

Books of Life Project

Final Report
From
Lisgar Collegiate Institute

Derrick Grose
May 28, 2012

The Ontario Teachers' Federation "Books of Life Project" was, for Lisgar Collegiate Institute in Ottawa, an experiment in a library based extra-curricular project that did not realize its full potential; however it has had some effect in promoting awareness of First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) populations within Lisgar Collegiate and beyond. In addition to being a compilation of both writing and visual art that tells the stories of contemporary Lisgar students, the book produced for the project highlights tributes to the FNMI community that can be seen in the immediate neighborhoods of our school. This report will begin by describing the Lisgar Culture Club and the Books of Life Project and conclude by outlining some lessons learned about library based extra-curricular learning as a result of working with the club and being involved in the project.

The Lisgar Culture Club began in the second half of the 2011-2012 school year as the Reading for Understanding Book Club. During Black History Month a student approached the administration about organizing an assembly. Administration suggested that the student speak to the teacher-librarian (also the school's Equity Officer) about planning an event for the next school year. A book club was suggested as a way of engaging a team of students who might be interested in working on an assembly that would promote cultural awareness and tolerance.

The approach to the book club was not conventional. Recognizing that students might not be able to attend a meeting every week and that students might have a wide range of reading levels, it was decided to read an extract from a book in the library each week (Appendix One). A short selection from the book would be read out loud and then discussed. A summary of each meeting was posted on the Reading for Understanding Wiki (<http://readingforunderstanding.pbworks.com/w/page/40073197/Reading%20for%20Understanding>) and students were able to borrow books that were of particular interest to them. Two advantages of the format were that students' capacity to participate was not limited if they missed a meeting one week and that students were able to follow what had happened at each meeting even if they did not attend. By the end of the year, a group of six students had come together as a core for planning cultural awareness activities for next year.

When the call for applications for the Ontario Teachers' Federation "Books of Life Project" was made in the spring of 2011, it sounded like an ideal opportunity for Lisgar Collegiate's "Reading for Understanding" Book Club to continue its work exploring cross-cultural communication and promoting tolerance through understanding. The organizers stated that in their call for participants "through this literacy-based project we hope to build awareness and make connections between schools with high First Nation, Métis and Inuit student bodies and other schools" (<https://event-wizard.com/BoL/0/welcome/>).

A teacher-training workshop in Toronto was a stimulating experience for several reasons. It was great to get an opportunity to meet colleagues from a wide variety of schools across the province, to learn about FNMI presence and influence in different schools and to share resources for learning and teaching about FNMI communities. The sessions on First Nations beliefs and story-telling in First Nations cultures provided useful models for use in the classroom (or in this case, the library). If more time had been built in for working with partner schools, it might have created a stronger foundation for on-going communication between schools. The follow-up online conference in January was a good opportunity to exchange ideas and resources. Unfortunately, the timing of the May teleconference prevented me from participating.

One of the greatest sources of difficulty in the completion of this project at Lisgar was an initial dependence on a small number of students from an extra-curricular club to put together one or more books telling "our stories" as members of the Lisgar community. Their story was documented on the Lisgar Culture Club Wiki (<http://readingforunderstanding.pbworks.com/w/page/40073197/Reading%20for%20Understanding>). This group participated in a story-telling workshop after teacher orientation for the project in Toronto. Planning then

began on a book of interviews with students representing the diverse population at our school. It should be noted that there were no First Nations, Métis or Inuit students in this group and the group was somewhat disappointed that they had not been partnered with a school in a more culturally distinctively community elsewhere in the province. However, they began working on lists of standard interview questions. The problem was, once these lists were developed the club was unable to recruit a team of interviewers. Only one of the interviewers who volunteered actually delivered an interview.

As an alternative, the group decided to change direction and work on an alphabet picture book. One of the graduating art classes provided the sketches that acted as the backbone of the book. Some photographs were collected and some writing was completed but, before this project could gain significant momentum, Human Rights Day, a Black History Month Contest, summatives and exams and preparations for Black History Month Assemblies began to occupy much of the club's time and progress on the book crawled to a near halt. Attendance at the club's weekly meetings (even with snacks provided) became extremely erratic.

