

# Reading Road Trip

An IDA Ontario Podcast

## S3 E1: Indig-Enough

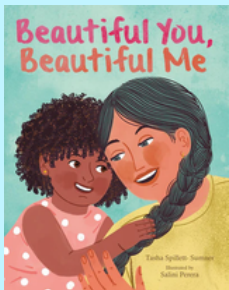
Written by Nikki Soliman, Illustrated by Julian Grafenauer



Indig-Enough is a rhyming story that captures the author's journey in navigating and embracing her indigeneity, honouring her roots, and walking tall towards the future. This book can help guide young people in the exploration and the awareness of identity and intersectionality which can sometimes make it difficult to fit in and find their place.

## S3 E2: Beautiful You, Beautiful Me

Written by Tasha Spillett-Sumner, Illustrated by Salini Perera



This story about a multiracial child navigating identity and belonging draws from author Tasha Spillett-Sumner's own experience growing up as an Afro-Indigenous girl. Lyrical text and warm, lively illustrations show Izzy's journey as she learns to celebrate the differences that make her uniquely beautiful, and the connection to her mother that transcends physical traits.

## S3 E3: The Girl And The Wolf

Written by Katherena Vermette, Illustrated by Julie Flett



While picking berries with her mother, a little girl wanders too far into the woods. When she realizes she is lost, she begins to panic. A large grey wolf makes a sudden appearance between some distant trees. Using his sense of smell, he determines where she came from and decides to help her. Through a series of questions from the wolf, the little girl realizes she had the knowledge and skill to navigate herself—she just needed to remember that those abilities were there all along.

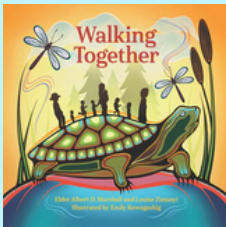
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## S3 E4: Walking Together

Written by Elder Dr. Albert D. Marshall & Louise Zimanyi, Illustrated by Emily Kewageshig



A poetic, joyful celebration of the Lands and Waters as Spring unfolds: we watch for Robin's return, listen for Frog's croaking, and wonder at Maple Tree's Gift of Sap. Grounded in Etuaptmumk, also known as Two-Eyed Seeing, the Gift of Multiple Perspectives, and the Mi'kmaw concept of Netukulimk, meaning to protect Mother Earth for the Ancestors, present, and future generations, 'Walking Together' nurtures respectful, reciprocal, responsible relationships with the Land and Water, Plant-life, Animals and Other-Than-Human Beings for the benefit of all. This innovative picture book introduces readers to the concept of Etuaptmumk—or Two-Eyed Seeing in the Mi'kmaw language—as we follow a group of young children connecting to nature as their Teacher.

## S3 E5: Encounter

Written by Brittany Luby, Illustrated by Michaela Goade



Based on an actual journal entry by French explorer Jacques Cartier from his first expedition to North America in July 1534, this story imagines the first encounter between a European sailor and a Stadaconan fisher. As the two navigate their differences (language, dress, food) with curiosity, the natural world around them notes their similarities. The seagull observes their like shadows, the mosquito notes their equally appealing blood, the mouse enjoys the crumbs both people leave behind.

This story explores how encounters can create community and celebrates varying perspectives and the natural world. It is at once specific and universal. It's a story based on a primary document and historical research, but it is in equal measure beautifully imagined. It makes room for us to recognize our differences while celebrating our shared humanity.

## S3 E6: The Bee

Written by Becky Han, Illustrated by Tindur Peturs



Based on an award-winning song by Inuit artist Becky Han, this book follows the narrator on an adventure across Nunavut with her buzzing companion.

When the narrator of this fun and silly book is startled by the buzzing of a bee, she sets off on an adventure that sees her running from community to community, trying to lose her buzzing companion. When she has run clear across Nunavut, she finally realizes that perhaps this little bee isn't such a fearsome foe after all!

