojibway)** and Lisa A.Fifield **(Oneida)**. Eagle Books Series. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Diabetes Translation, National Diabetes Prevention Center. 2002 +. ISBN:

Essential Understandings: #2, #3, #6

Picture Book – Grades 1 and up

Summary:

The fourth in the Eagle Books Series begins on the last day that Rain That Dances and his friends talk with the eagle. They are joined by Coyote and Miss Rabbit because they also want to know how to stay healthy. The children have brought snacks with them in case they get hungry. When the eagle sees the snacks, he compliments Rain that Dances for his healthy choices. Coyote tries to trick the children with the “sometimes food” that has “too much sugar in it.” The eagle teaches the children how to make healthy choices between “everyday” snacks and “sometimes” snacks, encouraging them to eat the latter less often. “Drink water and don’t take something that does not belong to you,” says Coyote who has learned a lesson.

A Glossary at the end provides definitions for *diabetes*, *glucose*, and *healthy*.

Rivera, Raquel. ***Arctic Adventures: Tales From the Lives of Inuit Artists***. Illustrated by Jirina Marton. Berkeley, CA: Groundwood Books, 2007. ISBN: 13-978-0-88899-7142

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #6

Non-fiction/Story and Biography – Grades 4 and up

Summary:

For each of the artists, *Arctic Adventures* includes a portrait, a brief biography and a reproduction of a print, painting or sculpture, as well as a glossary, map, and list of further reading.

AR Book: Roessel, Monty. ***Kinaald : A Navajo Girl Grows Up***. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1993. 46 pages. ISBN: 0-8225-9641-5

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #6

Non-fiction – Photo Essay - Grades 5 and up

Summary:

In his Foreword, Michael Dorris addresses the issue of identity and how we are “most ‘ourselves’” in the intimate circles of particular communities. These books in Lerner’s “We Are Still Here” series are from the insider’s view into those worlds of Native people. But Dorris concludes saying, “If we belong to another tribe, we will follow this special journey of initiation and education with interest, gaining respect for a way of doing things that’s rich and rewarding.”

Celinda McKelvey is thirteen, and this is the story of her “race,” the two-to-four day coming-of-age ceremony for Navajo girls when they first begin to menstruate. “Navajo people believe that the Kinaald is a way for young girls to understand what life will be like when they grow up. As she participates, a girl learns about her culture, and, for the first time, she feels the responsibility of her family. Even as she works side by side with her elders, she knows it is up to her to see that the Kinald is a success.” (9)

Although several might be out of print, other recommended photo essays include the following for ages 5 and up:

- **AR Book: **Children of Clay: A Family of Pueblo Potters***
- **AR Book: **Fort Chipewyan Homecoming: A Journey to Native Canada***
- **AR Book: **Children of Native America Today*** by Yvonne Wakim Dennis (**Cherokee**) and Arlene Hirschfelder with a forward by Buffy Sainte-Marie (Charlesbridge, 2003) Also, “An Activity and Resource Guide” to go with this.
- **AR Book: **Clambake: A Wamapanoag Tradition*** by Russell M. Peters (**Wampanoag**) with photographs by John Madama (Lerner, 1992).
- **AR Book: **Drumbeat Heartbeat: A Celebration of Powwow*** by Susan Braine (**Assiniboine, Fort Peck Reservation**) with illustrations by Carly Bordeau (**Anishinabe, White Earth, Minnesota**)(Lerner, 1995.)\
- ***Eagle Drum: On the Powwow Trail with a Young Grass Dancer** (A photo essay) by Robert Carum (Four Winds, 1994). An introduction by D. Chief Eagle, Jr. (**Rosebud Sioux**). This is about Louis Pierre, a member of the Pend Oreille of the Flathead Reservation in Montana.
- **AR Book: **Four Seasons of Corn: A Winnebago Tradition*** by Sally M. Hunter (**Ojibway**) with photographs by Joe Allen (Lerner, 1997).
- **AR Book: **Grandchildren of the Lakota*** by LaVera Rose (**Rosebud Sioux**) with photographs by Cheryl Walsh Bellville (Carolrhoda, 1998).