A call was put out to English classes to recruit students to provide the written content that would tell our story. A grade nine English class and a grade twelve Writers' Craft class indicated an interest. Both classes were shown the TED video "Chimamanda Adichie: The danger of a single story" (http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story.html) as an introduction to the importance of story-telling. Although the author making the presentation is Nigerian, the point she makes about stereotyping is an important one to be understood by anyone investigating another culture. The grade nine class read an excerpt from Wilfred Pelletier's autobiography, *No Foreign Land*, about the author's experience as an Ojibway child in a white man's school as an example of first person narrative story-telling that they might use as a model for giving a perspective on their own school experiences. The Writers' Craft class were presented with the introduction to Richard Wagamese's memoir, *For Joshua*, in which he talks about his goal as a writer being to help his readers discover who they are intended to be.

Apart from the fact that the writing done by these classes provided the content for which the Culture Club was able to act as an editorial board, it had the added benefit of exposing more than fifty additional students to at least an additional taste of Canadian First Nations literature while making them aware of the Books of Life Project. Their level of engagement and the opportunities for learning from the project would have been much greater had they had input into the planning process and, therefore, ownership of the project.

At the beginning of May the Culture Club, acting as the editorial board for "*L*" is for Lisgar, did its final layout of the book and printed a complete proof. After it underwent final revisions, four additional copies were printed; one was retained for the school library and the others were sent to OTF, Rideau High School and North Park Collegiate. We anxiously await the arrival of the books from our partner schools.

In addition to the project-generated books that will be in the school library, the project will have a larger legacy. A large collection of FNMI books has been added to the Lisgar Library for use by all students and teachers (Appendix One). Two Grade Nine teachers have chosen to include a First Nations novel in their reading list and Books of Life project funds have sponsored visits from a representative of the Wabano Centre to provide a cultural orientation for the students.

The project has created links between teachers in the Ottawa Carleton District School Board who are now members of a formal Professional Learning Community (Appendix Two). Through this PLC, other teachers within the district have learned about, and are planning on using resources developed for the project. The project was featured in an article about Lisgar Library that appeared in the Winter 2012 issue of *School Libraries in Canada* (<http://clatoolbox.ca/casl/slicv30n1/301profile.html>). It will be the subject of a paper to be presented at the Treasure Mountain Canada School Library Symposium in June of 2012 and a proposal has been submitted for a session at the OLA Superconference in 2013. The emphasis in these presentations will be on

sharing resources for teaching and learning about First Nations, Métis and Inuit students that have been encountered as a result of this project.

The Books of Life Project has been an excellent learning opportunity for Lisgar students and a professional growth opportunity for me as the teacher contact. The flexibility of the project created considerable potential that went unrealized because teachers and students have difficulty committing time and energy on an on-going basis to an extra-curricular activity that paralleled course work rather than being integrated into this work. In a future project I would try to implement the project, from the start, as a series of course work activities. However, that said, the Lisgar Culture Club is likely to continue integrating both story-telling and FNMI awareness activities in its program in the next school year and ideas from the project will assist the school in integrating FNMI cultural awareness into the curriculum.

Appendix One

Books Promoting FNMI Awareness Added to Lisgar Library (October, 2011 – May, 2012)

810.8 SIN *Manitowapow : Aboriginal writings from the land of water*

ISBN: 9781553793076

Sinclair, Niigaanwewidam James.

Winnipeg, Man.: HighWater Press, c2011.

xx, 416 p.: ill., maps; 23 cm.

