

...

**DRUMS AND POTLATCHES: CULTURALLY-RELEVANT BOOKS
FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS IN CANADA**

Book List and Annotated Bibliography

by
Gosia Juskiewicz

TABLE OF CONTENTS

...

About This Resource	...	3
References	...	5
Book List	...	6
Alego / Aliguq	...	7
Beaver Steals Fire: A Salish Coyote Story	...	8
Byron Through the Seasons	...	9
The Canoe He Called Loo Taas	...	10
Caribou Song	...	11
Chester Bear, Where Are You?	...	12
Chuck in the City	...	13
A Coyote Solstice Tale	...	14
The Crying Christmas Tree	...	15
Emma and the Trees / Emma minwaah mtigoog	...	16
Exploring Quatsino / T'saxis / Tsulquate	...	17
Fox on the Ice	...	18
Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message	...	19
The Good Luck Cat	...	20
The Great Ball Game	...	21
How Raven Stole the Sun	...	22
How the Robin Got its Red Breast: A Legend of the Sechelt People	...	23
I Can't Have Bannock But the Beaver Has a Dam	...	24
I Help / Niwechihaw	...	25
Jenneli's Dance	...	26
Jingle Dancer	...	27
Just a Walk	...	28
Kyle's Bath	...	29
The Little Duck / Sikihpsis	...	30
Orca Chief	...	31
A Promise is a Promise	...	32
Salmon Boy: A Legend of the Sechelt People	...	33
Sasquatch Exterminator	...	34
When the Shadbush Blooms	...	35
Where Did You Get Your Moccasins?	...	36
Wisahkecahk Flies to the Moon	...	37

ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

...

This resource was developed by Gosia Juskiewicz as a graduating project for the Master of Science program in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) at UBC's School of Audiology and Speech Sciences (Juskiewicz, 2016). The title "drums and potlatches" refers to clinical experiences Juskiewicz had on her first SLP practicum. The project addresses a gap in culturally-relevant therapy materials for children of First Nations, Métis and Inuit descent.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive, but offers a selection of picture books that are both culturally-appropriate and useful for SLPs working with school-aged children. All of the books are suitable for students in the primary grades (K-3), but some could be used with older preschoolers, and others with intermediate elementary students.

All but two of the books were selected by consulting reputable sources that evaluated the books for cultural appropriateness. *Orca Chief* and *Sasquatch Exterminator* did not have reviews available, but were judged to be culturally appropriate by this author. Otherwise, the sources consulted include:

- A list of children's books that were evaluated and approved by a committee of Canadian Aboriginal educators from different nations (First Nations Education Steering Committee and First Nations Schools Association, 2011)
- A list of recommended books as well as reviews from the blog *American Indians in Children's Literature*. This blog is run by Debbie Reese, a Nambe Owingeh educator and scholar whose focus is in portrayals of North American Aboriginal peoples in children's literature.
- The American Indian Youth Literature Award listing, which honours books by and about Aboriginal people.
- *Broken Flute: The Native Experience in Books for Children* (Seale & Slapin, 2005), a collection of essays and reviews of Aboriginal children's literature.

ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

...

The **nation** depicted in the book is listed so that SLPs can choose books relevant to their region. In most cases, the nation in the book is that of the book's author. The nations of the authors and illustrators are also listed in the annotated bibliography. Only two books have no nation listed – see annotated bibliography for details.

Possible **SLP goals** have been suggested for each book and are described in the annotated bibliography, although the books could of course be used in other ways. In particular, phonological goals can be addressed in a number of books through emphasis on phonological targets found in the key words of the story, especially the names of the main characters or theme. Where the books are written in Aboriginal languages, working on that language's phonology has been suggested. However, consultation with the family and community would be needed if this were to be a goal.

Also included in the annotated bibliography are the number of **pages** in the story itself (excluding any additional information, title pages, etc.), as well as the **Fry Score**, which refers to the Fry readability formula. This is a tool for measuring grade reading level of a text by calculating average number of sentences and average number of syllables per hundred words. This score does not take complexity of grammar or vocabulary into account, but is way to gauge the approximate reading level. Most children's picture books are written at a higher reading level, as they are intended to be read aloud by adults. They could be used with older children who were able to read the stories on their own or with some assistance.

THESE BOOKS CAN BE PURCHASED ON THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:

- The publisher's website
- Strongnations.com
- Goodminds.com
- Portageandmainpress.com
- Mcnallyrobinson.com
- Birchbarkbooks.com
- Amazon.ca

REFERENCES

...

American Indian Youth Literature Award. (n.d.). Retrieved March 14, 2016 from <http://ailanet.org/activities/american-indian-youth-literature-award/>

First Nations Education Steering Committee & First Nations Schools Association (2011). Authentic First Peoples resources for use in K-7 classrooms. Retrieved January 10, 2016 from <http://www.fnesc.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/PUB-LFP-K-7-Authentic-Resources-for-Web.pdf>

Juszkiewicz, G. (2016). *Drums and potlatches: Culturally-relevant books for speech language pathologists in Canada* (Unpublished master's research project). University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Reese, D., & Mendoza, J. (2006, May 8). Recommended children's/YA/ reference/resource books [blog post]. Retrieved February 15, 2016 from <http://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.ca/2006/05/recommended-childrencyareferenceresour.html>

Seale, D., & Slapin, B. (2005) (Eds.). *A broken flute: The Native experience in books for children*. Berkeley, CA; Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press.