- **AR Book: **Ininatig's Gift of Sugar: Traditional Native Sugarmaking*** by Laura Waterman Wittstock (Seneca) with photographs by Dale Kakkak (**Menominee**) and illustrations by Carly Bordeau (**Anishinabe**) (Lerner, 1993).
- ****Katie Henjo, Navajo Shepherd*** by Peggy Thompson with photographs by Paul Conklin.
- **AR Book: **Lakota Hoop Dancer*** by Jacqueline Left Hand Bull (Sicangu Lakota Nation) and Suzanne Haldane with photographs by Suxanne Haldane (Dutton, 1999).
- ****One Nation, Many Tribes: How Kids Live in Milwaukee's Indian Community*** by Kathleen Krull and photographs by David Hautzig (Lodestar, 1995).
- ****The Sacred Harvest: Ojibway Wild Rice Gathering*** by Gordon Regguinti (**Leech Lake Band Ojibway**) with photographs by Dale Kakkak (**Menominee**) and a forward by Michael Dorris (**Modoc**) (Paper, Lerner, 1992) ISBN: 0-8225-9620-2
- ****Shannon, An Ojibway Dancer*** by Sandra King (**Red Lake band of Ojibway**), photographs by Catherine Whipple (**Lakota**) (Lerner, 1993).
- **AR Book: **Songs from the Loom: A Navajo Girl Learns to Weave*** by Monty Roessel (**Navajo**) (Lerner, 1995).
- **AR Book: **A Story to Tell: Traditions of a Tlingit Community*** by Richard Nichold (**Tewa Pueblo**) with photographs by D. Bambi Kraus (Lerner, 1998)

AR Book: Rumford, James and Anna Sixkiller Huckaby, translator (**Cherokee**). ***Sequoyah: The Cherokee Man Who Gave His People Writing***. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2004. 15 pages ISBN:0-618-36947-3

**Essential Understandings #1, #2,
Picture Book, Non-fiction Grades 1 and up
Summary:**

An amazing story from the 1820's, Sequoyah is a Cherokee who can't speak or write English. He invents an alphabet (a syllabary of eighty-four signs) for his people. Also known as George Guess or Gist, he believed writing would make his people strong. Anna Sixkiller Huckaby translated the story into Cherokee, so each page includes both English and Cherokee. A short biography at the end explains how the giant trees in California may have been called "Sequoia," and readers learn that there is a statue of Sequoyah in the U.S. Capitol building. The 84 letters and their phonetic pronunciations and significant dates of Sequoyah's life are also included at the end of the book.

Sanderson, Esther (**Pas Reserve Cree**). ***Two Pairs of Shoes***. Illustrated by David Beyer (**German-Canadian/Cree**). Winnipeg, Manitoba: Pemmican Publications, Inc, 2009. 10 pages ISBN: 978-0-921827-15-3

**Essential Understanding #2
Picture Book Grades 1-4
Summary:**

Dedicated to the author's children, and "all other children who walk in two pairs of shoes," this is a contemporary story of Maggie. For her birthday, her mother gives her a new

pair of black leather dress shoes. Overjoyed, she takes off her moccasins and runs to show her *Kokom* her new shoes. There her blind grandmother gives her another package with a pair of beaded moccasins she has made herself, the most beautiful pair Maggie has ever seen. Her grandmother hugs her and tells her to “remember when and how to wear each pair.” Of course, this story is about much more than shoes.

AR Book: Santiago, Chiori (**Japanese, Italian, Native American**). *Home to Medicine Mountain*. Illustrated by Judith Lowry (**Mountain Maidu, Hamawi Pit-River, Australian**). San Francisco, CA: Children’s Book Press, 1998. ISBN: 0-89239-176-6 28 pp

Essential Understanding #1, #2, #5

Picture Book Grades 2 and up

Summary:

In the 1930’s, two Mountain Maidu and Hamawi Pit-River boys, Benny Len and Stanley, are taken by train to the Riverside Boarding School, hundreds of miles from their home near Medicine Mountain. Although much of the story focuses on their life at the boarding school, the author’s primary purpose is to show how they “ride the rails,” leaving the boarding-school world of “sharp edges, shiny surfaces and shouting bells” to find their way home one summer to “the music of birds in the pines and wind in the branches” and grandmother.