This anthology of Aboriginal writings from Manitoba takes readers back through the millennia and forward to the present day, painting a dynamic picture of a territory interconnected through words, ideas, and experiences. A rich collection of stories, poetry, nonfiction, and speeches, it features:

- Historical writings, from important figures.
- Vibrant literary writing by eminent Aboriginal writers.
- Nonfiction and political writing from contemporary Aboriginal leaders.
- Local storytellers and keepers of knowledge from far-reaching Manitoba communities.
- New, vibrant voices that express the modern Aboriginal experiences.
- Anishinaabe, Cree, Dene, Inuit, Métis, and Sioux writers from Manitoba.

Created in the spirit of the Anishinaabe concept *debwe* (to speak the truth), The *Debwe Series* is a collection of exceptional Aboriginal writing from across Canada. *Manitowapow*, a one of a kind anthology, is the first book in The *Debwe Series*. *Manitowapow* is the traditional name that became Manitoba, a word that describes the sounds of beauty and power that created the province.

SC ALE *Ten little Indians*

ISBN: 0802117449

Alexie, Sherman,

New York: Grove Press, 2003.

243 p.; 22 cm.

Ten Little Indians offers eleven poignant and emotionally resonant new stories about Native Americans who, like all Americans, find themselves at personal and cultural crossroads, faced with heartrending, tragic, sometimes wondrous moments of being that test their loyalties, their capacities, and their notions of who they are and who they love. In "The Life and Times of Estelle Walks Above," an intellectual feminist Spokane Indian woman saves the lives of dozens of white women all around her, to the bewilderment of her only child, now a grown man who looks back at his life with equal parts fondness, amusement, and regret. In "Do You Know Where I Am?" two college sweethearts rescue a lost cat; a simple act that has profound moral consequences for the rest of their lives together. In "What You Pawn I Will Redeem," a homeless Indian man must raise \$1,000 in twenty-four hours to buy back the fancy dance outfit stolen from his grandmother fifty years earlier. Sherman Alexie's stories are driven by a haunting lyricism and naked candor that cut to the heart of the human experience, shedding brilliant light on what happens when we grow into and out of each other.

FIC BAR *As long as the rivers flow*

ISBN: 9780307398741

Bartleman, James

Toronto: Knopf Canada, 2011.

250 p.

971.05 BOY *Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont*

Boyden, Joseph,

ISBN: 9780670066711

Toronto, Ont.: Penguin Group, 2010.

Extraordinary Canadians.

xv, 204 p.; 21 cm.

Louis Riel is regarded by some as a hero and visionary, by others as a madman and misguided religious zealot. The Métis leader who fought for the rights of his people against an encroaching tide of white settlers helped establish the province of Manitoba before escaping to the United States. Gabriel Dumont was a successful hunter and Métis chief, a man tested by warfare, a pragmatist who differed from the devout Riel. Giller Prize winning novelist Joseph Boyden argues that Dumont, part of a delegation that had sought out Riel in exile, may not have foreseen the impact on the Métis cause of bringing Riel home. While making rational demands of Sir John A. Macdonald's government, Riel seemed increasingly overtaken by a messianic mission. His execution in 1885 by the Canadian government still reverberates today. Boyden provides fresh, controversial insight into these two seminal Canadian figures and how they shaped the country.

FIC BRU *Pocahontas*

ISBN: 0152167374

Bruchac, Joseph,

Orlando, Fla.: Silver Whistle, c2003.

173, [1] p.: map; 22 cm.

Told from the viewpoints of Pocahontas and John Smith, describes their lives in the context of the encounter between the Powhatan Indians and the English colonists of seventeenth-century Jamestown, Virginia.

355.22 SUM *Native soldiers, foreign battlefields = Soldats autochtones, terres étrangères*

ISBN: 0662687507

Summerby, Janice.

Ottawa: Veterans Affairs Canada, anciens combattants Canada, c2005.

Remembrance series (Ottawa, Ont.)

52, 52 p.: ill. ; 28 cm.

Remembrance Series by Veterans Affairs Canada

810.9897 DAV *Story keepers: conversations with aboriginal writers*

ISBN: 1896832512

David, Jennifer.

Owen Sound, Ont.: Ningwakwe Learning Press, 2004.

100 p.: ports; 23 cm.