HAPPY READING!

TITLE	NATION	SLP GOAL(S)
Alego / Aliguq*	Inuit	Narratives, sentences, /g/, /l/, /k/
Beaver Steals Fire: A Salish Coyote Story	Salish	Narratives, sentences, phonology, PA
Byron Through the Seasons*	Dene	Sentences, “be V-ing,” Dene phonology
The Canoe He Called Loo Taas	Haida	Rhyming/PA, discourse, /l/
Caribou Song*	Cree	Narratives, multisyllabic words, Cree phonology
Chester Bear, Where Are You?	-	Prepositions, /k/, /tʃ/, /st/, /r/, /l/
Chuck in the City	Cree	Predictions, narratives, rhyming/PA, /tʃ/, /k/
A Coyote Solstice Tale	Cherokee	Narratives, rhyming/PA
The Crying Christmas Tree	Ojibwe	Narratives, /k/, /kr/, /tr/
Emma and the Trees / Emma minwaah mtigoog*	Ojibway	Prepositional phrases, Ojibway phonology, /tr/
Exploring Quatsino / T’saxis / Tsulquate	Kwakwaka’wakw	Sentences, Kwak’wala phonology
Fox on the Ice*	Cree	Narratives, Cree phonology, /s/-clusters
Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message*	Mohawk	Sentences, Mohawk phonology, /θ/
The Good Luck Cat Muskogee-Creek	Muskogee-Creek	Sentences, prepositional phrases, /k/, /g/
The Great Ball Game	Muskogee	Categories, animal vocabulary
How Raven Stole the Sun	Tlingit	Narratives, copula be (past/present), /r/, /kr/
How the Robin Got its Red Breast: A Legend of the Sechelt People	Sechelt	Sechelt Narratives, /r/
I Can’t Have Bannock But the Beaver Has a Dam	Cree / Salteaux	Why questions
I Help / Niwechihaw*	Cree	SV sentences, pronouns he & she, 3rd person -s
Jenneli’s Dance	Métis	Narratives, past tense, /dʒ/
Jingle Dancer	Muscogee (Creek) / Ojibwe	Narratives, sentences
Just a Walk	Cree	Narratives, predictions, sentences, rhyming/ PA, /tʃ/, /k/
Kyle’s Bath	-	Sentences, /k/, /l/, /θ/
The Little Duck / Sikihpsis*	Cree	Narratives, /d/, /l/, /k/
Orca Chief	Tsimshian	Narratives, word-initial /tʃ/, word-medial /r/, /k/
A Promise is a Promise	Inuit	Narratives
Salmon Boy: A Legend of the Sechelt People	Sechelt	Narratives, /s/
Sasquatch Exterminator	Métis	Narratives, irregular past tense, rhyming (singing) / PA
When the Shadbush Blooms	Lenape	Past tense
Where Did You Get Your Moccasins?	Cree / Salteaux	WH-questions, /k/
Wisahkecahk Flies to the Moon*	Cree	Narratives, /kr/ clusters Cree phonology

Many of the books can be used for phonology goals, either for English or the native language, especially focusing on the key words for the story. Books that are written in both languages are indicated with an asterisk.

PA = Phonological Awareness

ALEGO / ALIGUQ

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR: Ningeokuluk Teevee (Inuit)

TRANSLATED BY: Nina Manning-Toonoo

PUBLISHER: Groundwork Books / House of Anansi Press (2009)

ISBN: 978-0-88899-943-6

PAGES: 20

FRY SCORE: Grade 7

DESCRIPTION: A young girl named Alego goes clam digging with her grandmother for the first time. Her grandmother instructs her on how to dig for clams, but instead she discovers a wealth of sea life on the shore, including a sculpin, a starfish, shells and creepy crawly things. Her grandmother has dug enough clams for them to have a feast at the end of their day. Full-page graphite and coloured pencil illustrations beautifully capture the wonder and curiosity of a child.

FEATURES:

- Bilingual text – English and Inuktitut
- A map of Baffin Island and a glossary of English and Inuktitut names for sea creatures

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Narratives:** This book contains just a few main ideas in terms of narrative, so it could be used to address simple narrative structure.
- **Sentences:** Many of the pictures would work well for sentence-generation tasks.
- **/g/, /l/:** “Alego” appears frequently in the text.
- **/k/ clusters:** “clam” appears several times in the text.
- A possible follow up activity would be to dig for clams in a bucket of sand or packing peanuts.

...

BEAVER STEALS FIRE: A SALISH COYOTE STORY

AUTHOR: Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

ILLUSTRATOR: Sam Sandoval (Salish and Navajo)

STORYTELLER: Johnny Arlee (Salish)

PUBLISHER: University of Nebraska Press (2005)

ISBN: 978-0-8032-4323-1

PAGES: 40

FRY SCORE: Grade 5

DESCRIPTION: This traditional story tells of a time when fire belonged only to the animals in the land above, not those on the earth below. Curlew, keeper of the sky world, guards fire and keeps it from the earth. Coyote, however, devises a clever plan to steal fire, aided by Grizzly Bear, Wren, Snake, Frog, Eagle, and Beaver. This ancient tale originating from the Salish people of Montana teaches both respect for fire and awareness of its significance. Full-page watercolour illustrations beautifully depict the adventure. The authors of this book request that the story should only be told in the winter, when snow is on the ground.