At home they eat the good food their mother makes, and they enjoy the family laughing again. They listen “to their grandmother’s stories of cleverness and courage.” Although they have to return to boarding school, they don’t mind it so much because “now they know the way home.” *Home to Medicine Mountain* demonstrates the way children can use hope and ingenuity, and memories carried in dreams, to rise above the difficulties posed by federal policies that would separate Indian families.

AR Book: Savageau, Cheryl (**Abenaki/French**). *Muskrat Will Be Swimming*. Illustrated by Robert Hynes. Gardiner, Maine: Tilbury House Publishers, 1996. 30 pp. ISBN: 10-0-8848-280-4.

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3

Picture Book, Tradition and Culture – Grades K-5

Summary:

Poetic prose and realistic artwork together with traditional story and the conflict of a Native child, this is a beautiful book. When a young Native girl is called a Lake Rat because she lives by a lake in a place called “Shanty Town.” She loves where she lives, despite the criticism from her peers at school. From a dream and her Grandpa’s support and advice, she grows to accept herself and her world where she’s surrounded by family and music.

AR Book: Scott, Ann Herbert Scott. *On Mother’s Lap*. Illustrated by Glo Coalson. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1992.

Summary:

Michael, a little “Eskimo” boy, learns that his mother’s lap has room for everything he wants to bring to it. “Back and forth, back and forth, they all rocked on Mother’s lap.” Even when the baby wakes, there is still more room on Mother’s lap. The child doesn’t have to ask if his mother loves him. This is a story of love in action.

AR Book: Smith, Cynthia Leitich. **(Muscogee Creek) *Jingle Dancer***. Illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu. New York: Morrow Junior Books, 2000. ISBN 0-688-16241-X

Essential Understandings #2, #3

Children’s Book, Tradition and Culture – Grades K-5

Summary:

“Jenna, a member of the Muscogee Nation and also of Ojibway descent, is a child centered in the powwow tradition.”

This story demonstrates the circle of love that surrounds Jenna and the way the child completes the circle by dancing for “Great-aunt Sis, whose legs ached, . . . for Mrs. Scott, who sold fry bread, . . . for Elizabeth, who worked on her big case, . . . and for Grandma Wolfe, who warmed like Sun.”

Jingle Dancer concludes with an Author’s Note about the Creek nation, the importance of traditional story, and an explanation of the place of celebration, the jingle dress dance, and a description of the way dresses are usually made. And finally, a Glossary provides definitions for *fry bread*, *Indian taco*, *powwow*, and *regalia* (“not to be confused with costume”).

AR Book: Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk **(Lakota). *Bad River Boys: A Meeting of the Lakota Sioux with Lewis and Clark***. Illustrations by Bill Farnsworth. New York: Holiday House, 2005. 30 pp. ISBN: 0-8234-1856-1

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #6

Juvenile Historical Fiction - 3 and up

Summary:

On September 23, 1804, Captain Clark wrote about seeing three Sioux boys. Relying on the history of her people and the journals of Lewis and Clark, Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve imagines the story of the four days spent with the Sicangu or Burnt Thigh band of Lakota from the perspective of the three boys who observe the interactions between their elders and Lewis and Clark’s men. Needless to say, Sneve’s perspective told through the eyes of the boys and her interpretation of events and reporting of misinterpretations differ significantly from the story told in *Seaman’s Journal*. Sneve concludes this story with a Glossary and with Historical Notes about the “Corps of Discovery” and their meeting with the Sicangu chiefs.

AR Book: Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk **(Lakota)**, editor. ***Enduring Wisdom: Sayings from Native Americans***. With paintings by Synthia Saint James. New York: Holiday House, 2003. 32 pp. ISBN: 0-8234-1455-8

Essential Understandings All

Picture Book - Grades 3 and up

Summary:

With quotes and sayings from Native Americans, Sneve has organized this book according to the following categories: Mother Earth, The People, War and Peace, Spirit Life, Enduring Wisdom, End Notes.