Indigenous cultures have a strong oral storytelling tradition that has been preserved and passed down for hundreds of years. Today, Aboriginal writers are transforming that oral tradition into a written one. Before the 1970s, aboriginal literature in Canada was virtually non-existent. Now, barely thirty years later, a vibrant community of writers is winning awards, challenging readers and sharing unique experiences. They are the Story Keepers.

813.54 DEL

ISBN: 9780921827658

A Name for a Métis

Delaronde, Deborah
Canada: Pemmican Publications, 1999
28P

What will the little boy's nickname be? Will he be called Great Big Nose because he is so nose-y? Will he be called Big Ears because he listens so carefully? Because you are trying to honour your mother's language and your honour your father's traditions, you will be called Little Métis.

FIC DUM *Nobody cries at bingo*
ISBN: 9781897235843
Dumont, Dawn,
Saskatoon: Thistledown Press, c2011.
298 p.; 22 cm.

The narrator, Dawn, invites the reader to witness first hand Dumont family life on the Okanese First Nation. Beyond the stereotypes and clichés of Rez dogs, drinking, and bingo, the story of a girl who loved to read begins to unfold. It is her hopes, dreams, and indomitable humour that lay bear the beauty and love within her family. It is her unerring eye that reveals the great bond of family expressed in the actions and affections of her sisters, aunts, uncles, brothers, cousins, nieces, nephews, and ultimately her ancestors. It's all here - life on the Rez in rich technicolour - as Dawn emerges from home life, through school life, and into the promise of a great future

971.327 EDW *One dead Indian: the premier, the police, and the Ipperwash crisis*
ISBN: 0773733213
Edwards, Peter,
Toronto: Stoddart, 2001.
x, 267 p.: ill. map; 24 cm.

On September 4, 1995, several Stoney Point Natives entered Ipperwash Provincial Park, near Sarnia, Ontario, and began a peaceful protest aimed at reclaiming a traditional burial ground. Within seventy-two hours, one of those protestors, Anthony (Dudley) George, was dead, shot by an OPP officer.

In *One Dead Indian*, after covering the tragedy from the beginning, journalist Peter Edwards examines the circumstances surrounding George's death and asks a number of tough questions, including: How much pressure did the Ontario government put on the OPP to get tough? As the official public inquiry attempt to shed light on what really happened, Peter Edwards's investigation of this question brings the story right up to the present.

971.004 FIL *Aboriginal Beliefs, Values, and Aspirations*
ISBN: 9780135106518
Filion, Barbara
Canada: Pearson, 2011
342p

Helps students explore world views and contributions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples as well as the political, economic, cultural, and social challenges facing these individuals and communities. Students will learn about traditional and contemporary beliefs and values and how these influence the aspirations and actions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples, both in the past and in the present as well as their aspirations for the future.

971.004 REE *Aboriginal peoples in Canada: contemporary conflicts*

Frideres, James.
ISBN: 0131228943
7th ed.
Toronto: Pearson Prentice Hall, c2005.
xiii, 442 p.: ill., maps; 24 cm.

Designed for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students to increase their awareness and understanding of the history, cultures, world views, and contributions of Aboriginal peoples in Canada...and to help them better understand Aboriginal issues at local, regional, and national levels. Fourth ed. published under title: Native peoples in Canada. 2nd ed. published under title: Native people in Canada. 1st ed. published under title: Canada's Indians.

FIC HAR *Red ice for a shroud*
ISBN: 1894917383
Harlick, R. J.
Toronto: RendezVous Crime, c2006.
355 p.; 19 cm.

As winter's first snow starts to fall a young Québécoise sneaks off to meet her Algonquin lover in an isolated hunting camp on the Migiskan Reserve. Five days later, Meg Harris discovers her frozen and brutalized body. The young Native is charged with her murder and Meg feels responsible, as the young woman was a member of the crew that was helping Meg to clear some cross country ski trails. Meg, convinced of the innocence of the young Native in the death of his lover, sets out to find the real killer against a backdrop of police prejudice. As Meg scrambles to unravel the truth, the snow turns to freezing rain, locking her West Quebec wilderness within a prison of ice. The sequel to "Death's Golden Whisper" again visits the Canadian wilderness of Quebec where survival hinges on the strong alliances one forms with one's neighbors.

