



The following are titles appropriate for children in primary and junior grades along with a brief synopsis. We will continue to grow this list and are also working on a resource list for intermediate and senior grades.

## For Students

Title & Author	Synopsis
<i>A Native American Thought of It.</i> Rocky Landon & David MacDonald (2008)	A book about inventions and ingenuity from Aboriginals across North America.
<i>A northern Alphabet.</i> Ted Harrison (1982)	This book was created by a leading Yukon artist to teach the English alphabet. Each letter is illustrate by pictures of the objects, animals and people of the North.
<i>A promise is a promise.</i> Robert Munsch & Michael Kusugak (1988, 2000)	This book tells of the Arctic adventures of an Inuk girl who disobeys her parents and has to use all of her wits to escape dangers.
<i>Anytime Stories.</i> Leo Sawicki (1986, 1995)	This story is about a FN girl who reacts to having been adopted with anger and insecurity. Her parents help her to accept her feelings and celebrate their love for her by making her adoption day a family holiday.
<i>Arctic 1, 2, 3.</i> Robert Munsch & Michael Kusugak (2005)	This book teaches numbers in English and Inuktitut with descriptions of Arctic animals.
<i>Arctic Stories.</i> Michael Arvaarluk Kusugak (1998)	A series of hopeful short stories follow the adventures of a brave Inuk girl. Daily life at home is contrasted with experiences at a residential school.
<i>Baseball Bats for Christmas.</i> Michael Kusugak (1990)	This book tells how baseball bats came to boys living in the treeless Arctic.
<i>Blueberry Rapids.</i> Rene Andre Meshake (2008)	Stories about a little boy and his grandmother, depicting the cultural values, beliefs and language of the Ojibwe/Anishnaabe people.
<i>Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message.</i> Chief Jake Swamp (2002)	Based on the Thanksgiving Address, an ancient message of peace and gratitude for Mother Earth and everything on it. These words are still spoken at ceremonies held by the Six Nations people.
<i>Helping Grandma.</i> Mildred Milliea & Kelly Anne Dennis (2006)	Wonderful photographs illustrate traditional feasts in a modern Mi'kmaq community.
<i>Hide and Sneak.</i> Michael Arvaarluk Kusugak (1992)	This book tells of the Arctic adventures of an Inuk girl who disobeys her parents and has to use all of her wits to escape dangers. Related to <i>A promise is a promise</i> (see above).

<i>How Chipmunk Got His Stripes.</i> Joseph Bruchac & James Bruchac (2001)	A FN legend of how the chipmunk got his stripes.
<i>Jason's New Dugout Canoe.</i> Joe Barber-Starkey (2000)	This story of a west coast FN boy explores FN traditions and values through the making of a canoe.
<i>Keepers of the Earth: Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children.</i> Michael J. Caduto & Joseph Bruchac (1999)	Each section of this book is based on an Aboriginal story and has discussion ideas, questions, and related indoor and outdoor activities (that don't require expensive materials!)
<i>Mama, Do You Love Me?</i> Barbara Joesse (1991)	This is a story of a child testing the limits of her independence, and a mother who reassuringly proves that a parent's love is unconditional and everlasting.
<i>Morning on the Lake.</i> Jan Bourdeau Waboose (1997)	This collection of three linked stories where, under the patient and gentle guidance of his grandfather, a FN boy gradually comes to respect the ways of nature and to understand his own place in the world.
<i>On Mother's Lap.</i> Ann Herbert Scott (1992)	A little Inuit boy discovers there's room for himself and his baby sister on their mother's lap.
<i>Rabbit and Bear Paws</i> (numerous titles)	Graphic novels that use traditional Native teachings and humour and are based on the seven grandfather teachings. Available online at: <a href="http://rabbitandbearpaws.com/store/">http://rabbitandbearpaws.com/store/</a>
<i>The Inuksuk Book.</i> Mary Wallace (1999)	This book describes 11 styles of Inuksuit (plural for Inuksuk) and their meanings; also includes how to build your own inuksuk.
<i>The Metis Alphabet Book.</i> Joseph Jean Fauchon (2007)	An alphabet book that highlights historical figures, significant events, places of interest and other aspects of being Métis to take youthful readers beyond the alphabet to explore the richness of Métis History and culture.
<i>Through Mala's Eyes: Life in an Inuit Community.</i> Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (2005)	Includes a series of lesson plans that can be adapted for kindergarten. Available online <a href="http://pse-esd.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pubcbw/moreinfo.asp?seq=2100">http://pse-esd.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pubcbw/moreinfo.asp?seq=2100</a>
<i>Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back: A Native American Year of Moons.</i> Joseph Bruchac (1992)	Each legend in this collection of Aboriginal stories is taken from a different FN group and recounts how each relates the cycles of the moon to the seasons.
<i>Turtle Island Voices.</i> Pearson (2011)	Several pre-emergent leveled readers (as well as higher levels) both help to foster a sense of identity among Aboriginal students, and enrich all students' understandings of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit perspectives. Available online at Pearson Canada: <a href="http://www.pearsoncanadaschool.com/index.cfm?locator=PS1kXy">http://www.pearsoncanadaschool.com/index.cfm?locator=PS1kXy</a>