AR Book: Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk (**Lakota**). *The Christmas Coat: Memories of My Sioux Childhood*. Illustrated by Ellen Beier. New York: Holiday House, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-8234-2134-3
Essential Understandings #1, #2, #4, #5, #6

Picture Book - Grades 3 and up

Summary:

Growing up on Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, Virginia Driving Hawk and her siblings would receive boxes of used clothing twice a year, in the spring and in early winter—used clothing sent from churches in “The East.” It’s nearly Christmas and the children and community members eagerly await the delivery of coats, shoes, dresses, shirts and pants. Virginia’s coat is too small, but her mother, the wife of the Episcopalian minister in the town, tells her daughter to not be too eager to take the coat she first sees: “The others need it more than we do.” It looks like she won’t have a new coat at all until she gets home to find another box, a special gift for “the priest’s family.” In that box, her brother finds a pair of cowboy boots that just fit, and Virginia finds a new coat, “not a fur one, but a smooth and soft red one.”

AR Book: Sockabasin, Allen (**Passamaquoddy**). *Thanks to the Animals*. Illustrated by Rebekah RayeGardiner, Maine: Tilbury House, Publishers, 2005. 31 pp. ISBN: 978-0-88448-270-3
Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3

Picture Book – K and up

Theme: At Home within Circles, Remembering the Old Ways

Summary:

Joseph Bruchac says, “I can’t think of a book I could recommend more highly for anyone who wants to give a young reader a true picture of the Native way of seeing, teaching, and understanding.”

Zoo Sap and his family were moving from their coastal home in Maine to the woods for the winter. They had packed their good and family on a sled pulled by horses and loaded with all their goods and the cedar logs they’d used for a house. In the night as they travel, Zoo Sap slips from the sled, and no one notices he’s missing. A baby alone in the snowy wilderness, one animal after another comes to encircle him and give him warmth. When the family arrives and unpacks, they find him missing. His father travels back with a small sled through the night and finally comes to a great “mound of snow” with a bald eagle on top. He tells Zoo Zap’s father that they knew he would come for his son, who was “safely sleeping in a great pile of warm animals.” Joo Tum thanks each one and that night they feast and celebrate the return of the lost son. On the last page, the author provides a list of Passamaquoddy names spelled phonetically for each of the animals. Allen reads the story in the Passamaquoddy language on the publishing house’s website: www.tilburyhouse.com

Soctomah, Donald (**Passamaquoddy**) and Jean Flahive. Illustrated by Mary Beth Owen.
Remember Me Mikwid Hamin: Tomah Joseph’s Gift to Franklin Roosevelt. Gardiner, ME: Tilbury House, Publishers, 2009. 30 pp. ISBN: 978-0-88448-300-7

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #6

Picture Book Grades 3- 6

Summary:

This imagined story, *Remember Me*, is based on true events at the end of the 19th century: Franklin Roosevelt's relationship with a Passamaquoddy elder and artist who etched scenes of his people's origin stories onto birchbark. Tomah Joseph, the elder, lived from 1837 – 1914, and Roosevelt lived from 1882 – 1945.

As the story goes, Tomah Joseph teaches young Franklin about canoes and their function, how to paddle, and how to make them. He teaches Franklin about the ways islands protect people from the tides, and he shows him the animals around the Passamaquoddy Bay and how they help his people live. Tomah Joseph teaches Franklin about sweetgrass, "the first plant to cover the earth," and then he shows him how to make baskets. Most important, Tomah Joseph explains the functions of pictures and the stories of the "Old Time" that they tell because they remind him of his ancestors and make him happy. So he tells young Franklin a story of a boy who is protected by a family of bears. When Roosevelt is 23, he returns to the island, and Tomah Joseph gives him his canoe. It is now on display in the Visitor Center at the Roosevelt Campobello International Park.

