

Teacher guide created by: Doug David, Lelaina Jules, Debbie Nelson, Lynn Swift, Gail Martindale, & Carol Walters, S.D. #71, Comox Valley, Vancouver Island, B.C.



Commemoration Canoe on a Journey to Justice



The Beginning of an Idea

In the fall of 2012, the BC Teachers' Federation was selected by Project of Heart to host the Truth and Reconciliation Commission National Commemoration Project for Indian residential school survivors in BC. The project saw the collaboration of teachers and students from over 270 BC schools, working with Aboriginal artists Derrick George and Una Ann Moyer, to create the beautiful embellished canoe that has come to symbolize healing and reconciliation.

The Process

Teachers who signed up to do Project of Heart had residential school survivors tell their stories in the classroom. Then their students created artworks on wooden tiles to pay tribute to children who died in residential schools, to honour survivors, and to create awareness for all Canadians. Through the tiles students expressed their learning and their commitment to building respectful relationships and a better future together.

Carver and Artist

Tsleil-Waututh carver Derrick George, an intergenerational survivor, carved a 16-foot dugout canoe with his three sons as a means of bringing back the tradition of carving within his family. Because Derrick's father went to residential school, this important skill that had been previously passed down from one generation to another was lost. With great pride and generosity, Derrick and his sons donated the canoe to the BCTF as the foundation for the commemoration piece.

Tahltan artist Una Ann Moyer, Aboriginal support worker for Langley School District, utilized her talents and skill to weave together the stories of survivors, Derrick's family canoe, and the tiles from participating schools to create a powerful healing piece—the Project of Heart Commemoration Canoe.

The canoe was blessed in a traditional ceremony in Langley in August 2013, before it was transported to Vancouver to be unveiled at the Tribute to Survivors on Education Day of the TRC National Event on September 19, 2013. The canoe was displayed in the Learning Place over the following three days, offering thousands of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal

Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people the opportunity to view it, touch it and "read" the stories in each tile.

The Message

The overwhelming message was healing. Without exception, visitors would gently run their hands over the tiles, many expressing the incredible feeling of warmth, calm, and healing that they found in the presence of the canoe.

The canoe was transferred to the museum at the U'mista Cultural Centre in Alert Bay, where it is on exhibit along with Speaking to Memory, a photo exhibit by Beverley Brown documenting her childhood experiences in residential school.

The journey of this extraordinary canoe, the healing it brings, and the reconciliation it fosters will all continue.









Speaking to Memory Exhibit

At the exhibit, you will see two parts: the Project of Heart Canoe and a display of photos and personal statements of people who went to St. Michael's residential school in Alert Bay. The photos were taken by a child, Beverley Brown, not by adults running the school. Beverley's father gave her a camera and film to take to school.













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K 1 23456789
K 23456789

<u>Stories</u> and other <u>texts</u> help us learn about ourselves and our families.

Everyone has a unique <u>story</u> to share.

Through listening and speaking, we connect with others and share our world. Curiosity and wonder lead us to new discoveries about ourselves and the world around us.



K1 2 3456789

Stories and other texts connect us to ourselves, our families, and our communities.

Everyone has a unique story to share.

Through listening and speaking, we connect with others and share our world.

K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Stories and other texts help
us learn about ourselves,
our families, and
our communities.

Stories can be understood from different perspectives



K 1 2 3 **4 5** 6

Exploring <u>stories</u> and other <u>texts</u> helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.

<u>Texts</u> can be understood from different perspectives.

Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Exploring <u>stories</u> and other <u>texts</u> helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.

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Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens.







Curricular Competencies

K 1 2 3

- Engage actively as listeners, viewers, and readers, as appropriate, to develop understanding of self, identity, and community
- Explain the role that <u>story</u> plays in personal, family, and community identity
- Use personal experience and knowledge to connect to <u>text</u> and make meaning
- Recognize the structure and elements of <u>story</u>
- Show awareness of how <u>story in First Peoples cultures</u> connects people to family and community









Curricular Competencies



K 1 2 3 **4 5** 6

Comprehend and connect (reading, listening, viewing)

- Access information and ideas from a variety of sources and from <u>prior knowledge</u> to build understanding
- Use a variety of <u>comprehension strategies</u> before, during, and after reading, listening, or viewing to guide inquiry and deepen understanding of <u>text</u>
- Synthesize ideas from a variety of sources to build understanding Grade 5
- Consider different purposes, audiences, and perspectives in exploring texts
- Apply a variety of thinking skills to gain meaning from texts
- Identify how differences in context, perspectives, and voice influence meaning in texts
- Explain the role of language in personal, social, and cultural identity
- Use personal experience and knowledge to connect to text and develop understanding of self, community, and world
- Respond to text in personal and creative ways
- Demonstrate awareness of the <u>oral tradition in First Peoples cultures</u> and the <u>purposes of First Peoples texts</u>
- Identify how story in First Peoples cultures connects people to land

K 1 2 3 4 5 **6 7**

Comprehend and connect (reading, listening, viewing)

- Access information and ideas for <u>diverse purposes</u> and from a <u>variety of sources</u> and evaluate their <u>relevance</u>, <u>accuracy</u>, and <u>reliability</u>
- Apply appropriate strategies to comprehend written, oral, and visual <u>texts</u>, guide <u>inquiry</u>, and <u>extend thinking</u>
- Synthesize ideas from a variety of sources to build understanding
- Recognize and appreciate how <u>different features</u>, <u>forms</u>, <u>and genres of texts</u> reflect various purposes, audiences, and messages
- Think critically, creatively, and reflectively to explore ideas within, between, and beyond texts
- Recognize and identify the role of <u>personal</u>, <u>social</u>, <u>and cultural contexts</u>, <u>values</u>, and perspectives in texts
- Recognize how language constructs personal, social, and cultural identity
- Construct meaningful personal connections between self, text, and world
- Respond to text in personal, creative, and critical ways
- Recognize and appreciate the role of <u>story</u>, narrative, and <u>oral tradition</u> in expressing First Peoples perspectives, values, beliefs, and points of view
- Recognize the validity of First Peoples oral tradition for a range of purposes Grade 7











The books featured within this kit were chosen because they provide strong examples of how aboriginal authors use sensory language and subtle inferences as a way to describe experiences, tackle difficult topics and create a sense of love and caring. Through text and images, students are invited to notice, wonder and infer before they visit the Project of Heart Canoe and Speaking to Memory Exhibit.

