

Reading Road Trip

An IDA Ontario Podcast

S4 E1: Cedar School Decodables

Written by Connie Ann Kirk, Illustrated by Christy Hale



Join Liv, Tom, Gus, and Bell as they learn on the land and explore Mi'gmaq teachings with their teacher, Miss Sam, and the school's Mi'gmaq Elder, Jen. With charming illustrations and simple storylines, this decodable series engages students as they practise their reading skills. Each book includes a pre-reading review of non-decodable words, and many of the books introduce special words related to Indigenous teachings. Talking Together prompts facilitate discussions led by the reading teacher.

S4 E2: The Game

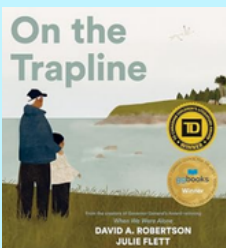
Written by Henry Charles, Peter Leech (Afterword), Illustrated by Shoshannah Greene



Killer Whale and Brown Bear are arguing: Brown Bear says he can beat Killer Whale at any challenge, yet Killer Whale disagrees. When Powerful Mena overhears their bickering, he comes up with a solution: a game on the ice, played with sticks, nets, and a star for a puck. But who will win and earn the trophy?

S4 E3: On the Trapline

Written by David A. Robertson, Illustrated by Julie Flett



A boy and Moshom, his grandpa, take a trip together to visit a place of great meaning to Moshom. A trapline is where people hunt and live off the land, and it was where Moshom grew up. As they embark on their northern journey, the child repeatedly asks his grandfather, "Is this your trapline?" Along the way, the boy finds himself imagining what life was like two generations ago -- a life that appears to be both different from and similar to his life now. This is a heartfelt story about memory, imagination and intergenerational connection that perfectly captures the experience of a young child's wonder as he is introduced to places and stories that hold meaning for his family.

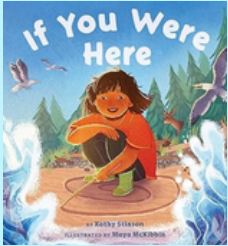
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S4 E4: If You Were Here

Written by Kathy Stinson Author, Illustrated by Maya McKibbin



In this beautiful ode to nature and mindfulness, a child sets out to explore the environment around their home, using all their senses. Yet, someone important is missing, someone the child wishes could be there on the journey.

Expressive text by Kathy Stinson leaves room for readers' own interpretations about who the child in the story might be missing, while Indigenous illustrator Maya McKibbin's gorgeous images capture the lush beauty of the natural world and the tenderness of a child's emotions.

S4 E5: Dad, Is It Time to Gather Mint?

Written by Tyna Legault Taylor, Illustrated by Michelle Dao



Join Joshua as his father teaches him about traditional food harvesting.

Joshua loves being on the land. When the weather is warm, Joshua and his dad gather mint from the shores of Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek (Lake Nipigon First Nation) in northeastern Ontario. But when will that be? It's not when the leaves are changing colour. It's not when the snow falls from the sky. It's not when the flowers are budding. When is it time to gather mint from the land?

In the back of the book, find a glossary and pronunciation guide for the Swampy Cree and Anishinaabemowin words featured throughout the story.

S4 E6: What Is Your Name?

Written by Kukik Kusugak, Seth Naullaq Benjamin Arreak, Panigusiq Obed and Dominic Tegeapak and Illustrated by Amiel Sandland



Does your name have a story?

Kukik is named after her great grandmother. Naullaq's name honours his uncle. Panigusiq and Tegeapak have stories behind their names, too. Naming is an important practice to Inuit. This book follows four Inuit children as they explain the meanings of their names in simple language for young children to enjoy.

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S4 E7: Miya Wears Orange

Written by Wanda John-Kehewin, Illustrated by Erika Rodriguez Medina

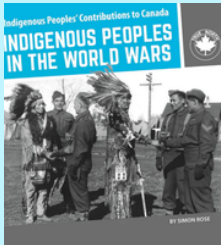


This beautifully illustrated book, based on the lived experience of the author, that gently explores the complicated feelings a young girl experiences as she learns about tragedy and injustice. Miya loves her school and she especially loves storytime. One day, her teacher shares a story about a little girl who was taken away to a residential school. The little girl wasn't allowed to go home. Her hair was cut and she wasn't allowed to keep her favourite doll. She was taken away from her family because she was Indigenous, just like Miya!

Miya worries the same thing will happen to her. Her mom tells her that Indigenous girls and boys aren't forced to leave their families anymore. Miya is relieved, but she is still sad. What can she do about these feelings?

S4 E8: Indigenous Peoples in the World Wars

Written by Simon Rose



Indigenous Peoples in the World Wars is part of the four volume Indigenous Peoples' Contributions to Canada series from Beech Street Books. Simon Rose authors this 24-page information book for elementary students that provides information about the role of First Nation, Inuit and Métis individuals and communities during the First and Second World Wars. This book has four chapters that present information about the First World War, the Second World War, Indigenous Women in the World Wars, and The Home Front. The book pays tribute to the men and women who served during the wars including Edith Anderson, Cameron Brant, Charles Byce, David Greyeyes, Mary Greyeyes, F. O. Loft, Tom Longboat, O. M. Martin, Marion Miller, Henry Norwest, Francis Pegahmagabow, and Tommy Prince. The role of women during the wars acknowledges the work of community organizations such as Six Nations Women's Patriotic League. First Nations veterans and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice are acknowledged in this resource.

S4 E9: Métis Christmas Mittens

Written and Illustrated by Leah Marie Dorion



The holiday season has always been a very special time for Métis families. A family-oriented people, the Métis often didn't have money to buy expensive presents, but instead made practical items with much love. In this spirit, award-winning author and illustrator, Leah Marie Dorion takes readers back to the Métis tradition of making mittens for loved ones. Métis Christmas Mittens is a touching ode to Métis family life is accompanied by Leah's distinctive and evocative art.

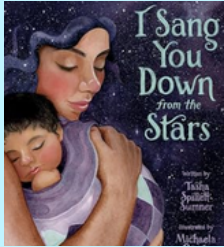
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S4 E10: I Sang You Down From the Stars

Written by Tasha Spillett, Illustrated by Michaela Goade



Drawing from Indigenous creation stories and traditional teachings and illustrated in dazzling watercolors, *I Sang You Down from the Stars* is a tribute to the bond between mother and child. The narrator gathers gifts for a medicine bundle in anticipation of her baby's birth; a fluffy white eagle plume, bunches of cedar and sage, a quilted star blanket, and a small stone from the river. When the baby arrives, the mother shares the bundle with her child and reveals the importance of each item inside. But when her family comes to meet the new arrival, she realizes the baby arrived with gifts of its own and that the baby is also a sacred bundle; a baby bundle.

Writing in simple, lyrical text, author Tasha Spillett draws from her cultural heritage in order to celebrate Indigenous traditions and the universal nature of a mother's love, with stunning art by the 2021 Caldecott medal winner for *We Are Water Protectors*, Michaela Goade.

S4 E11 Bonus Episode: We All Love

Written by Julie Flett



Snuggle up! Animals love—like you!

Join baby bears, little ducklings, curious foxes, and many more adorable creatures as they remind us of all the ways, big and small, that we show love and care. *We All Love* is a poetic and beautifully illustrated reminder of the interconnectedness of the natural world—demonstrating how care, protection, and love are experienced by all living things.