FEATURES:

- Additional information about traditional use of fire
- Salish language guide

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Narratives:** The narrative in this story is more complex, so it would be better suited to older primary students or even intermediate students (Grades 2-4).
- **Sentences:** Most of the pictures feature one animal doing one action, making them suitable for a sentence-generation.
- **Phonology/PA:** Pictures could also be used for a phonology task targeting the phonemes or structures of one or more animal's names, or counting the syllables in the animal names.

...

BYRON THROUGH THE SEASONS

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR: The Children of La Loche and Friends

PUBLISHER: Fifth House Publishers (1990)

ISBN: 1-895618-33-9

PAGES: 32

FRY SCORE: Grade 4

DESCRIPTION: Grandfather Jonas comes to Byron's class at school to tell the children about Dene traditions throughout the seasons. As Jonas speaks, Byron dreams. Full-page watercolours illustrate Jonas's teachings in great detail.

FEATURES:

- Bilingual text – English and Dene
- Additional information about Dene traditions in the back of the book

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Sentences:** The pictures in the book provide engaging visual scenes with different people doing different things, which could be used to generate sentences.
- **Be V-ing:** The pictures could also be used to practice "Be V-ing" structure.
- **Dene phonology**

...

THE CANOE HE CALLED LOO TAAS

AUTHOR: Amanda Reid-Stevens (Haida)

ILLUSTRATOR: Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas (Haida)

PUBLISHER: McKellar & Martin Publishing Group, Ltd. (2010)

ISBN: 978-0-9916782-0-4

PAGES: 18

FRY SCORE: Grade 3

DESCRIPTION: Loo Taas is the amazing 50-foot canoe designed by legendary artist Bill Reid, and carved by members of the Haida community. Her name means “Wave Eater.” This picture book, told in rhymed poetry and watercolour illustrations, tells the story of how the canoe came to be.

FEATURES:

- Additional information about the history of Loo Taas

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Rhyming/PA:** This book is written in rhyme.
- **Discourse:** Opportunity to encourage a field trip to the Vancouver airport with the family to view the Bill Reid sculpture with subsequent narrative report.
- **//:** “Loo Taas” appears frequently in the text.

CARIBOU SONG

AUTHOR: Tomson Highway (Cree)

ILLUSTRATOR: Brian Deines

PUBLISHER: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd. (2001)

ISBN: 0-00-225522-7

PAGES: 27

FRY SCORE: Grade 4

DESCRIPTION: Joe and Cody are brothers who love to dance and play the kitoochigan (accordion). Their family lives a traditional life, following the caribou up north. One day, the boys decide to sing and dance so that 10,000 caribou come out of the forest. Astonishingly, they get their wish, and make a narrow escape from the stampeding herd. The story is beautifully illustrated in oils on canvas. This book would be better suited to older primary students (Grade 2-3).

FEATURES:

- Bilingual text – English and Cree

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Narratives:** This story could be used to work on narrative structure, supplemented by dance and song.
- **Multisyllabic words:** “caribou” appears frequently in the text.
- Cree phonology

...

CHESTER BEAR, WHERE ARE YOU?

AUTHOR: Peter Eyvindson

ILLUSTRATOR: Wendy Wolsak-Frith

PUBLISHER: Pemmican Publications Inc. (1988)

ISBN: 0-921827-08-3

PAGES: 44

FRY SCORE: Grade 5

DESCRIPTION: Chester Bear is Kyle's best friend. He keeps him company at school and at home, but he is especially important at night time. He protects Kyle from the booglely men in the closet and the snakes under the bed. One night, Kyle cannot find Chester Bear. With the help of his mother, he looks everywhere, but Chester Bear cannot be found. When he gets into bed, he finds the bear under his pillow. The coloured pencil illustrations tell the story well, and depict a modern-day Aboriginal family. A nation is not specified by the author, but the story takes place on the prairies. Because of the content, this book is better suited to the younger primary grades (K-Grade 1).

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Prepositions:** There are many prepositions of place (in, on, under, beside, behind) and other location words (outside, inside, at home, at school) in this book. Because the bear is "hiding" throughout the story, a game of hide and seek would be an ideal follow-up activity.
- **/k/, /tʃ/, /st/, /l/, /r/:** The words "Kyle" and "Chester" appear on almost every page.

...

CHUCK IN THE CITY

AUTHOR: Jordan Wheeler (Cree)

ILLUSTRATOR: Christopher Auchter (Haida)

PUBLISHER: Theytus Books (2009)

ISBN: 978-1-894778-81-7

PAGES: 28

FRY SCORE: Grade 4

DESCRIPTION: Chuck and his mother visit his Kookum (grandmother) in the big city, where Chuck has never been before. Early the first morning, Chuck leaves the house alone to explore the city, and gets lost. He eventually finds his way back to his Kookum's house by jumping into a police car, unbeknown to the police officers. The story is told in rhyming couplets and accompanied by humorous, animation-style illustrations.