These picture books are in two groupings. The first set is meant to get students thinking and wondering about this topic. We intentionally lead them through an open-ended inquiry in which they begin to make

sense of what they hear and see about residential schools and the ongoing impacts on families. This will launch a deeper exploration of Indigenous

traditions in Canada and the history of Indian residential schools.

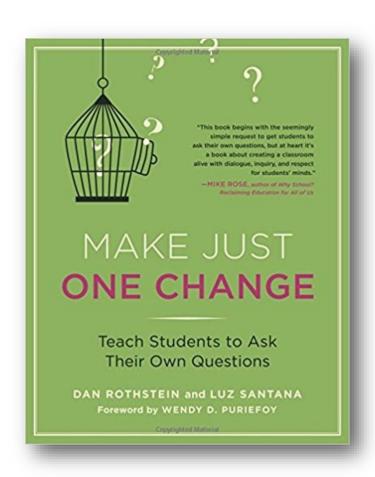
The second set of books provide a more literal understanding of the impacts of government policies to assimilate indigenous people.

One of the goals of these lessons and exhibit is to make public education itself a vehicle for







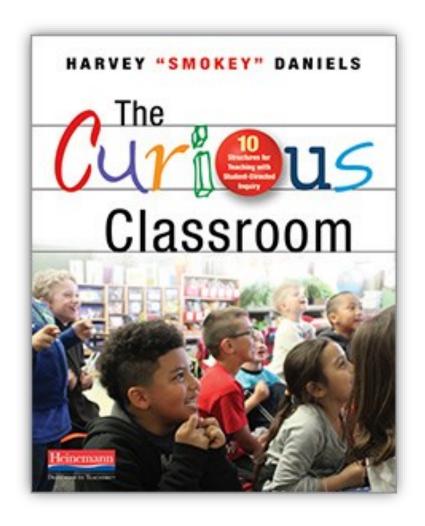


The authors of *Make Just One*Change argue that formulating one's own questions is "the single most essential skill for learning"—and one that should be taught to all students.

Rules for questioning:

- Ask as many questions as you can.
- Don't stop to answer any of them.
- · Accept all questions.
- Turn any statements into questions.





Ever wonder how to get students genuinely engaged in your curriculum? Or wish you could let them explore the amazing questions they ask? If so, Smokey provides research-based suggestions that help cover the curriculum by connecting what kids wonder about to the wonders you have to teach them.

Smokey Daniels

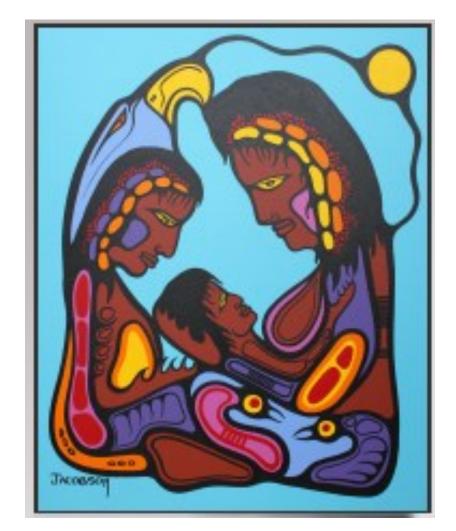
Kindergarten and grade one enduring understandings...

Through story, we raise the understanding of the *importance of family in the growth of a child*. We acknowledge a time in Canada's history in which many young Aboriginal children *went away to live at the school, separated*

from their families.



The images you will see in the exhibit, show photos of these children who were not with their families. And the canoe is a project that remembers and honours those families to help them heal.



Healing and Reconciliation.

Grade two and three enduring understandings ...

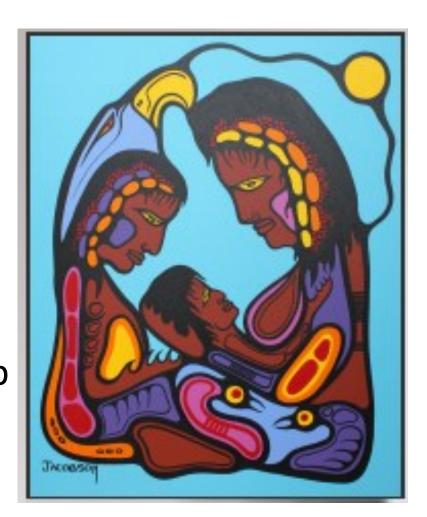
Through story, we raise the understanding of the importance of family in the growth of a child. We acknowledge a time in Canada's history in which many young Aboriginal children went away to live at the school, separated from their families *because of government policies*



written to force Aboriginal people to give up their culture.

The images you will see in the exhibit, show photos of these children who were not with their families. And the canoe is a project that remembers and honours those families to help them heal.

Healing and Reconciliation.



Grade 4—7 enduring understandings ...

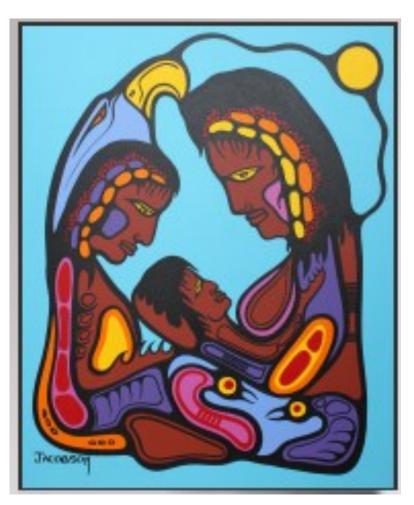
Through *story, resources, and a cultural exhibit*, we raise the understanding of the importance of family in the growth of a child. We acknowledge a time in Canada's history in which many young Aboriginal children went away to live at the school, separated from their families



because of government policies written to force Aboriginal people to give up their culture and assimilate to European influences.

