

# LESSON PLAN ORANGE SHIRT DAY

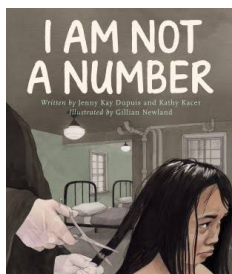
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## GRADE LEVEL

Junior High/High School  
Grades 9 - 12

## TEXT

I am Not a Number  
Written by  
Jenny Kay Dupuis &  
Kathy Kacer



## BOOK SUMMARY

When eight-year-old Irene is removed from her First Nations family to live in a residential school she is confused, frightened, and terribly homesick. She tries to remember who she is and where she came from, despite the efforts of the nuns who are in charge at the school and who tell her that she is not to use her own name but instead use the number they have assigned to her.

## READ ALONG

A read along video of this story is available in classroom settings, and has been distributed to schools.

## KEY CONCEPTS/OUTCOMES

### Grade 7 - Language Arts

- express ideas and opinions in a manner that reflects sensitivity and shows respect to others
- explore how text features help to create meaning
- experiment with stylistic effects in writing and representing to create interest

### Grade 8 - Language Arts

- reflect upon the contribution of others' ideas during discussion
- express ideas and opinions in a manner that reflects sensitivity and shows respect to others
- explain personal points of view about texts using relevant evidence from the text(s) use writing and representing to extend, explore, and reflect on ideas, values, and attitudes

### Grade 9 - Language Arts

- advocate a point of view and support it with personal examples and evidence from various sources
- evaluate the portrayal of culture and reality in texts
- use writing and representing to extend, explore, and reflect on ideas, values, and attitudes

### Social Studies 7

#### Unit I - Introduction

- Explore the general concept of empowerment
  - define power and authority and explain how each influences their own lives
  - identify and categorize sources of power and authority (who had power/authority within the story?)
- identify groups that are empowered and disempowered in our society (local, national, and global) (use the story as a reference point)

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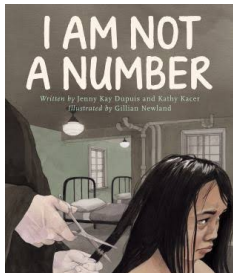
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## KEY CONCEPTS/OUTCOMES

### Social Studies 8

#### Unit 1 – History as a Lens to the Past

- SCO 1.2 The student will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of how to find out about the past
- Learning activity + Key research questions:
  - What is the history of residential schooling in Newfoundland & Labrador? Who are the Indigenous peoples of Newfoundland & Labrador?
  - What were the long-term impacts of residential schooling on families?
    - Students could choose to research these topics in groups or individually. They could present the information they've found in the form of a Google Slides presentation, a pamphlet, a mapping activity, an artwork, etc.

### Social Studies 9

#### Unit 2 – Geographic Influences on Identity: Place and People

- SCO 2.0 The student will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the physical geography of Canada
- SCO 3.0 The student will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the human geography of Canada
- SCO 4.0 The student will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of human migration and its impact on Canada since 1920
- Learning activity + Key questions
  - Who had power/authority within the story? Why?
  - Who was disempowered within the story? Why?
  - How does this power/authority/disempowerment relationship continue today? How?
  - Have students research the locations of the residential schools in Canada and map them on a map of Canada
    - Enter the years that these schools were operational
    - Find out who ran each of these schools - church? Government?
    - Were these schools located in Indigenous territories? Who was settled in these areas? How did settlement impact the Indigenous peoples of these areas?

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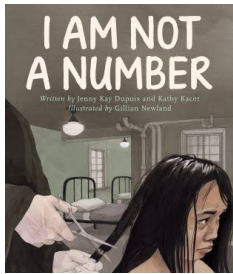
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## OPENING LESSON

Begin by discussing the Indigenous groups in Newfoundland and Labrador. Begin the conversation about residential schools. Once discussed, talk about Orange Shirt Day and the reason why we wear our orange shirts. It is suggested that teachers should show the video "Phyllis' Orange Shirt Day Story"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3vUqr01kAk>

## KEY QUESTIONS

- How do you think the children felt leaving their family behind?
- How do you think the children felt when they were going back home?
- What do you think the children were thinking when the Indian agent returned?
- How did the book make you feel?
- What does this text remind you of? Is there another text/story? Something you saw?
- What is reconciliation and what does it mean to you?

## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- In small groups, have students discuss questions with their partners
- Teachers may want to stop throughout the read aloud and use conversation prompts
- Allow students the time for feedback from students (audible, visual)
- Allow student to write down emotional connections, predict the next steps, list 5 words that reflect their thoughts
- Question Bucket: explore questions, take the initiative to find answers, support learning, group learning, guide future research
- Critical Thinking: What would you do in this situation?
- Personal responses in a journal
- Referencing "We don't use names here. All students are known by numbers" (pg. 7). Have students write down all the things that make them Unique. Write or draw their name on a poster board and have them write down words or draw pictures of their interests likes etc.
- Who are you? What makes you who you are? Have you ever lost sight of your identity? Tell your story using your voice, your photographs, and your experiences using StoryBird or another digital platform.

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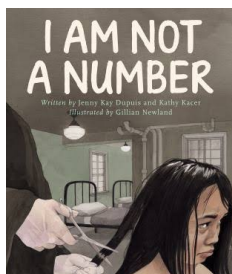
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## EXTENDED LEARNING

- Express anger emotions advocacy- tie in with current events, racism, current day.
- Examine Bias - Present a variety of texts from around the world to discuss the portrayal of different cultures with students.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- What is Orange Shirt Day
  - <https://firstlightnl.ca/site/uploads/2020/09/Orange-Shirt-Day-One-Page.pdf>
- Orange Shirt Day Teacher Resources
  - <https://www.orangeshirtday.org/teacher-resources.html>
- Phyllis Webstad's Story
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3vUqr01kAk>
- The Orange Shirt Story
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBrt1Vsam8Q>
- Namwayut: we are all one. Truth and Reconciliation in Canada
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zuRQmwaREY>
- The word Indigenous - explained
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CISeEFTsgDA>
- First Nations Education Steering Committee
  - <http://www.fnesc.ca/learningfirstpeoples/video-resources-indian-residential-schools-and-reconciliation/>