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Predictions:** Use the picture of Chuck in the police car (the one with his mother in her pyjamas) to generate predictions of why Chuck is in the police car. After reading the story, compare their predictions with the real ending.
- **Narratives:** The pictures lend themselves well to a narrative retell.
- **Rhyming/PA:** This book is written in rhyme.
- **/tʃ/, /k/:** The word "Chuck" appears on almost every page.

...

A COYOTE SOLSTICE TALE

AUTHOR: Thomas King (Cherokee and Greek)

ILLUSTRATOR: Gary Clement

PUBLISHER: Greenwood Books / House of Anansi Press (2009)

ISBN: 978-0-88899-929-0

PAGES: 59

FRY SCORE: Grade 5

DESCRIPTION: Trickster Coyote is having his animal friends over for a solstice get-together in the woods when a little girl comes by unexpectedly. She leads the party-goers through the snowy woods to the mall – a place they have never been before. Coyote gleefully shops with abandon, until he realizes that purchases require a payment. The animals return to Coyote’s house and have a festive meal instead. Thomas King’s deadpan humour combined with Gary Clement’s marvellous watercolours sends an anti-consumerist Christmas message. A very funny and engaging story.

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Narratives:** The pictures lend themselves well to a narrative retell. Because the book is long, it would be better suited to older primary students (Grade 2-3).
- **Rhyming/PA:** This book is written in rhyme.

...

THE CRYING CHRISTMAS TREE

AUTHOR: Allan Crow (Ojibwe)

ILLUSTRATOR: David Beyer (German-Canadian / Cree)

PUBLISHER: Pemmican Publications Inc. (1989)

ISBN: 0-921827-13-X

PAGES: 15

FRY SCORE: Grade 7

DESCRIPTION: This touching story is set in the historical past, in the reserve of Whitefish Bay, Ontario. Kokum and Tatanon (grandmother and grandfather) look forward to Christmas every year because they get to celebrate with all of their grandchildren. This year, Kokum decides to surprise the children by bringing in a Christmas tree. However, the children laugh at the tree and throw it out, saying that they will get a better one. Kokum's heart is broken, but she hides her true feelings. The grandchildren come to realize their mistake on their own, and surprise their Kokum by decorating her little Christmas tree. Large, colour illustrations beautifully depict family life.

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Narratives:** This story could be used to work on narrative structure.
- **/kr/, /tr/, /k/:** "crying," "Christmas," "tree" and "Kokum" appear throughout the text.

...

EMMA AND THE TREES / EMMA MINWAAH MTIGOOG

AUTHOR: Lenore Keeshig-Tobias (Ojibway)

ILLUSTRATOR: Polly Keeshig-Tobias (Ojibway/Delaware)

OJIBWAY TRANSLATION: Rose Nadjiwon (Ojibway)

PUBLISHER: Sister Vision: Black Women and Women of Colour Press (1996)

ISBN: 0-920813-11-9

PAGES: 22

FRY SCORE: Grade 2

DESCRIPTION: One day, Emma does not want to go outside into the snow. She cries and cries, as her mother tries to cheer her up. She only stops crying when her mother tells her to look at the trees, which appear to be waving at her. From that day on, Emma is friends with trees everywhere. The story is told in very simple language and is accompanied by monochromatic illustrations.

FEATURES:

- Bilingual text – English and Ojibway

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Prepositional phrases:** There are many prepositional phrases in this story.
- **/tr/:** “trees” appears frequently in the text.
- **Ojibway Phonology:** for further information on Ojibwe phonology see Kidd, (2014).

...

EXPLORING QUATSINO / T'SAXIS / TSULQUATE

AUTHORS: Marion Wright & Sarah Child (Kwakwaka'wakw)

PUBLISHER: Tri-Bands Education Committee (2001)

PAGES: 22

FRY SCORE: 4

DESCRIPTION: These are three different books: Exploring Quatsino, Exploring T'saxis, and Exploring Tsulquate. Each one has a different child showing the reader around their village, and all three Kwakwaka'wakw villages are located on northern Vancouver Island, BC. The text was written for grade three students and the books feature colour photographs of village life, including the natural surroundings, people, the schools, and traditions. A wonderful resource.

FEATURES:

- Glossary of Kwak'wala words
- CD recording of Kwak'wala words

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Sentences:** These books have many photos that are suitable for sentence-generating tasks.
- Kwak'wala Phonology

FOX ON THE ICE

AUTHOR: Tomson Highway (Cree)

ILLUSTRATOR: Brian Deines

PUBLISHER: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd. (2003)

ISBN: 0-00-225532-4

PAGES: 28

FRY SCORE: Grade 6

DESCRIPTION: In this story, a family goes for a picnic and some ice fishing. While the mother and younger brother doze on the dog sled, the huskies smell a fox on the ice. They take off in pursuit, dragging the sled with them. The father is faced with a choice: keep the fishing net from falling into the ice or stop the runaway sled. He chooses the latter, but luckily the family's pet dog Ootsie saves the net! The story is beautifully illustrated in oils on canvas. This book would be better suited to older primary students (Grade 2-3).

FEATURES:

- Bilingual text – English and Cree

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Narratives:** This story could be used to work on narrative structure.
- **/s/-clusters:** "fox," "sled," and "husky" appear throughout the text.
- Cree phonology

...