The images you will see in the exhibit, show photos of these children who were taken away from their families. And the canoe is a project that remembers and honours those families to help them heal.







Co-Creating Criteria

Because this topic of residential school contains sensitive information, it's important to co-create criteria with students regarding respectful ways of being and exchanging ideas. As educators, it's imperative that we consider potential sensitivities and family situations in order to provide a caring and safe learning environment.

When exchanging ideas about difficult things, it's important to:

Name:	
1101101	

What can I do?
When exchanging ideas about difficult things, it's important to:
Based upon the ides in Chapter 1 of Speaking our Truth by Monique Gray Smith

Parent Letter dea to let parents know you residential schools. It is a good idea to let parents know in and visit will be teaching about residential schools in and visit will be teaching about nay like to come in and visit parents can be prepared for come in and visit the exhibit.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

At your school for the next two weeks is a travelling display called U'mista. The display consists of 2 exhibits the *Project of Heart Canoe* and *Speaking to Memory*. During the next few weeks your child could be learning about Residential Schools and reconciliation as part of the British Columbia renewed curriculum. These lessons were developed locally to provide age-appropriate educational materials about Residential Schools to foster open dialogue and strengthen the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Canada and to move towards reconciliation by learning the truth.

It is important that we deal with the topic of Residential Schools with sensitivity. For some students the topics discussed may be sensitive, especially if they have personal connections with residential school survivors. For others, the topics may be controversial, particularly if they feel they have no connection with the issues. We will ensure that the topics are presented fairly and with sensitivity. We will allow students the space and time to reflect in a safe environment and will focus on healthy ways to engage in self-care. We encourage children to check-in and talk to their parents at home about this topic.

If you would like more information on these exhibits, please check out the following links.

Speaking to Memory: http://moa.ubc.ca/portfolio_page/speaking-to-memory/

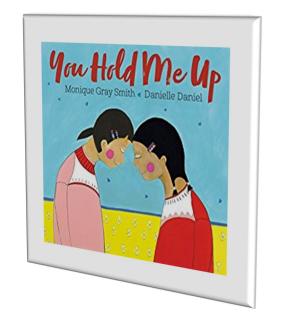
<u>Project of Heart Canoe</u>: page 26/27 specifically talk about the canoe in the following document, which is an excellent resource to learn about residential schools. http://www.bctf.ca/HiddenHistory/eBook.pdf

Please feel welcome to drop in and see the exhibit. Check in with the school office for clarification and location.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact your school and/or teacher.

Before Reading ...

Provide students with the following ten words so they may wonder and anticipate through discussion what this book might be about.





kind

laugh

respect

share

listen

hold me

learn

play

comfort

sing

During Reading ...

Read this text aloud to students, pausing where appropriate to add personal connection, ask questions, and make inferences.



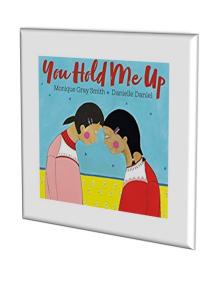
After Reading ...

Students will share ideas with others during partner and whole class conversations about the ways in which someone holds them up. After discussions, each student will draw a picture and if appropriate add some text to share their idea.

Going to the Exhibit ...

As you leave the classroom to see the **exhibit**, remind young children that the photographs they'll see were of children who lived at the school away from their family during the school year. The photos were taken by children, not adults, while at school.

The **canoe** is to honour children who went to live at residential school.



You hold me up when ...



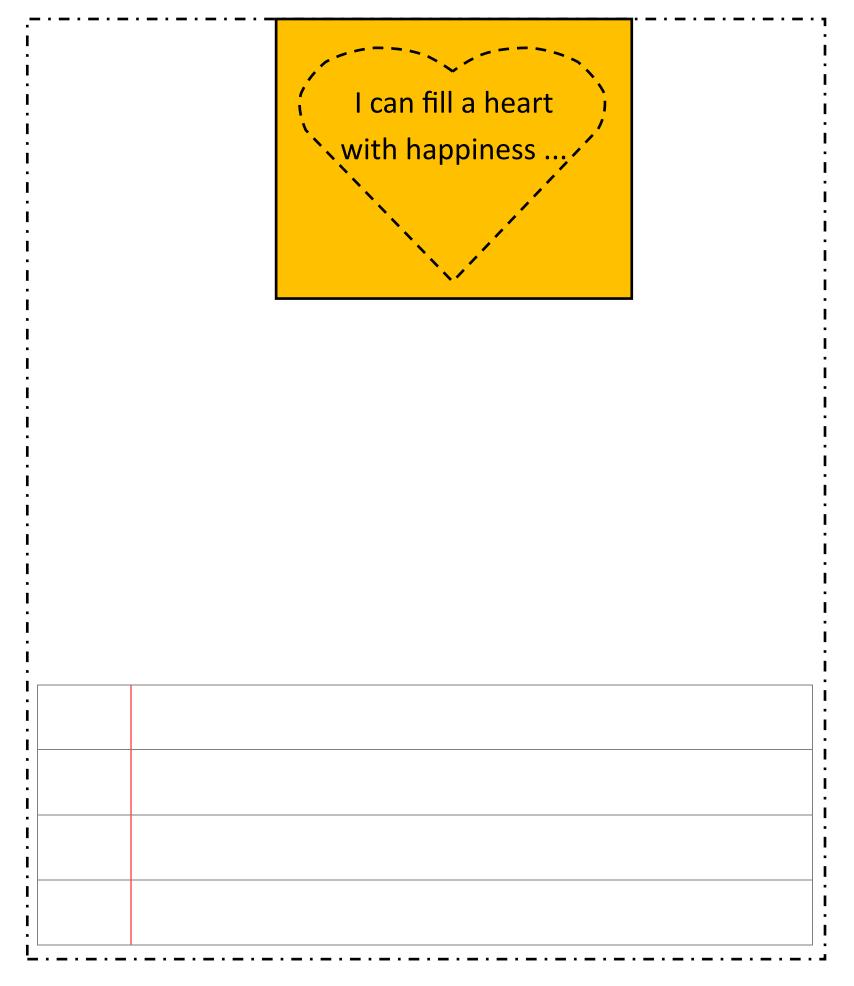
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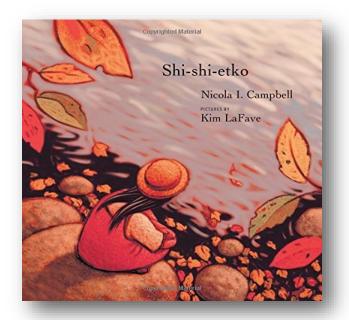