971.5 PAU *We were not the savages*
ISBN: 1552660397
Paul, Daniel N.
New 21st-century ed.
Halifax, N.S.: Fernwood, c2000.
359 p.: ill. map; 23 cm.

A Mi'kmaq perspective on the collision between European and Native American civilizations. The history of indigenous peoples comes from the thorough research of a First Nations descendent. By turns revealing and deeply unsettling, the book details the brutal treatment and complete displacement of the Mi'kmaq civilization at the hands of European settlers. The author's ongoing research casts doubt on the recorded tales of Canadian colonization and reveals that the mistreatment of First Nations peoples is not confined to the past

FIC PET *Dark Days at Saddle Creek*
ISBN: 9781770860896
Peterson, Shelley

Bird has always had the ability to communicate telepathically with animals, but until now, she's never received a mental transmission from a human. When she intercepts a message from a farmhand at a horse show, she realizes there is someone else in the world who understands her special bond with horses and who can give her answers to questions she's been asking her entire life. In "Dark Days at Saddle Creek", the sixth book in Shelley Peterson's bestselling Saddle Creek series, Bird finally learns the reason for her unique ability. But more importantly, she learns who her birth father was and discovers the fate that befell him. Along the way Bird, with the help of her favourite horse, Sundancer, try to foil horse thieves and swindlers

971.004 PUR *The Métis*
ISBN: 1550280503
Purich, Donald J.

Toronto: Lorimar, 1988.
Canadian issues series (James Lorimer & Company)
ix, 224 p.; 19 cm.

In 1885 the Métis, led by Louis Riel, rose up in arms to protest their treatment by the federal government. One hundred years later the struggle continues as the Métis press for action on their grievances and for constitutional entrenchment of their aboriginal rights. The book is an account of Métis history and of the Métis goals today. Includes index.

FIC REI *The Way It Is*
ISBN: 9781897187807
Reid, Donalda
Toronto: Second Story Press, 2010
281p.

It's the 1960s, the time for equal rights, peace and love. But for Ellen Manery, it's the time to work hard and finish high school early. She'd rather be helping out at the university's medical lab than listening to rock and roll and hanging out with the kids at her high school. Isolated and driven, Ellen feels like she was born an outsider. What if you live in a small town, where change is slow in coming? Tony Paul knows what it's like to be on the outside. Living on an Indian reserve near a small town, he goes to the local high school, but his heritage and the colour of his skin stand him apart. Ellen and Tony meet when Ellen's parents decide to leave city life behind and move to the town. Right away, they are drawn to each other's difference. Used to being on their own in high school, together they find a happiness and strength that allow them to face the sexism and prejudice around them. But can Ellen and Tony be more than friends: Are they right to think that a girl can study science and become a doctor, and that an Indian boy can go to college? Together they'll find out.

FIC RIC *Midnight sweat lodge*
ISBN: 1926886143
Rice, Waubgeshig,
Penticton, B.C.: Theytus Books, c2011.
85 p.; 18 cm.

Short stories.

323.1 RIC *People of Terra Nullius: betrayal and rebirth in aboriginal Canada*
ISBN: 1550541617
Richardson, Boyce.
1st pbk. ed. 1994.
Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1994, c1993.
vii, 393 p., [16] p. of plates: ill. ; 23 cm.

In November 1991, indigenous peoples who have somehow survived the 500 year holocaust brought from Europe gathered in Ottawa. They came from throughout the Americas, from the Arctic islands in the north through Mexico in the centre to Patagonia in the south. They came to attend the Indigena 500 conference, convened to discuss the United Nations sponsored celebration in 1992 of the arrival in their world of Christopher Columbus - something that none of them wanted to celebrate given what has happened since. Aztec, Iroquois, Mayan, Ojibway, Inca, Algonquin, Carib, Cree, Cheyenne, Mapuche, Seminole, Moskito and

dozens of others, joined together for a few days. The book distils the author's education in 25 years of meeting, talking to and learning from aboriginal people in Canada.