GIVING THANKS: A NATIVE AMERICAN GOOD MORNING MESSAGE

AUTHOR: Chief Jake Swamp (Mohawk)

ILLUSTRATOR: Erwin Printup, Jr. (Cayuga/Tuscarora)

PUBLISHER: Lee & Low Books, Inc. (1995)

ISBN: 1-880000-15-6

PAGES: 20

FRY SCORE: Grade 7

DESCRIPTION: This book is based on the Thanksgiving Address, an ancient message of peace and appreciation of Mother Earth and all her inhabitants. Vibrant acrylic illustrations fill the page with scenes of traditional Mohawk people in nature, and each page spread offers a brief message of thanks.

FEATURES:

- Additional information about the Thanksgiving Address
- A basic Mohawk version of the text at the back of the book

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Sentences:** This book could work well in groups. After reading the book, and talking about all the things the Mohawk people are thankful for, the children can take turns talking about something they are thankful for and why.
- **/θ/:** The word “thank” appears on every page.
- Mohawk phonology

...

THE GOOD LUCK CAT

AUTHOR: Joy Harjo (Muskogee-Creek)

ILLUSTRATOR: Paul Lee

PUBLISHER: Harcourt, Inc. (2000)

ISBN: 0-15-232197-7

PAGES: 30

FRY SCORE: Grade 4

DESCRIPTION: Woogie is a cat who brings good luck to others, but it seems she has run out of luck herself. A young girl tells the story of how Woogie lost all nine of her lives. When she goes missing, the family thinks that she is gone for good, having used up all of her lives. She makes it home in the end, and the family concludes that she must have more than nine lives – a real good luck cat. The acrylic illustrations perfectly capture Woogie’s playfulness and mischievousness in this engaging story.

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Sentences:** The child could produce a sentence for each of the cat’s nine lives. You could also make a book with the child of Woogie’s nine lives, where the child could draw pictures and write sentences.
- **Prepositional phrases:** This book has many opportunities for practicing these (e.g., in the dryer, out of the tree, away from the dog).
- **/k/, /g/:** Many words with /k/ and the word “Woogie” appear frequently in the text.
- **PA:** Sound segmentation or blending could be done with “good luck cat”

...

THE GREAT BALL GAME

AUTHOR: Joseph Bruchac (Abenaki)

ILLUSTRATOR: Susan L. Roth

PUBLISHER: Dial Books for Young Readers (1994)

ISBN: 0-8037-1539-0

PAGES: 30

FRY SCORE: Grade 2

DESCRIPTION: The birds and animals have an argument over who is better, those with wings or those with teeth. They decide to settle it with a game of lacrosse. Neither side wants the bat on their team, as he has both wings and teeth, but ultimately, the animals let him play on their side. The bat wins the game for the animals and punishes the birds by sending them away for half of each year. This amusing folktale is illustrated in colourful paper collage.

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Categories:** This book is perfect for teaching categories. You can discuss the features of each animal group that make them one category (e.g., feathers/fur, mouth/beak, wings/paws, etc.), and figure out why the bat is more of an animal than a bird. You could also make a paper craft activity for sorting the animals that matches the collages in the book.
- **Animal vocabulary:** This book features many different animals to build vocabulary, as well as opportunity to discuss the parts of the animal.

...

HOW RAVEN STOLE THE SUN

AUTHOR: Maria Williams (Tlingit)

ILLUSTRATOR: Felix Vigil (Jicarilla Apache/Jemez Pueblo)

PUBLISHER: Abbeville Press Publishers (2001)

ISBN: 978-0-7892-0163-8

PAGES: 20

FRY SCORE: Grade 7

DESCRIPTION: This Tlingit story tells how Raven stole the stars, moon and sun from a greedy chief by turning himself into his grandson. This story also explains how Raven went from being snow white to black. Beautiful watercolours illustrate this traditional tale.

FEATURES:

- Additional Information about Tlingit culture

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Narratives:** The pictures illustrate the story well, making it a good choice for a story retell task. The repetition makes it suitable for getting the child involved with predictions. You could also cover the text on the left and have the child “write the story” after reading it.
- **Copula be (past/present):** After reading the story, you can practise sentences that contrast the copula be verb in the past and the present (Raven was white / is black, there was/were no sun/moon/stars in the sky, Raven was a bird/baby).
- **/r/, /kr/:** “raven” and “crying” appear throughout the text.

...

HOW THE ROBIN GOT ITS RED BREAST: A LEGEND OF THE SECHELT PEOPLE

AUTHOR: The Sechelt Nation
ILLUSTRATOR: Charlie Craigan
PUBLISHER: Nightwood Editions (1993)
ISBN: 0-88971-158-5

PAGES: 18
FRY SCORE: Grade 7

DESCRIPTION: This traditional Sechelt story takes place in ancient times, during an especially cold winter. A family is cold and hungry, so they send out the men to hunt and collect firewood. While they are waiting, the grandfather does his best to keep the fire going, but one night it almost goes out. A robin sees this, and helps keep it going by flapping his wings on the fire, which is how his breast came to be red. This book includes traditional Sechelt illustrations in black and white.

FEATURES:

- Additional information about the Sechelt Nation

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Narratives:** This story could be used to work on narrative structure.
- **/r/:** “robin” appears several times in the text.