After the Exhibit ...

Create a class book in which each child thinks of something that would help someone who attended one of these schools.

Think of something that would help fill their heart with happiness.



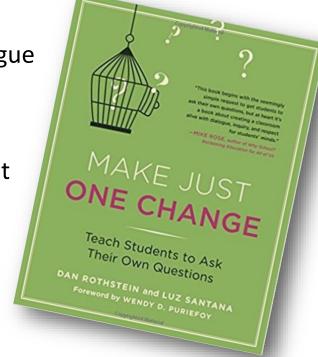


<u>Shi-shi-etko</u> is recommended for students in **grade 2 and up**.

In this activity, a few images from Shi-shi-etko are shared with groups of students who in turn, ask lots of questions about what they see.



The authors of <u>Make Just One Change</u> argue that formulating one's own questions is "the single most essential skill for learning"—and one that should be taught to all students.



Before Reading:

<u>Shi-shi-etko</u> was chosen as a book that offers a segue into the **Project of Heart Canoe** and **Speaking from Memory Exhibit**. We want students to wonder about the author's message without telling them directly about residential schools. By sharing a few images from the book and ignoring the text (at first), we invite students to demonstrate their curiosity by asking questions. This thinking is done orally as a whole group.

Years ago, Faye Brownlie shared this simple, yet powerful strategy when she visited the Comox Valley. Because young students often respond with statements rather than questions, she suggested that each response begins with the words, "I wonder ..."

To model this strategy with students, simply start with the front cover of this book, sharing its title and image. Ask, "What does this book cover make you wonder?"

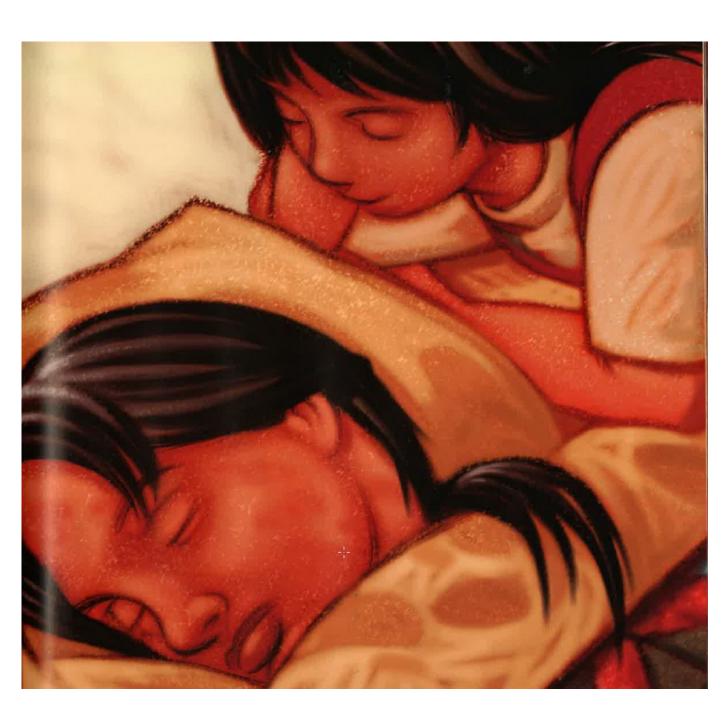
Using the other images provided, place children in groups of 4. Their job is to look carefully at the image they were provided, and ask lots of questions. These can be recorded, or done orally.

Such a simple strategy. Such deep thinking.

"I wonder if that's the Mom sleeping?"

"I wonder why she's trying to wake her up?"

Of Questions students might ask



"Why is the girl smiling?"

"I wonder if she's singing her a song?"

"I wonder if the person sleeping is sick?"

Of questions students might ask



During Reading ...

Read this text aloud to students, pausing where appropriate to add personal connection, ask questions, and make inferences.



After Reading ...

Students will share ideas with others during partner and whole class conversations about items that would be important enough to go in a memory bag. After discussions, each student will draw pictures and add some text to share their ideas.

Going to the Exhibit ...

As you leave the classroom to see the exhibit, remind children that the photographs they'll see were of children who lived at the school away from their family during the school year. The photos were taken by children, not adults, while at school.

The canoe is to honour children who went to live at residential school.

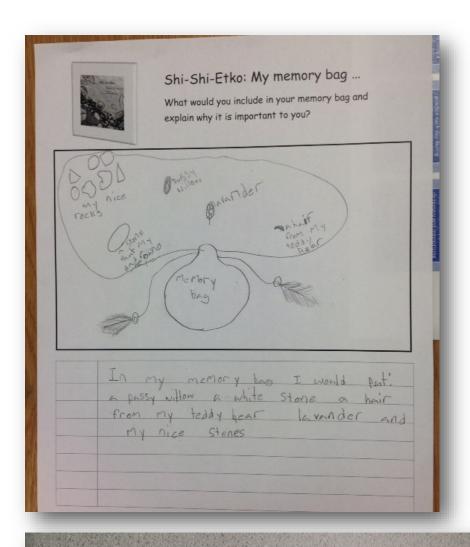
https://youtu.be/tKErhCGjSDE for a dramatic rendition of this book. (6:05)



Shi-Shi-Etko: My memory bag ...