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## S3 E7: Autumn Peltier, Water Warrior

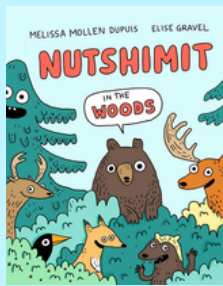
Written by Carole Lindstrom, Illustrated by Bridget George



From New York Times bestselling picture book author Carole Lindstrom and illustrator Bridget George comes Autumn Peltier, Water Warrior, an inspiring picture book biography about indigenous water warriors Autumn Peltier and Josephine Mandamin – with a forward from Autumn Peltier herself.

## S3 E8: Nutshimit: In the Woods

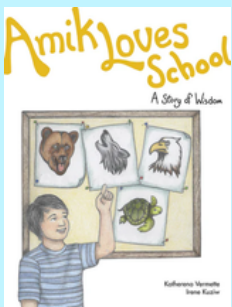
Written by Melissa Mollen Dupuis, Illustrated by Elise Gravel



In this immersive first-person account, Innu author Melissa Mollen Dupuis teams up with award-winning author and illustrator Elise Gravel to take readers on a journey through Innu culture, from creation legends to life today. Nutshimit signifies the physical and social space to practice traditional activities and language. Join author Melissa Mollen Dupuis on a guided walk deep through the forest to learn some of the rich culture of the Innu. Readers will discover the importance of natural world and learn Innu words along the way.

## S3 E9: Amik Loves School: A Story of Wisdom

Written by Katherena Vermette, Illustrated by Irene Kuziw



Amik Loves School: A Story of Wisdom is one book in The Seven Teachings Stories series from Highwater Press. Amik is a young urban Ojibwe boy who actually enjoys learning new things at school. One day Amik tells his Moshoom how much he enjoys learning. But Moshoom has a different memory about school when he was a child. Grandfather attended residential school. There is sadness in Moshoom's face. With a gentle explanation, grandfather tells Amik about his experience. Amik has the answer when he invites his Moshoom to the classroom the next day. Amik is sure grandfather will enjoy this school. In the morning class the teacher and students begin the school day with a smudge and a prayer before beginning their Ojibwe language study. There is a smile on everyone's face. Amik Loves School is one book in The Seven Teachings Stories series. The Seven Teachings of the Anishinaabe—love, wisdom, humility, courage, respect, honesty, and truth—are revealed in these seven stories for children. Set in an urban landscape with Indigenous children as the central characters, these stories about home and family will look familiar to all young readers. The heartfelt stories serve as cultural bridges to non-Indigenous people wishing to familiarize themselves and their children with contemporary Indigenous culture.

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## S3 E10: The Giving Tree: A Retelling of a Traditional Métis Story

Written by Leah Marie Dorion and Norman Fleury, Illustrated by Leah Dorion



The Giving Tree: A Retelling of a Traditional Métis Story about Giving and Receiving, Laarbe Kawmaekit: Aen kiitwam achimook aen histwayr chi maykik pi aen ootistikook is a children's bilingual picture book that celebrates the Métis concept of generosity. The book is illustrated by the author Leah Dorion in a wildly vibrant fashion. The book explains the concept of the giving tree where Métis travellers often left food packages or everyday utensils in a special tree along the trail. This was to ensure that future travellers would have adequate food supplies or necessary tools if required along the trail. The traveller could take something from the cache and in return was obliged to leave something for the next person. In this way the Métis people practiced reciprocity. The book is written in short English and Michif sentences that are occasionally obscured by the colourful imagery. Nevertheless the book is a valuable addition to the growing collection of Michif literature. The end notes offers teachers and older students information about the Red River Cart Wheel Teachings that include Respect, Love, Kindness, Strength, Sharing, Balance, Caring, Courage, Honesty, Patience, and Tolerance. The book comes with an audio CD with the story told in English by Leah Dorion, and the Michif translation by Norman Fleury.