<i>Turtle's Race with Beaver.</i> Joseph Bruchac (2005)	This charming fable (akin to others, including the Tortoise and the Hare) of brains versus brawn is a great read for all the young readers in the forest to share!
<i>Unikkaangualaurtaa/Let's Tell a Story.</i> Avataq Cultural Institute, Nunavik.	A collection of 26 stories and songs from Nunavik, accompanied by activities for children. Available online by googling "Unikkaangualaurtaa". For a digital copy, email our Aboriginal Education Instructional Coach, Kristin Kopra at <a href="mailto:kristin.kopra@ocdsb.ca">kristin.kopra@ocdsb.ca</a> .
<i>What's the Most Beautiful Thing You Know About Horses?</i> Richard Van Camp (1998)	"I'm a stranger to horses and horses are strangers to me," admits the author/narrator at the beginning of this delightful tale of discovery. Members of the Dogrib nation from Canada, Van Camp's people use dogs instead of horses. Yet Van Camp has always been curious about horses. So he sets off on a playful search for "the most beautiful thing about horses,"
<i>Which Way Should I Go?</i> Sylvia Olsen & Ron Martin (2007)	A story about a west coast FN boy who loses his grandmother and, after grieving, chooses to remember her with joy.
Eaglecrest Books has many leveled readers that feature First Nations children.	Available online at: <a href="http://eaglecrestbooks.com/home.htm">http://eaglecrestbooks.com/home.htm</a>

### **For Teachers (background knowledge, lesson plans, etc....)**

- A nice summary and visual of the seven sacred grandfather teachings (which our character traits are very similar to)  
<http://aboriginal.scdsb.edu.on.ca/sevengrandfather.php>
- Talking about the seven sacred teachings character traits through puppetry!  
[http://www.sd61.bc.ca/edsrvs/ANED/educationalResources/Teachings/Sharing\\_the\\_%20Seven\\_Sacred\\_Teachings\\_Through\\_Puppetry.pdf](http://www.sd61.bc.ca/edsrvs/ANED/educationalResources/Teachings/Sharing_the_%20Seven_Sacred_Teachings_Through_Puppetry.pdf)
- *Four Directions Teachings* celebrates Indigenous oral traditions by honouring the process of listening with intent as each elder or traditional teacher shares a teaching from their perspective on the richness and value of cultural traditions from their nation. <http://www.fourdirectionsteachings.com/>
- Lesson plans for grade 1-8 (can be adapted for kindergarten) from the ministry resource "*Aboriginal Perspectives: a Teacher's Toolkit*". Good at cross-curricular ties. <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/aboriginal/elemStrategies.html>
- *Aboriginal Voices in the Curriculum K-8*. Toronto School District (2004). \*Our Aboriginal Education Instructional Coach, Kristin Kopra, has a copy for loan. [kristin.kopra@ocdsb.ca](mailto:kristin.kopra@ocdsb.ca).
- *Project of Heart* is a hands-on, collaborative, inter-generational, inter-institutional artistic endeavour. Its purpose is to commemorate the lives of the thousands of Indigenous children who died as a result of the residential school experience. Teachers of young elementary students could adapt the project to fit the cognitive levels of their students. <http://poh.jungle.ca/>

- *Lessons from Turtle Island: Native Curriculum in Early Childhood Classrooms*. Guy Jones and Sally Moomaw (2002). *Lessons from Turtle Island* is a guide to exploring Aboriginal cultures, histories, and current realities with children. The book is organized around five cross-cultural themes—Children, Home, Families, Community, and the Environment. The authors present activities, from children's books they recommend, to develop skills in reading and writing, science, math, make-believe, art, and more.
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's *They came for the children* is an educational resource that examines the history and legacy of residential schools. [http://www.attendancemarketing.com/~atmk/TRC\\_jd/ResSchoolHistory\\_2012\\_02\\_24\\_Webposting.pdf](http://www.attendancemarketing.com/~atmk/TRC_jd/ResSchoolHistory_2012_02_24_Webposting.pdf)
- <http://www.wherethechildren.ca/en/> gives information about residential schools.
- Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture provides cultural and historical information about the Métis. <http://www.metismuseum.ca/introduction.php>

#### **Additional Websites**

- <http://www.native-dance.ca/> is a website dedicated to the understanding and purpose of traditions around dancing from the perspective of First Nations People
- <http://www.native-drums.ca/> is a website dedicated to the understanding and purpose of traditions around singing and drumming from the perspective of First Nations People.
- [www.dodemkanonhsa.ca](http://www.dodemkanonhsa.ca) DODEM KANONHSA' Elder's Cultural Facility is a learning and sharing facility which fosters greater acceptance, understanding and harmony between members of First Nations and Non-Aboriginal People. DODEM is Anishinabem (Ojibwe) meaning 'clan' and KANONHSA is Kenienkaha (Mohawk) meaning 'lodge'.
- [www.nativeearth.ca](http://www.nativeearth.ca) Native Earth Performing Arts is dedicated to creating, developing and producing of professional artistic expression of the Aboriginal experience in Canada.
- Lots of Aboriginal written resources available for purchase through [www.goodminds.com](http://www.goodminds.com).

Feel free to contact Kristin Kopra, Instructional Coach for Aboriginal Education at [kristin.kopra@ocdsb.ca](mailto:kristin.kopra@ocdsb.ca) if you have further questions!