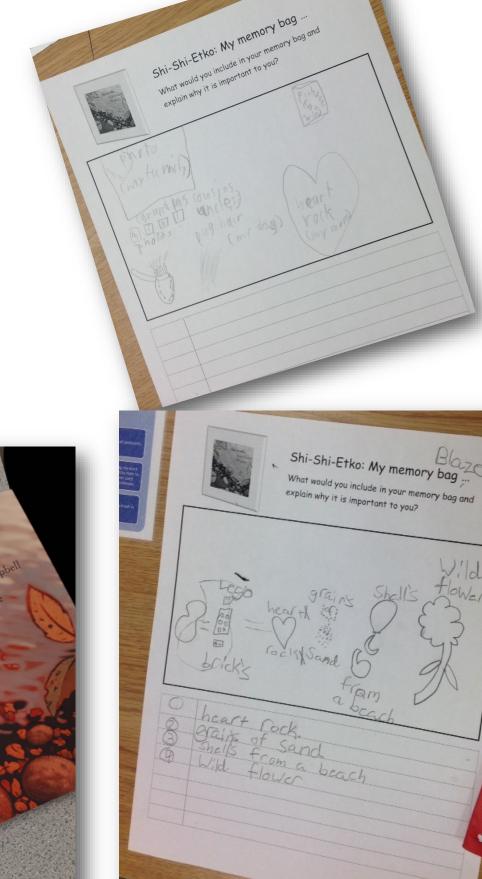
What would you include in your memory bag and explain why it is important to you?

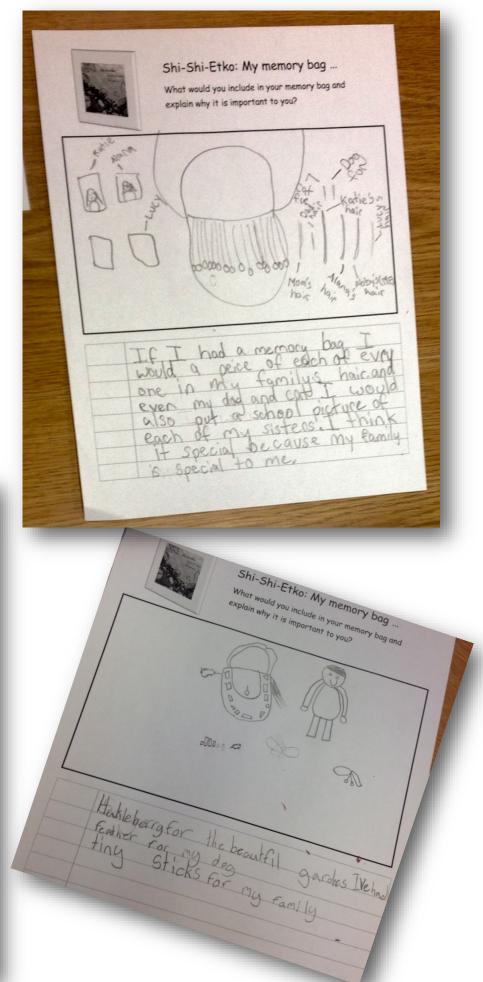
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Shi-Shi-Etko: My memory bag ... What would you include in your memory bag and explain why it is important to you?

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After the Exhibit ...

Create a design on a tile that sends a message to a survivor of residential school. Once your class has finished their tiles, you could attach a class set of tiles on foam core to create a class design and message or collaborate with your school to create a bigger project.

Decorating the tiles came from the Project of Heart. For more ideas and explanation visit the website; http://projectofheart.ca/step-1-investigation-into-the-history-and-legacy-of-indian-residential-schools-

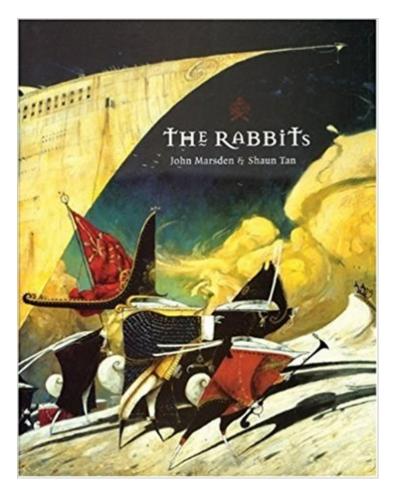
in-canada/







Design your tile drawing here and write a message to a survivor below...



The images selected from <u>The Rabbits</u> for inferring activities are best suited for **grades 4 and up**.

When students have completed the task in which they notice, think, and wonder about some images from The Rabbits, please consider showing this video clip of the story:

https://youtu.be/FOssx3CFMVk (3:29)

Before Reading:

The Rabbits was chosen as a book that offers a segue into the *Project of Heart Canoe* and *Speaking from Memory Exhibit*. We want students to wonder about the author's message without telling them directly about residential schools. By viewing images and reading the simple text, we invite students to think, ask questions and make connections to background knowledge.



To begin, start with the cover image and discuss as a whole group. Model how an image can be use to generate lots of questions and thinking before reading. Have students offer some of their questions as well. (Evidence + My Thinking = An Inference).

Make 9 copies of each of three images from the book (samples of images on following pages). Hand out one image to each student.

- Each student will examine their image and think on their own, and record their initial thoughts, wonders, and inferences beside the #1 on the black line master.
- Next, students will stand up and find a partner who has the same image and share their ideas and listen to those of their partner. Each student then returns to their desk where they write an updated reflection on line #2.
- Now it's time for students to switch their image for a new one and repeat this process. These steps will be repeated another time with a third and final image. An area is provided on the BLM for final thoughts regarding what they think the author's message might be.

Years ago, Leyton Schnellert shared this simple, yet powerful strategy when he visited the Comox Valley. As students reflect and share their thoughts, the rich theme of this book will emerge.