Spang, Bently (**Northern Cheyenne**). *Grandma Jenny's Trip*. Illustrated by Ben Carter. New York: Harcourt Achieve, 1997 20 pp. ISBN-13: 9780763531447

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3

Picture Book Grades 2 - 6

Summary:

The narrator tells a story her Grandmother would tell about her childhood trips from Lame Deer to Miles City for a yearly gathering of the Northern Cheyenne. As she retells the story in this text, we learn about ways they made food, their clothing and tools, and how they spent their evenings on the trail: listening to the elders tell stories. They are happiest when surrounded by relatives and friends.

Spang, Bently (**Northern Cheyenne**). *The War Shirt*. Illustrated by Troy Anderson (**Cherokee**). Barrington, IL: Rigby, division of Reed Elsevier Inc., 1999. 22 pages ISBN: 0-7635-5697-1

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3

Picture Book

Summary:

For one summer, Troy, an artistic Cheyenne boy whose parents live and work in a city far from the Cheyenne Reservation, returns to the reservation where he stays with his grandparents so he can "learn the ways of his people." His grandpa teaches him about hunting, tanning and coloring deer hides, and his grandmother teaches him how to bead, all in combination with lessons in respect and traditional values. "The war shirt is made to honor a Cheyenne man for what he has done for his people," and "A beaded dress honors a Cheyenne woman for her deeds." And then his grandmother tells him that "Cheyenne art honors animals, people, and the earth, from which all life comes." Before he leaves to return home, they ask him use his own art to create something that shows them what he has learned. In secret he takes photographs of them and their art and creates a "war shirt" in the manner of a patchwork quilt to honor them for all they have taught him. The story is about the ways contemporary

Cheyenne people keep traditions alive, but it also provides a strong contradiction to the popular belief that the “old ways” are gone.

AR Book: Tallchief, Maria with Rosemary Wells (**Osage**). *Tallchief, America's Prima Ballerina*.

Illustrated by Gary Kelley. New York: Puffin/Penguin Books, 1999. 28 pages.

ISBN: 0-670-88756-0

Essential Understandings #1, #2

Juvenile biography – 3 - 8

Summary:

Maria Tallchief grew up on the Osage Indian reservation. Her father was Osage, and her mother Scots-Irish. When Maria was twelve, she chose ballet over the piano to pursue as a life course.

AR Book: Tapahonso, Luci (**Navajo**). *Songs of Shiprock Fair*. Illustrated by Anthony Chee

Emerson Walnut, CA: Kiva Publishing, 1999. 30 pages. ISBN: 1-885772-11-4

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #6

Juvenile Poetry - Picture Book, Tradition and Culture K-6

Summary:

Seen through the eyes of Nezbah, a young girl, the Shiprock Fair in Shiprock, New Mexico, is a magical time with family and friends told through Tapahonso's poetic voice, with contemporary and historical images of places, people and traditional story.

AR Book: Tingle, Tim (**Choctaw**). *Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship and*

Freedom. Illustrated by Jeanne Rorex Bridges (**Cherokee**). El Paso, TX: Cinco Puntos Press, 2006.

ISBN: -13: 978-0-038317-77-7 40 pp.

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #5, #6

Picture Book, Tradition, Culture, History 5 and up

Summary:

In Mississippi, there is a river called Box Chitto that served as the boundary between the Choctaws and plantation owners who kept slaves. This early 19th century true story has been passed down through generations of Choctaw, black, white grandparents to their children and grandchildren, with the story varying according to who tells it. A family of slaves escapes when Martha Tom leads them across the river to freedom. This is a story of miracle and hope, trust and courage.

AR Book: Tingle, Tim (**Choctaw**). *Saltypie: A Choctaw Journey from Darkness into Light*.

Illustrated by Karen Clarkson (**Choctaw**). El Paso, TX: Cinco Puntos Press, 2010. ISBN: 978-1-933693-67-5 38 pp.