GN ROB *7 Generations Ends/Begins*

ISBN: 9781553792628

Robertson, David Alexander

Highwater Press: Manitoba, 2010

30p.

In 1964, two brothers are taken from the warm and loving care of their grandparents and spirited away to a residential school miles from home. James, assigned to manual work on the grounds, sees less and less of his younger brother Thomas. James soon discovers the anguish that Thomas is living under, which leads to unspeakable tragedy. The pain and guilt that dogs James continues to affect his troubled son Edwin (introduced in book 1). But a new understanding is dawning between them...

Ends/Begins is book 3 in the graphic novel series *7 Generations*. Other books in this series:

GN ROB *7 Generations The Pact*

ISBN: 9781553792628

Robertson, David Alexander

Highwater Press: Manitoba, 2010

30p.

The Pact is a story of redemption, as James and his son, Edwin, reconcile their past and begin a new journey.

GN ROB *7 Generations Scars*

ISBN: 9781553792628

Robertson, David Alexander ISBN: 9781553792628

Highwater Press: Manitoba, 2010

30p.

Scars is the story of the orphan White Cloud, set against the smallpox epidemic of 1870-1871.

GN ROB *7 Generations Stone*

Robertson, David Alexander ISBN: 9781553792628

Highwater Press: Manitoba, 2010

30p.

Stone tells the story of a young Plains Cree man in the early 19th century who fulfills his destiny as a warrior as he avenges his brother's death.

GN ROB *Sugar Falls A Residential School Story*

ISBN: 9781553792628

Robertson, David Alexander

Highwater Press: Manitoba, 2010

30p.

A school assignment to interview a residential school survivor leads Daniel to Betsy, his friend's grandmother, who tells him her story. Abandoned as a young child, Betsy was soon adopted into a loving family. A few short years later, at the age of 8, everything changed. Betsy was taken away to a residential school. There she was forced to endure abuse and indignity, but Betsy recalled the words her father spoke to her at Sugar Falls words that gave her the resilience, strength, and determination to survive.

Sugar Falls is based on the true story of Betty Ross, Elder from Cross Lake First Nation. We wish to acknowledge, with the utmost gratitude, Betty's generosity in sharing her story.

GN ROB *The Life of Helen Betty Osborne*

ISBN: 9781553792628

Robertson, David Alexander

Highwater Press: Manitoba, 2010

30p.

Helen Betty Osborne dreamed of becoming a teacher. Sadly her dream never came true. Helen left her home in Norway House, Manitoba, to attend Guy Hill Residential School in 1969. In September 1971, she entered Margaret Barbour Collegiate in The Pas, Manitoba. Two months later, on November 13, 1971, she was brutally murdered by four young white men. Years later, the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry concluded that her murder was the result of racism, sexism and indifference. *The Life of Helen Betty Osborne* is a graphic novel about Betty's life up to that tragic November day. Her story is told by a young boy named Daniel. The events in Betty's story are true. The events in Daniel's story represent our ability to change, learn, and grow.

FIC SUT *Life Sucks*

ISBN: 9780981007823

Sutherland, Donna G.

Manitoba: White Buffalo Books, 2010

149p.

Lindsay McKay is a 14-year-old girl on the cusp of womanhood struggling to understand life and her place in it. Her struggle is with identity, what she sees on the outside is not in sync with the spirit within. She journeys with her mother Emma through conflict and challenge to truth and love. Together they find answers to their questions through the grace and wisdom of Martha, a powerful Cree Medicine Woman who introduces them to the Seven Sacred Teachings of the ancient Cree.