...

I CAN'T HAVE BANNOCK BUT THE BEAVER HAS A DAM

AUTHOR: Bernelda Wheeler (Cree and Salteaux)

ILLUSTRATOR: Herman Bekkering

PUBLISHER: Portage And Main Press (1993)

ISBN: 9781553790020

PAGES: 24

FRY SCORE: Grade 4

DESCRIPTION: The story begins when a young boy asks his mother to make some bannock. When the mother says she cannot make any, the boy starts on a list of why questions. It turns out that the power lines are down because a beaver took down a tree for its dam. This book includes plenty of simple repetitive language, and black and white graphite illustrations.

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Why questions:** This book offers repetitive exposure to the why question structure. You could go through the book a second time, with the child asking the why questions and you responding in simple because answers.

I HELP / NIWECHIHAW

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR: Caitlin Dale Nicholson (Tahltan)

CREE TRANSLATION: Leona Morin-Neilson (Cree)

PUBLISHER: Groundwood Books / House of Anansi Press (2008)

ISBN-13: 978-0-88899-812-5

PAGES: 20

FRY SCORE: Grade 1

DESCRIPTION: In this slice-of-life picture book, a contemporary Cree boy accompanies his grandmother on a trip to pick rosehips. The simple text, written in both Cree and English, shows the child mirroring his grandmother's every move ("Kôhkom walks. I walk.") until the end when "Kôhkom sits" and the boy instead plays with his slingshot ("Not me!"). Acrylic-on-canvas illustrations depict the close relationship between the boy and his grandmother and the beauty of the bush. Because of the simplicity of this book, it would be best suited to the younger primary grades (K-1).

FEATURES:

- Recipe for rosehip tea at the back of the book

SLP GOAL(S):

- **SV sentences:** Throughout the book, the grandmother (Kôhkom) is on the left page while the boy is on the right. So, the SLP can say the sentence for the grandmother page, and the child can say the boy's page.
- **Pronouns he & she / 3rd person singular –s:** You can also use the book to emphasize he and she, or the 3rd person singular suffix.

JENNELI'S DANCE

AUTHOR: Elizabeth Denny (Métis)

ILLUSTRATOR: Chris Auchter (Haida)

PUBLISHER: Theytus Books (2008)

ISBN: 978-1-894778-61-9

PAGES: 40

FRY SCORE: Grade 8

DESCRIPTION: Jenneli is a shy young girl who feels that she is not good at anything and different from the other kids at school, but she loves to have fun with Grandma Lucee doing the Red River Jig. One day, Grandma Lucee enters Jenneli into a jigging contest at the Lakeside Fair. Jenneli is both horrified and excited, but with Grandma Lucee's encouragement, love and support, Jenneli places her fears aside to dance in the contest, and wins. Jenneli's Dance is a moving and funny story that instils a sense of pride in the Métis culture, and deals with issues of overcoming low self-esteem. Animation-style digital illustrations add to the humour. This book is better-suited to older primary students (Grade 2-3).

FEATURES:

- Additional information about the Red River Jig

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Narratives / past tense:** The text in this book is quite long and higher level, but the pictures tell the story very well. The text can be simplified and used to work on narratives or past tense structures. Because of the layout (text on the left, picture on the right), it would be easy to cover the text with something simpler.
- **/dʒ/:** the words "Jenneli" and "jig" appear frequently in the text.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

...

JINGLE DANCER

AUTHOR: Cynthia Leitich Smith (Muscogee (Creek))

ILLUSTRATORS: Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu

PUBLISHER: Morrow Junior Books (2000)

ISBN: 0-688-16241-X

PAGES: 27

FRY SCORE: Grade 5

DESCRIPTION: Without enough tin jingles to make her dress sing, how can Jenna be a jingle dancer just like Grandma Wolfe at the next powwow? She borrows one row from Great-Aunt Sis, whose aching legs keep her from dancing; another from Mrs. Scott, who sells fry bread; one from Cousin Elizabeth, whose work keeps her away from the festivities; and a fourth row from Grandma, who helps Jenna sew the jingles to her dress, assemble her regalia, and practice her bounce-steps. When the big day arrives, the girl feels proud to represent these four women and carry on their tradition. This beautiful story is expressively illustrated in watercolour.

FEATURES:

- Additional information about the cultural elements of this story

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Narratives:** The large pictures lend themselves well to a narrative retell.
- **Sentences:** Go through the book again, talking about who Jenna borrowed a row of jingles from and why that person couldn't dance at the Powwow (e.g., "Jenna borrowed one row from Aunt Sis. Aunt sis can't dance at the Powwow because her legs hurt."). You could make a paper craft of a jingle dress and glue on a row of jingles for each set of sentences.
- **/dʒ/:** the words "Jenna" and "jingle" appear frequently in the text.

...

JUST A WALK

AUTHOR: Jordan Wheeler (Cree)

ILLUSTRATOR: Christopher Auchter (Haida)

PUBLISHER: Theytus Books Ltd. (2009)

ISBN: 978-1-894778-82-4

PAGES: 32

FRY SCORE: Grade 2

DESCRIPTION: A young boy named Chuck goes for a simple walk that turns into a day of crazy adventure. Chuck encounters animals, fish and birds that lead him on a wild journey through their various habitats. This silly story is complemented by humourous animation-style digital illustrations.