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #5, #6

Picture Book, Tradition, Culture, History 5 and up

Summary:

What is *saltypie*? A bee sting on a boy's bottom, a chicken's egg tossed in the garbage because it has a blood spot on its yolk, a rock thrown through a window that hits a boy's Indian

grandmother, a grandmother's blindness. and much more. When troubles come, the boy's father says, "you just kinda shrug it off, say *salty pie*. It helps you carry on." This is a 20th century story, a true story of resistance, resilience, and survival that Tim Tingle witnesses in the lives of his grandmother and other relatives. Blind from childhood, his grandmother, MawMaw, receives an eye transplant, and she can finally see thirty-two grandchildren. The last three pages are for the adult reader. They answer the question: *How Much Can We Tell Them?* "Indians know of many wrongs done to them and their friends and relatives that we seldom speak about. . . . How much can we tell them before they cover their ears and refuse to listen to our stories?" In these last three pages, Tingle tells his own story of his people, of misunderstandings and stereotypes, of an educated and industrious people, and of hopes for more books written and read about Indian people *by* American Indians themselves.

AR Book: Van Camp, Richard. (**Dogrib Nation from Canadian Northwest Territories**) ***A Man Called Raven***. Illustrated by George Littlechild (**Plains Cree**). San Francisco, CA: Children's Book Press, 1997. ISBN: 0-89239-144-8 29 pp.

Essential Understandings #2, #3

Picture Book Grade 3 - up

Summary:

Two boys find a raven in their garage. Like many boys their age, they start to play with it, try to catch it, and then beat it with hockey sticks. They don't see anything wrong because ravens "get into [their] garbage and spread it all over the street." But a mysterious man appears who chastises them and insists they take him to their home. Their mother realizes this man has something important to say to the boys, and so the whole family listens to "what the stranger" with "long black hair and huge eyes" has to say.

Mysterious and magical, this is a growing-up story. The boys realize why they must respect Raven and not abuse nature. And when the stranger is gone, he leaves behind this lesson and "the thunder of wings."

Van Camp, Richard. (**Dogrib Nation from Canadian Northwest Territories**) ***Welcome Song for Baby: A Lullaby for Newborns***. Victoria, BC: Orca Book Publishers, 2007. ISBN: 978-1-55143-661-6

Essential Understandings #2

Picture Book Baby

Summary:

Each page in this board book is illustrated with photographs of babies from all ethnic backgrounds.

AR Book: Van Camp, Richard (**Dogrib**). ***What's the Most Beautiful Thing You Know About Horses?*** Illustrated by George Littlechild (**Cree**). San Francisco, CA: Children's Book Press, 1998. unpaginated. ISBN: 13-978-0-89239-185-1

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #6

Picture Book - Grades 3 and up

Summary:

Richard Van Camp struggled with a request for this book about horses because it's much too cold for horses in his home country. So he asked his family and friends, and George Littlechild, what they knew about horses. What resulted is this collection of Van Camp's humorous and always respectful responses to these poetic and artistic imaginings. In the end he wonders, "what we could find out about all the animals on the earth if we called everybody in the whole world." And he concludes with a question for his readers: "What's the most beautiful thing you know about you?" It's a story of wonder and beauty, a profound story of identity.

Watkins, Sherrin (**Shawnee and Cherokee**). *White Bead Ceremony*. Illustrated by Kim Doner (**Cherokee**). The Greyfeather Series. Tulsa, OK: Council Oak Books, 1994. Unpaginated. ISBN 0-933031-92-0).

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3, #6

Picture Book - Grades 2 and up

Summary:

This book about how four-year-old Mary Greyfeather gets her Shawnee name begins with a Pronunciation Key, referencing the Shawnee words in the text, and it ends with 32 colored and illustrated cue cards that may be copied and cut apart so "You can learn Shawnee words, too." A page on Shawnee History for the teacher tells about where and how they lived, the five tribes of Shawnee, the nature of their Algonquin language and its relationship to the Delaware, Sac and Fox, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Chippewa, Cheyenne, and Arapaho, and a few of their cultural traditions and leaders.

Mary's mother teaches her daughter Shawnee because she understands her role in carrying on cultural traditions and languages. But Mary would rather play with her Barbies. She doesn't want to be different. Grandmother convinces Mary's mother that this should begin with a naming ceremony where Mary will receive the White Bead necklace with her name on it that she can wear until it falls apart.

