

My Heart Fills With Happiness

Recommend Grade(s): K

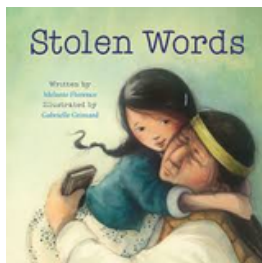
The sun on your face. The smell of warm bannock baking in the oven. Holding the hand of someone you love. What fills your heart with happiness? This beautiful board book, with illustrations from celebrated artist Julie Flett, serves as a reminder for little ones and adults alike to reflect on and cherish the moments in life that bring us joy.



Stolen Words

Recommend Grade(s): 1 - 6

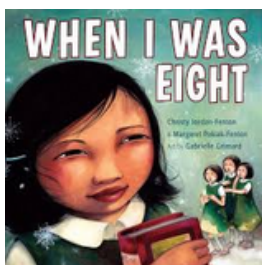
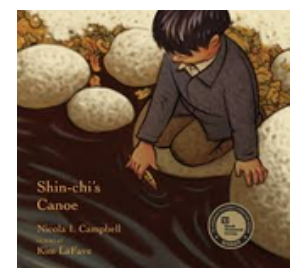
The story of the beautiful relationship between a little girl and her grandfather. When she asks her grandfather how to say something in his language, Cree, he admits that his language was stolen from him when he was a boy. The little girl then sets out to help her grandfather find his language again. This sensitive, beautifully illustrated picture book explores the intergenerational impact of Canada's residential school system, which separated young Indigenous children from their families.



Shin-Chi's Canoe

Recommend Grade(s): 4 - 9

When they arrive at school, Shi-shi-etko reminds Shinchi, her six-year-old brother, that they can only use their English names and that they can't speak to each other. For Shinchi, life becomes an endless cycle of church mass, school, and work, punctuated by skimpy meals. He finds solace at the river, clutching a tiny cedar canoe, a gift from his father, and dreaming of the day when the salmon return to the river — a sign that it's almost time to return home. This poignant story about a devastating chapter in First Nations history is told at a child's level of understanding.



When I Was Eight

Recommend Grade(s): 4 - 9

This adaptation of Fatty Legs makes the story of Margaret Pokiak's experiences in a residential school accessible to younger readers. Now they, too, can meet this remarkable girl who reminds us what power we hold when we can read.

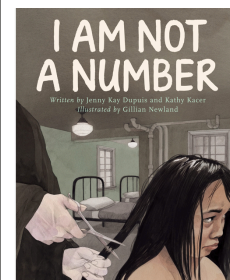
We recommend looking through all resources before introducing them to your children. While stories about residential schools are extremely important, it can be a very difficult topic, and it's important to make sure the videos/stories are appropriate for them.

For more information about Orange Shirt Day visit: whyiwearorange.ca/

I Am Not A Number

Recommend Grade(s): 7 - 12

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. Based on the life of co-author Jenny Kay Dupuis' grandmother.



Good For Nothing

Recommend Grade(s): 7 - 9

The year is 1959, and 15-year-old Nipishish returns to his reserve in northern Quebec after being kicked out of residential school, where the principal tells him he's a good-for-nothing who, like all Indians, can look forward to a life of drunkenness, prison and despair. The reserve, however, offers nothing to Nipishish. He remembers little of his late mother and father. In fact, he seems to know less about himself than the people at the band office. He must try to rediscover the old ways, face the officials who find him a threat, and learn the truth about his father's death.



When We Were Alone

Recommend Grade(s): 2 - 3

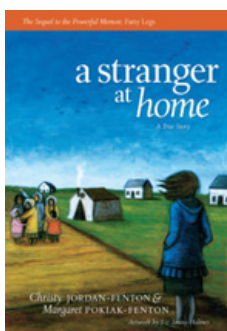
A young girl is curious about her grandmother's long braided hair and beautifully coloured clothing. Why does she speak another language and spend so much time with her family? Nókom (grandmother) explains about life in a residential school long ago, where everything was taken away. A story about a difficult time in history and, ultimately, of empowerment and strength.



A Stranger at Home

Recommend Grade(s): 4 - 5

Travelling to be reunited with her family in the Arctic, 10-year-old Margaret Pokiak can hardly contain her excitement. It's been two years since her parents delivered her to the school run by the dark-cloaked nuns and brothers. Coming ashore, Margaret spots her family, but her mother barely recognizes her, screaming, "Not my girl." Margaret realizes she is now marked as an outsider. However, Margaret gradually relearns her language and her family's way of living. Along the way, she discovers how important it is to remain true to the ways of her people—and to herself.



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