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Narratives:** Cover the text and use this as a wordless picture book.
- **Predictions:** Tell the children that Chuck is going out for a walk. Show them the picture of Chuck all muddy, and ask them to predict how he got so dirty. Read the story and compare the children's predictions to the real ending.
- **Sentences:** The pictures lend themselves well to generating sentences, as there are a few different action verbs (walk, fall, sink, chase, climb, fly).
- **Rhyming/PA:** This book is written in rhyming couplets.
- **/tʃ/, /k/:** "Chuck" appears throughout the text.

...

KYLE'S BATH

AUTHOR: Peter Eyvindson

ILLUSTRATOR: Wendy Wolsak

PUBLISHER: Pemmican Publications (1984)

ISBN: 0-919143-05-9

PAGES: 28

FRY SCORE: Grade 4

DESCRIPTION: Kyle likes a lot of things, like picking carrots in his mother's garden barefoot, playing in the sandbox, drinking tomato juice and eating spaghetti. Unfortunately, all of these things get him dirty, and at the end of the day his mother insists that he take a bath. One day, he doesn't do any of his favourite things to stay as clean as possible, but his mother still makes him take a bath. This funny story features repetition and delightful black and white graphite illustrations. A nation is not specified by the author, but the story takes place on the prairies. This book would be better suited to younger primary students (K-Grade 1).

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Sentences:** This would be a good book for groups. After reading the book, do an activity based on likes and dislikes to practice the sentence structure "I (don't) like because..."
- **/k/, /l/, /θ/:** "Kyle" appears on almost every page; "bath" appears several times as well.

...

THE LITTLE DUCK / SIKIHPSIS

AUTHOR: Beth Cuthand (Cree)

ILLUSTRATOR: Mary Longman (Saulteaux)

CREE TRANSLATION: Stan Cuthand (Cree)

PUBLISHER: Theytus Books (1999)

ISBN: 1-894778-10-3

PAGES: 24

FRY SCORE: Grade 5

DESCRIPTION: Set in the historical past, this enchanting children’s story is about a little mud duck who wanted to be a handsome Plains Cree dancer. The little mud duck admires the Cree from afar, until one day he sees them getting ready for a festive occasion. He decides to dress up like a Cree dancer and walk to the camp. However, he is unable to communicate with them or dance like them, so he returns to his pond dejected. At the end, he discovers that in the company of other mud ducks, he can be content with who he is. The illustrations in this book are of particular note – stunning, vibrant watercolours fill the page and bring the story to life.

FEATURES:

- Bilingual text – English and Cree
- Cree syllabary version of the text at the back of the book

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Narratives:** This story could be used to work on narrative structure.
- **/d/, /l/, /k/:** “duck,” “mud,” and “little” appear frequently in the text.

...

ORCA CHIEF

AUTHORS: Roy Henry Vickers and Robert Budd

ILLUSTRATOR: Roy Henry Vickers

PUBLISHER: Harbour Publishing Co. Ltd. (2015)

ISBN: 978-1-55017-693-3

PAGES: 33

FRY SCORE: Grade 7

DESCRIPTION: Orca Chief is set thousands of years ago in the village of Kitkatla. Four hunters leave home in the spring to harvest seaweed and sockeye. When they arrive at their fishing grounds, exhaustion makes them lazy and they throw their anchor overboard without care for the damage it might do to marine life or the sea floor. When Orca Chief discovers what the hunters have done, he sends his most powerful orca warriors to bring the men and their boat to his house. The men beg forgiveness for their ignorance and lack of respect, and Orca Chief compassionately sends them out with his pod to show them how to sustainably harvest the ocean's resources. Stunning colour illustrations accompany this remarkable story.

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Narratives:** This story could be used to work on narrative structure. The text is quite long, so you may want to modify it or use parts of it.
- **/tʃ/, /r/, /k/:** “orca” and “chief” appear throughout the text.

...

A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

AUTHORS: Robert Munsch & Michael Kusugak (Inuit)

ILLUSTRATOR: Vladyana Krykorka

PUBLISHER: Annick Press (1988)

ISBN: 978-1-55037-008-9

PAGES: 28

FRY SCORE: Grade 5

DESCRIPTION: Allashua's mother warns her not to go fishing by the sea ice because creatures called Qallupilluit live under it, and snatch children. Although Allashua promises her mother not to go, she breaks her promise, and sure enough the Qallupilluit come to take her under the sea ice. Allashua manages to escape by promising to deliver her brothers and sisters to the Qallupilluit. Back at home, she tells her parents all that has happened, and they devise a plan to outsmart the Qallupilluit. The story is illustrated in bright watercolours.

FEATURES:

- Additional information about Qallupilluit

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Narratives:** This story could be used to work on narrative structure. The story is quite long, so it may be good to simplify the text.

...