Such a simple strategy. Such deep thinking. And a little movement around the classroom can help activate thinking.

	INFERRING MEAN	ING FROM IMAGE	S
	Name:		
	I think, I notic		
	Evidence + Brilliant th	inking = An Inferen	ce
	1. Look carefully at this image on your own. Record your thinking		1. Repeat steps 1, 2, for each of these images.
	here.	E & F	
S. C.			
		STOLE	
	2. Stand up, find a partner who has the same image. Discuss it and		2.
	record your collective thinking here.		
	1. Repeat steps 1, 2, for each of these images.	Final thoughts After look	ing, thinking, and noticing at all three images
999900		What do you think this book is abo	ut? What do you think the author's message might be?
	2.		

	INFERRING MEAN	ING FROM IMAGES
	Name:	
		e, I wonder
	Evidence + Brilliant th	ninking = An Inference
	2.	2.
	1.	Final thoughts After looking, thinking, and noticing at all three images
001000		What do you think this book is about? What do you think the author's message might be?
	2.	



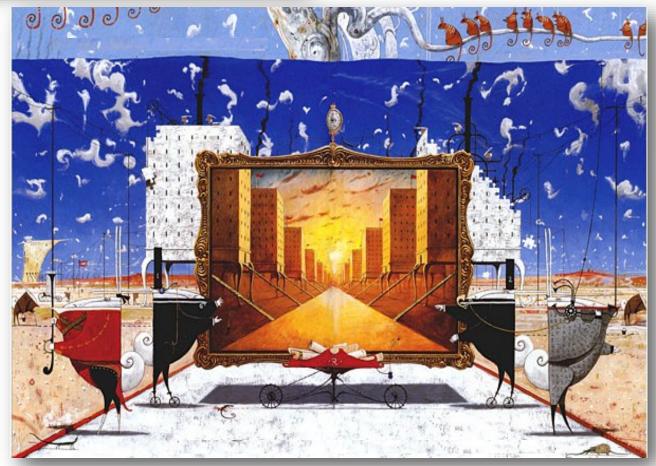
Front cover image used to model the questioning strategy as a whole class

The following 3 images are available as laminated mats for group discussion and whole class sharing.



Image #1

Image #2



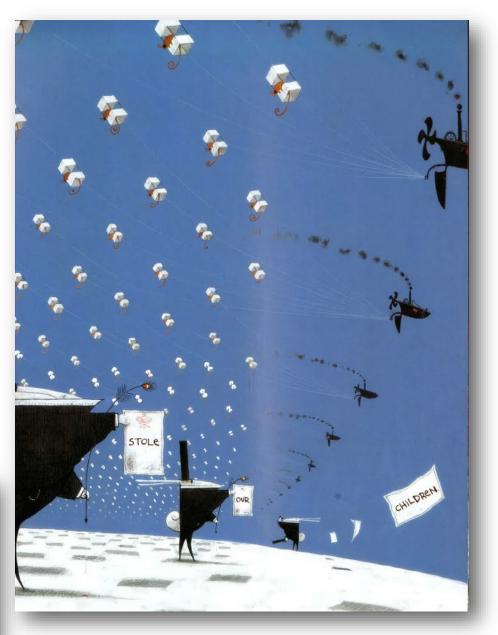
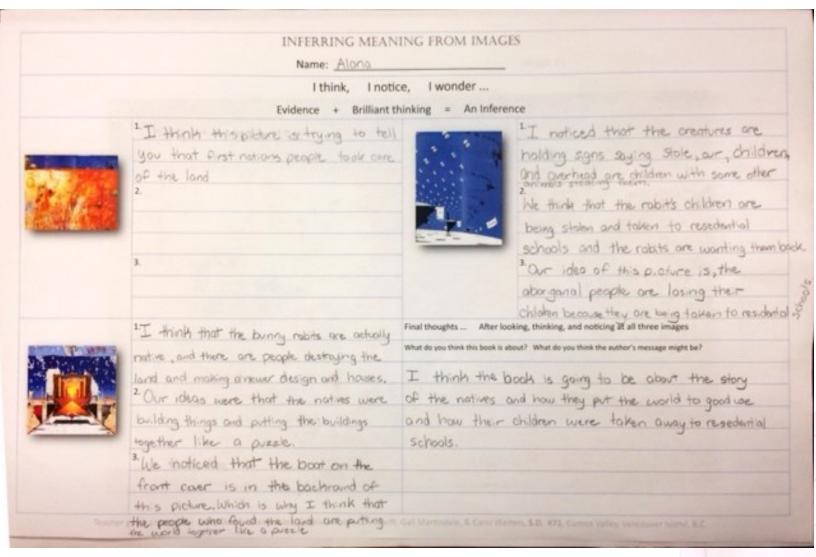
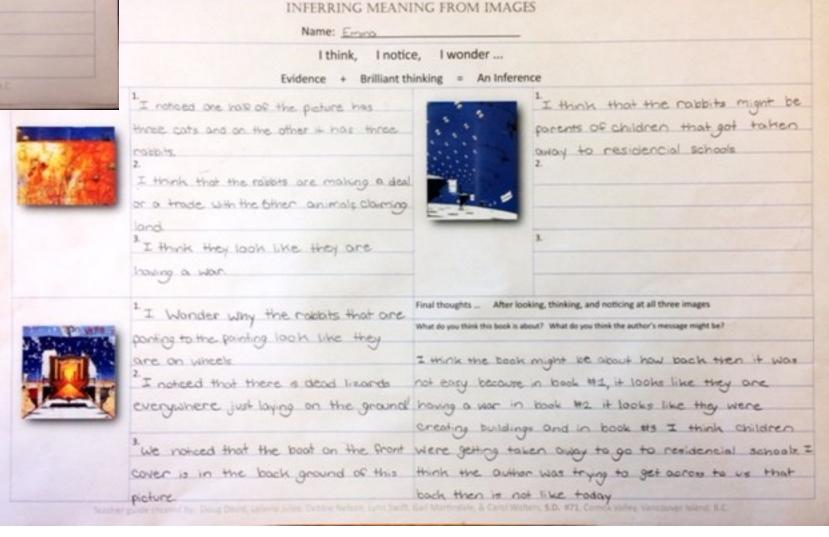


Image #3

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During Reading ...