FIC TAY *Motorcycles & Sweetgrass*

ISBN: 9780307398055

Taylor, Drew Hayden,

Toronto: Alfred A. Knopf Canada, c2010.

348 p.; 21 cm.

Otter Lake is a sleepy Anishnawbe community where little happens. Until the day a handsome stranger pulls up astride a 1953 Indian Chief motorcycle and turns Otter Lake completely upside down. Maggie, the Reserve's chief is swept off her feet, but Virgil, her teenage son, is less than enchanted. Suspicious of the stranger's intentions, he teams up with his uncle Wayne, a master of aboriginal martial arts, to drive the stranger from the Reserve. And it turns out that the raccoons are willing to lend a hand.

819.08 TAY Sequence #17231

News: postcards from the four directions LCCN:2010674445
Taylor, Drew Hayden, ISBN: 97808892264320889226431
Vancouver, B.C.: Talon books, c2010.
285 p.; 22 cm.
Policy: STD

In this collection of short humorous essays originally written for the popular media, playwright, novelist and screenwriter Drew Hayden Taylor sends his readers fascinating and exotic postcards from his globetrotting adventures, always on the lookout for the NEWS about aboriginal peoples around the world. Organized around the thematics suggested by the four cardinal directions central to the Ojibwa peoples - east for beginnings and youth; south for journeys both physical and spiritual; west for maturity and responsibility; and north for contemplation and wisdom. These communiqués are sent not so much to instruct as they are to delight.

819.2 TAY Only drunks and children tell the truth
ISBN: 088922384X
Taylor, Drew Hayden
Burnaby, B.C.: Talon books, 1998.
112 p.; 22 cm.

The emotional struggle of a Native woman who was adopted by a White family to acknowledge her birth family. Cast of 2 women and 2 men.

819.2 TAY In a world created by a drunken God
ISBN: 9780889225374
Taylor, Drew Hayden
Vancouver, BC: Talon books, 2006.
127 p.; 22 cm.

Jason Pierce, a thirty-one-year-old Canadian half-Native man, is packing up his urban apartment to leave it all behind for his romanticized vision of a return to life on the reserve where he grew up. As he's leaving, he is paid an unexpected visit by a thirty-four-year-old American man, Harry Deiter, who awkwardly introduces himself as Jason's half-brother. What Harry wants from Jason is bizarre: to be compatibility-tested for a possible kidney donation to their dying non-native father, a man Jason has no memory of ever meeting and who, after a brief and secret affair, abandoned Jason's mother when he was two months old.

Both Jason and Harry are about to have their most fundamental and sustaining beliefs shaken to the core by their respective relationships to the biological father they inadvertently share. Harry, the naïve historical positivist, buoyed up by a lifetime of relative privilege as a member of the dominant imperial culture, encounters in Jason the anger and bitter resistance of the exploited and abandoned colonial in terms of both Jason's native and his Canadian heritage and identity.

Embroided in the irreconcilable absurdity of their dilemma, Harry is forced to acknowledge that the father he has loved and respected all his life has concealed from his American family his capacity for an absent, heartless cruelty. Jason on the other hand must wrestle with the possibility that the man who so thoughtlessly exploited and abandoned his Canadian native mother and their son may in fact have the capacity to be a loving and present husband and father.

This play raises powerful questions that transcend issues of culture, morality and history. They cut to the ethical quick of what it means to be human in a chaotic world stripped of the comfortable security of identity politics.

813.54 TAY *Fearless warriors*

ISBN: 9780889225978

Taylor, Drew Hayden,
Rev. ed.

Vancouver: Talon books, c2008.

192 p.; 22 cm.

Internationally acclaimed Native playwright Taylor's powerful, haunting and incredibly entertaining stories in *Fearless Warriors* are a full frontal assault on stereotypes of all kinds; an edifying affirmation of humanity unlike anything else in North American fiction.