SALMON BOY: A LEGEND OF THE SECHELT PEOPLE

AUTHOR: Donna Joe (Sechelt)

ILLUSTRATOR: Charlie Craigan (Sechelt)

PUBLISHER: Nightwood Editions (1999)

ISBN: 0-88971-166-6

PAGES: 19

FRY SCORE: Grade 7

DESCRIPTION: In this traditional Sechelt story, a young boy goes swimming and is pulled underwater by a giant chum salmon. He is taken to the country of the salmon people and the chum salmon makes him a slave. Although it is under water, it is dry, and the salmon look like people. The boy observes all of their customs, and is able to escape when the salmon swim upstream to spawn. He shares their ways with his people, and thanks to this the Sechelt people learn to both harvest and respect the salmon. This book includes traditional Sechelt illustrations in black and white.

FEATURES:

- Additional information about the Sechelt Nation

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Narratives:** This story could be used to work on narrative structure.
- **/s/:** “salmon” and “sea” appear frequently in the text.

...

SASQUATCH EXTERMINATOR

AUTHOR: Don Freed (Métis)

ILLUSTRATOR: Myles Charles (First Nations)

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS: students of Charlebois School in Cumberland House, SK

PUBLISHER: Gabriel Dumont Institute (1999)

ISBN: 0-920915-41-8

PAGES: 16

FRY SCORE: Grade 3

DESCRIPTION: A boy discovers a sasquatch in the forest, which he doesn't know is actually three of his friends in a sasquatch suit. The sasquatch demands bannock, and the boy runs home to his Kohkom (grandmother) to get some. She knows better, and gives him a cowpie instead, which the boy stuffs into the sasquatch suit. This humorous book is accompanied by large coloured pencil illustrations, and is actually a song that you can sing.

FEATURES:

- Sheet music and CD included

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Narratives:** The pictures lend themselves well to a narrative retell. The text can be covered and it can be used as a wordless storybook.
- **Irregular past tense:** The text can be modified to emphasize irregular past verbs.
- **Rhyming (singing)/PA:** The text is written in rhyming couplets.
- **/s/, /tʃ/:** "sasquatch" appears frequently in the text.

...

WHEN THE SHADBUSH BLOOMS

AUTHORS: Carla Messinger (Lenape) & Susan Katz

ILLUSTRATOR: David Kanietakeron Fadden (Mohawk)

PUBLISHER: Tricycle Press (2007)

ISBN: 978-1-58246-192-2

PAGES: 26

FRY SCORE: Grade 5

DESCRIPTION: This book highlights the seasonal traditions (past and present) of the Lenni Lenape, whose traditional territories span what are now the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. Full page acrylic illustrations show the Lenape people fishing, farming and enjoying leisure time; on the left we see ancestors of the past, and on the right, a modern-day family. The story is told by Traditional Sister and Contemporary Sister, each in her own time.

FEATURES:

- Additional information about the Lenni Lenape people, seasons and culture

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Past tense:** This book is perfectly suited to contrasting present and past tense, as each double page spread has a modern-day family doing the same activities as a family from the past. The SLP can model a present sentence for the modern family, and the child can say the same sentence in the past. Or, for a receptive activity, the SLP can say a sentence in either past or present, and the child can point to the correct page.

...

WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR MOCCASINS?

AUTHOR: Bernelda Wheeler (Cree and Salteaux)

ILLUSTRATOR: Herman Bekkering

PUBLISHER: Peguis Publishers (1992)

ISBN: 1-895411-50-5

PAGES: 24

FRY SCORE: Grade 4

DESCRIPTION: Jody's Kookum (grandmother) has made him a new pair of moccasins, and he brings them to school for show and tell. The story is told in a question and answer format, where classmates ask questions about the moccasins, and Jody explains how they were made using traditional methods. The final question asks where his Kookum got the beads, and Jody's face looks very cheeky when he responds, "From the store." The book features a lot of repetition. Black and white graphite drawings accurately depict a modern-day, diverse kindergarten classroom.

SLP GOAL(S):

- **WH-questions:** The book provides excellent modelling of WH-questions.
- **/k/:** "Kookum" and "moccasin" appear frequently in the text.

...

WISAHKECAHK FLIES TO THE MOON

AUTHOR: Freda Ahenakew (Cree)

ILLUSTRATOR: Sherry Farrell Racette (Métis and Timiskaming)

PUBLISHER: Pemmican Publications (1999)

ISBN: 0-921827-57-1

PAGES: 32

FRY SCORE: Grade 4

DESCRIPTION: In this traditional Cree story, Wisahkecahk the trickster enlists a crane's help to fly to the moon. He wants to stay on the moon forever, but it gets smaller and smaller, and he goes tumbling back down to earth. This engaging story explains how the crane came to have long legs and a red head, and how muskegs came to be. Beautiful watercolour illustrations accompany the text – watch for the turtle on planet Earth when it is shown from the moon!

FEATURES:

- Bilingual text – English and Cree

SLP GOAL(S):

- **Narratives:** The pictures lend themselves well to a narrative retell. This would also be a good book to copy a few key pictures out of (e.g., Wisahkecahk looking at the moon, flying to the moon, landing on the moon), and have the child predict what the story will be. After reading, you can compare the child's predictions to the actual story.
- **/kr/:** "crane" appears frequently in the text.
- Cree phonology

BACKNOTES

...

DRUMS AND POTLATCHES: CULTURALLY-RELEVANT BOOKS
FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS IN CANADA

Book List and Annotated Bibliography | © 2016 Gosia Juskiewicz
Layout + Design MODERN CATALYST | <http://moderncatalyst.ca>