Read this text aloud to students, pausing where appropriate to provide time for discussion of personal connections, questions, and inferences.



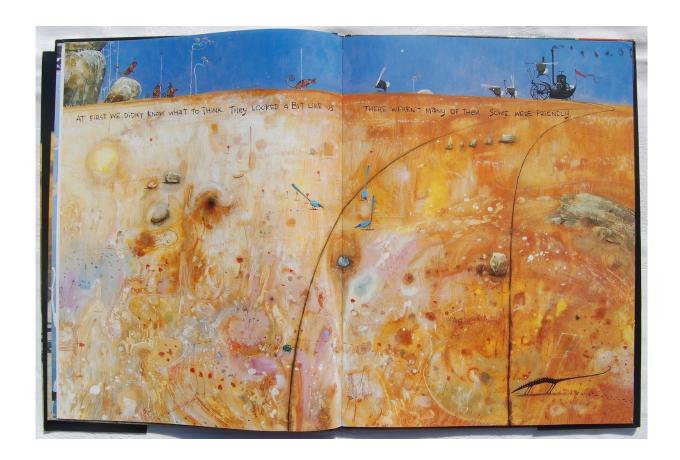
After Reading ...

Offer students time to write their personal reflections about the author's and illustrator's messages. Why might this book have been created?

Going to the Exhibit ...

As you leave the classroom to see the **exhibit**, remind your students that the photographs they'll see were of children who lived at the school away from their family during the school year. The photos were taken by children, not adults, while at school.

The **canoe** is to honour children who went to residential school.



Personal Reflection: Why might this book have been created?



After the Exhibit ...

Create a design on a tile that sends a message to a survivor of residential school. Once your class has finished their tiles, you could attach a class set of tiles on foam core to create a class design and message or collaborate with your school to create a bigger project.

Decorating the tiles came from the Project of Heart. For more ideas and explanation visit the website; http://projectofheart.ca/step-1-investigation-into-the-history-and-legacy-of-indian-residential-schools-in-canada/





Design your tile drawing here and write a message to a survivor below...

After the Exhibit

Other books to consider sharing, with your class that are more literal about the effects of government policies created in Canada to assimilate Aboriginal people.

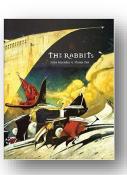


What do these books and this exhibit inspire you to do? ...











The Boxing Strategy

From J.D. Wilhelm's <u>Inquiring Minds</u>

Learn to Read and Write

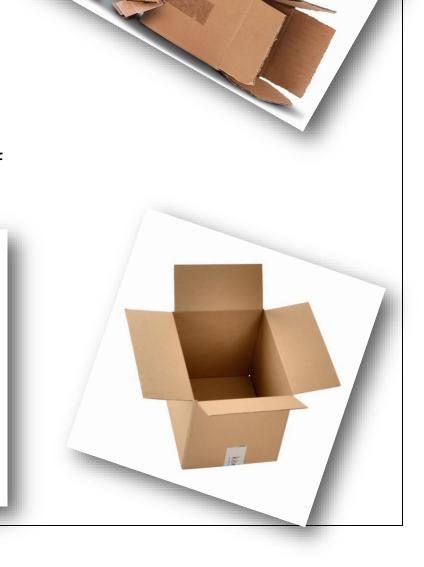
The purpose of the boxing strategy is to explore a topic by looking at an image or text and generating lots of thinking. This is a before reading strategy that **ENGAGES** and **MOTIVATES** students.

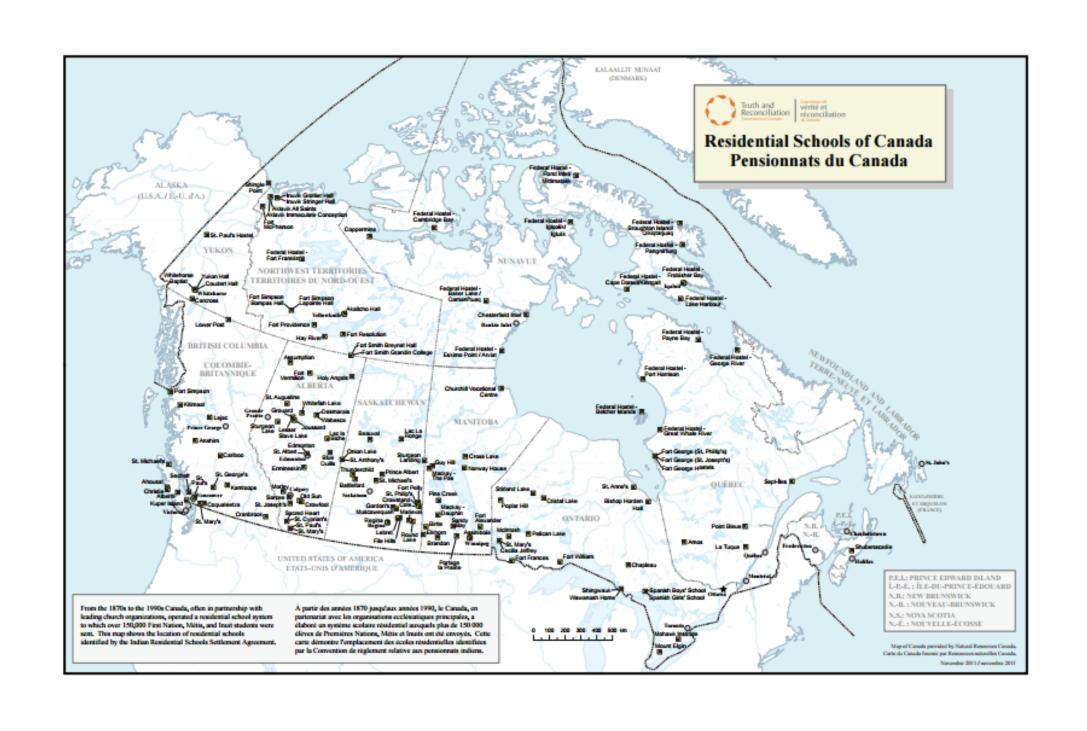
On the following pages, you will see an image surrounded by two boxes. Students are invited to look carefully at an image and engage in conversation. They might ask questions, make inferences, share connections, or notice something.