When the relatives gather to help with the naming, each has an idea of an appropriate name until they decide on "White-necked, moving" or *wapapiyeshe*, Aunt Lenexa's idea. With her new name, Mary finds wholeness with her grandfather and other relatives. This is her real and most important identity and she grows and lives in the contemporary world.

Wheeler, Bernelda (**Cree/Saulteaux**). *A Friend Called 'Chum'*. Illustrated by Andy Stout. Winnipeg, Manitoba: Pemmican Publications Inc., 1984. 29 pp. ISBN: 0-919143-13-X

Essential Understandings #2

Juvenile Fiction K-4 (Out of print but may be ordered used)

Summary:

A Friend Called 'Chum' is the story of a little girl who mistreats her dog and ignores her cats when she has a bad morning and nearly misses the school bus. Through a dream where her "small dog, Chum," saves her life, Marji May learns to appreciate him.

Wheeler, Bernelda (**Cree/Saulteaux**). *I Can't Have Bannock but the Beaver Has a Dam?* Illustrated by Herman Bekkering. Winnipeg, Manitoba: Portage and Main Press, Pemmican Publications, Inc., 1993. 28 pages 20 pages. ISBN: 978-1-55379-002-0

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #6

Juvenile Fiction K-4

Summary:

When a little boy asks for bannock, his mother tells him he can't have it because the oven won't get hot. Through a series of questions, and more follow-up questions, and wonderful repetition of ideas and sound, the boy learns how one thing leads to another: if this happens, then this occurs. "The beaver needed the tree to make a dam, so, the beaver chewed the tree. The big tree fell and knocked the power lines down. Without the powerlines, the electricity is off. Without the electricity, the oven won't get hot. And I can't make bannock," says his mother. At the end of the story, he gets his bannock, and the readers can find a recipe (with variations) for making bannock.

Wheeler, Bernelda (**Cree/Saulteaux**). *Where Did You Get Your Moccasins?* Illustrated by Herman Bekkering. Winnipeg, Manitoba: Peguis Publishers, 1992.

20 pages. ISBN: 1-895411-50-5

Essential Understandings #2, #6

Juvenile Fiction K-4

Summary:

At school, one of Jody's friends asks him where he got the moccasins he is carrying. When he says his Kookum or grandmother made them, more classmates from various racial backgrounds gather to ask more questions. Through the curiosity of his friends, the involvement of his teacher in the questioning, and his willingness to share the story of the moccasins, one final surprise is revealed.

Wheeler, Jordan (**Cree**). *Just a Walk*. Illustrated by Bill Cohen (**Okanagan**). Penticton, BC: Theytus Books, 1993. 55 pp. ISBN: 0-919441-46-7

Essential Understandings #2

Children's Book K-2

Summary:

One day Chuck decides to take a walk and loses all track of time. His imagination takes him flying with a hawk, falling in a river, riding with a fish, floating on a cloud – and more. Eventually he returns home to a very worried mother because he's been gone all day. He responds, "I'm okay, Mom. I just went for a walk." The story is told twice in rhyming couplets, with the second time without color and a blank for the second rhyming word – just so children can tell and illustrate the story themselves.

Zacharias, Joanne (**Shakopee Mdewakaton Sioux Community**). *Taku Wadaka He? (What Do You See?)*. Illustrated by Steven Smith. Edina, MN: Beaver's Pond Press, Inc., 2004, 2008. 30 pp. ISBN: 978-1-59298-226-4

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #6

Children's Book K and up

Summary:

The author is a certified Dakota language teacher, and she wrote this book to help children and adults learn the Dakota language. The illustrations are amazing, and they will inspire even more conversation. It begins with a glossary and pronunciation key listing phrases and items. Over and over, a grandparent asks the child what she sees: an eagle, a bear, a deer, a stone/rock, lightning and thunderclouds, the sun and a rainbow, a buffalo, a fancy shawl, a drum, a Grandfather, a house/home. And the child asks the Grandfather what he sees: "My granddaughter, I see you and me, and we are all related."