No quarter is given, nor is it taken; native stereotypes of white culture are as fair a species of game for this writer as any other. More than anything else, these stories shine with a wisdom, an understanding of the human condition, that is rare among writers courageous enough to take on these thematics, even just one of these stories, "The Boy in the Ditch" does more to illuminate the tragedy of the pre-teen gasoline sniffing culture of Davis Inlet than countless government commissions will ever do.

812.54 TAY *Alternatives*

ISBN: 0889224285

Taylor, Drew Hayden,

Burnaby, B.C.: Talon books, 2000.

144 p.; 22 cm.

A very liberal contemporary couple, Angel, an urban native science fiction writer, and Colleen, a non-practicing Jewish intellectual who teaches native literature, have a dinner party. The guests at this little soiree represent what by now have become the clichéd extremes of both societies - Angel's former radical native activist buddies, and Colleen's environmentally concerned vegetarian/veterinarian friends. The menu is, of course, short hand for the irreconcilable cultural differences about to come to a head: moose roast and vegetarian lasagna.

FIC WAG *The next sure thing*

ISBN: 9781554699001

Wagamese, Richard.

Custer, WA: Raven Books, 2011.

Cree Thunderboy wants nothing less than to be the next great blues man. But, playing to tiny audiences in shabby rooms like Shelly's Crab Shack, his career is stalled. Then at the race track he meets Win Hardy, a seemingly charming rogue who spots Cree's knack for picking winning horses. He offers to record his first CD and send him on tour, as long as Cree can keep coming up with the hot tips at the track.

Things are looking good for Cree until he discovers Win's connections to the mob and his violent response to anything that doesn't go his way. And when things inevitably go bad, Cree discovers that in life and in gambling there is never really the next sure thing.

Appendix Two

“Finding the Spirit”

Presentation by Derrick Grose
Teacher-Librarian, Lisgar Collegiate
Editor, *School Libraries in Canada*
<http://clatoolbox.ca/casl/slic/>
April 17, 2012



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Ottawa Carleton District School Board
Aboriginal Education
Professional Development Network

With two or three colleagues visit the stations located around the room. At each station there are multiple copies of a short readings as well as thematically related resources. You will have a few minutes at each station. This sheet is for you to take notes for your own purposes. At each station there are additional sheets for you to list other resources or ideas that you would like to share with the group.

1. “As Red Men Die”

Pauline Johnson

Legends of Vancouver -

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/3478>

Moccasin Maker -

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Cool Canada: Interesting People

– Pauline Johnson (1861-1913)

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/cool/002027-2109-e.html>

2. Kajusita

from *Tudjaat*

<http://clatoolbox.ca/casl/slicv28n2/282simmons.html>

<p>3. "Meegwetch" Ian Ross as <i>Joe from Winnipeg</i></p> <p>http://clatoolbox.ca/casl/slicv28n2/282haydentaylor.html http://clatoolbox.ca/casl/slicv30n1/301dumont.html</p>	
<p>4. Excerpt from <i>No Foreign Land</i> by Wilfred Pelletier</p> <p>http://www.legacyofhope.ca/ http://clatoolbox.ca/casl/slicv29n3/293lafave.html</p>	
<p>5. Medals and Memories Minutes</p> <p>http://clatoolbox.ca/casl/slicv27n3/273poulin.html <i>Native Soldiers Foreign Battlefields</i> http://www.veterans.gc.ca/public/pages/history/other/native/natives_e.pdf</p>	

6. "Weendigo"
by Basil Johnstone

<http://www.cbc.ca/aboriginal/legends-project/>

7. An Excerpt from *Morningstar A Warrior's Spirit* (on the Trickster)
by Morningstar Mercredi

<http://clatoolbox.ca/casl/slicv30n1/301king.html>

8. "Many Tender Ties"

By Sylvia Van Kirk

<http://clatoolbox.ca/casl/slicv27n2/272pemmican.html>

<http://clatoolbox.ca/casl/slicv28n3/283bouchard.html>

9. "Still Running" and "Anger and Tears"

From Arctic Rose by Susan Aglukark

<http://clatoolbox.ca/casl/slicv28n2/282aglukark.html>

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