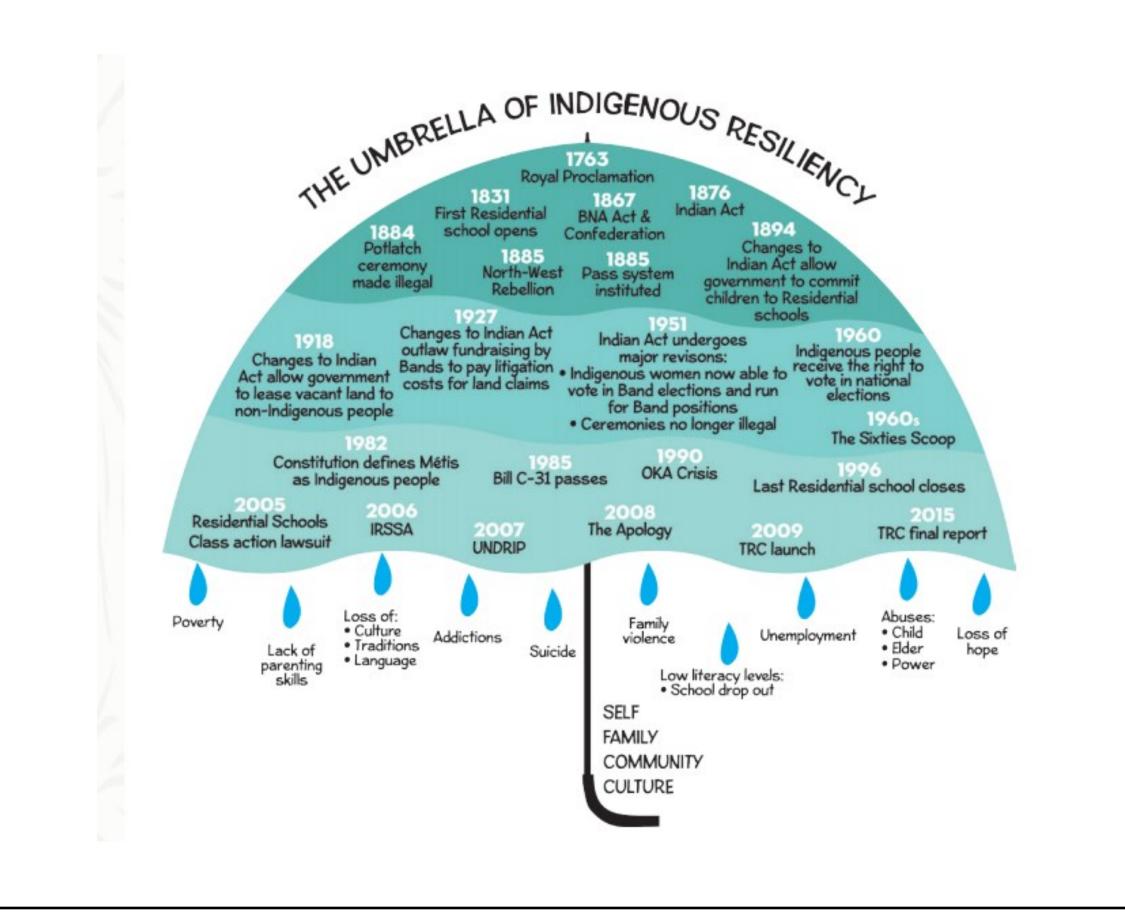
Isolating an image or text, provides a wonderful nudge to deepen thinking. A single image like the examples on the next few pages can be enough to launch a meaningful inquiry unit. For example, a student may ask, "What's the Oka Crisis of 1990?" And that may be all it takes to provide a catalyst for personal or whole class inquiry.





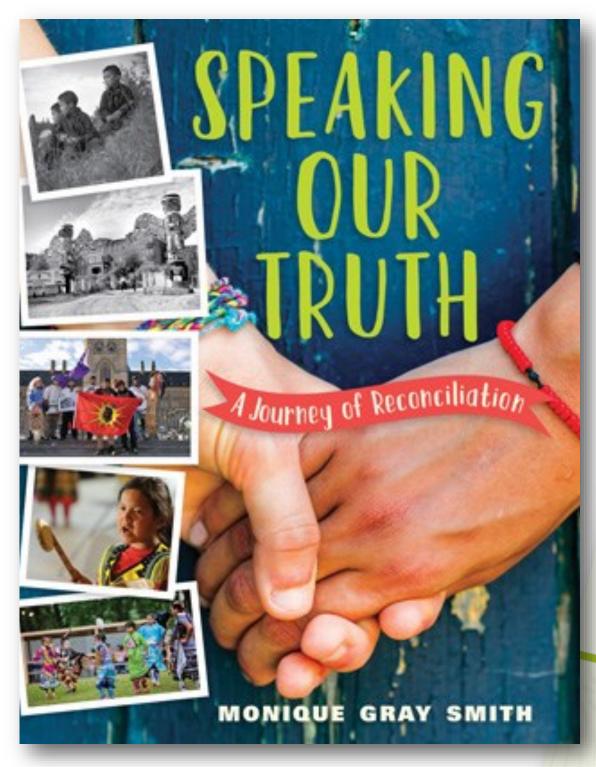








The Oka Crisis 1990



... amazing resources to continue the learning.

