

Treaty Tales: Three Volume Set

By Betty Lynxleg, Illustrated by Scott B. Henderson and Amber Green

Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre: 2015, ISBN: 9781927849149S

Grades 1 to 5

This three-volume set features a number of stories about a young girl and her grandmother who travel through their Lynx Creek First Nation community learning about treaties, the community's history and various traditions of their people. Grandmother explains how treaties were signed with newcomers and how First Nations agreed to share the land. In the end, readers come to understand that we are all treaty people in this excellent resource for social studies in the elementary grades.

Meet Tom Longboat

By Elizabeth MacLeod, Illustrated by Mike Deas

Scholastic Canada Ltd.: 2019, ISBN: 9781443163910

Grades 1 to 5

Meet Tom Longboat is one of the new picture book titles in the Scholastic Canada Biography Series featuring accessible text, full-colour illustrations, with historical notes and timelines that provide even more information on Tom Longboat's (1886-1949) background and incredible accomplishments. This 32-page book offers young readers a new approach to understanding a famous long distance runner from Six Nations of the Grand River, who competed in the Boston Marathon. Author Elizabeth MacLeod tells a lively story that touches on the Onondaga athlete's unorthodox running style and training regimen. Often criticized for his running approach, Longboat proves his style was the best method as athletes use it in today's marathon racing. Longboat also faced racism and discrimination from the public but he carried his head high and was always proud of his home community. He served as a messenger during the First World War and returned to Canada despite being declared missing and presumed dead. Following the war marathon racing fell out of favour being replaced by team sports. When Longboat found employment he was pleased to work outdoors in Toronto as a street cleaner and garbage collector. Eventually, he retired and lived on Six Nations until his death in 1947. Longboat was named to the Canada Sports Hall of Fame and Tom Longboat Day was established on June 4 in Ontario. Artist and illustrator Mike Deas creates accessible drawings styled in the form of comics that will appeal to young readers. A fine combination of story and illustrations introduce primary level readers to this remarkable sports hero from Six Nations. Highly recommended.

Spirit Bear and Children Make History, Based on a True Story

By Cindy Blackstock, Eddy Robinson, Illustrated by Amanda Strong

First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada: 2017, ISBN: 9781775191407

Grades 3 to 6

This is the true story of how First Nations and other children stood together for fairness. With soft colour illustrations from Amanda Strong, this book explains the story about a human rights case before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal for an elementary audience. In January 2016, nine years after the case was filed, the tribunal ruled that the government of Canada was racially discriminating against 165,000 First Nations children by underfunding child welfare and failing to provide equitable public services. This complex subject is told through the perspective of a small white teddy bear, Spirit Bear. In the account, Spirit Bear travels by train to Ottawa to attend the tribunal. His account and appearance make the story accessible for children as the bear encourages all children to work for fairness. Spirit Bear is a member of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council and has an honorary law degree and was made a "bearister" by Osgoode Law School. This resource is a powerful account of a justice issue involving First Nations children by explaining Jordan's Principle and demonstrating how all children can work for fairness and reconciliation. Highly recommended.

The Orange Shirt Story

By Phyllis Webstad, Illustrated by Broc Nicol

Medicine Wheel Education: 2018, ISBN: 9780993869495

Grades 1 to 8

Phyllis Webstad, Northern Secwepemc (Shuswap) from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek Indian Band), explains the origin of Orange Shirt Day held each Sept. 30 in this picture book. Webstad describes her first day attending St. Joseph's Mission residential school in Williams Lake, B.C., in the 1970s. On this memorable day, the young Phyllis wore a new orange shirt purchased by her grandmother. Upon arriving at the residential school the shirt was removed from Phyllis and never returned by the nuns operating the school. Phyllis never forgot this experience. The story begins a discussion about residential schools and their impact on the children and their families and communities. To acknowledge the truth and create awareness Webstad initiated setting aside this special day when students and adults wear an orange shirt to proclaim that every child matters and to encourage all Canadians to join in the growing movement of reconciliation. The book contains a helpful map of Secwepemc territory, along with a brief history of the Shuswap people, the St. Joseph's Mission residential school and a glossary of terms. The author's website provides a teaching guide designed for Grade 5 students: [angieshirtday.org/uploads/7/9/8/7/79871818/teacher_resource_guide_grade_5.pdf](https://www.angieshirtday.org/uploads/7/9/8/7/79871818/teacher_resource_guide_grade_5.pdf)