



FROM SEA TO SEA TO SEA



2021
EDITION



Celebrating **Indigenous** Picture Books



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2021 Edition



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From Sea to Sea to Sea: Celebrating Indigenous Picture Books 2021 Edition

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Maya McKibbin, *Swift Fox All Along*, Annick Press, 2020

The names and spellings of the Indigenous authors, illustrators
and translators' Nations reflect how they identify themselves in their
books and related materials at the time of production.

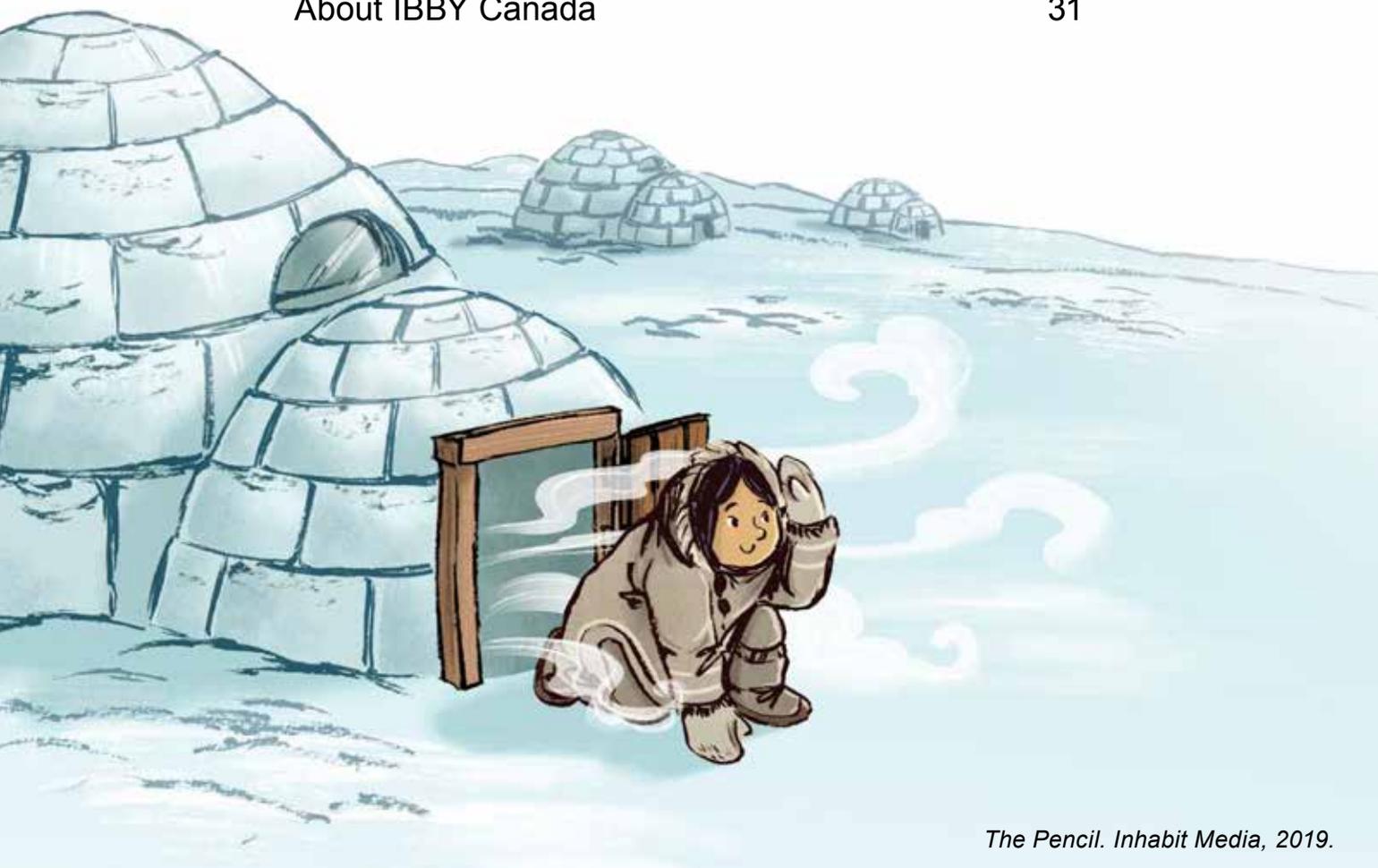
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The Pencil. Inhabit Media, 2019.

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2021 Edition of *From Sea to Sea to Sea: Celebrating Indigenous Picture Books*! I encourage you to celebrate this collection of 25 of the best Indigenous picture books published in Canada between 2018 and 2020. Care was taken to ensure that this collection reflected the diversity of First Nations, Métis and Inuit voices from sea to sea to sea, and that the titles are available and in print for anyone who wishes to access them. Please read and share the titles within this collection, as I hope you have for the titles curated within the first collection (*From Sea to Sea to Sea: Celebrating Indigenous Picture Books*).

Many people were involved in the creation of this collection. Deepest thanks go out to the selection committee, who considered over 100 titles in curating this collection: Allison Taylor McBryde, Adjunct Professor at the University of British Columbia and recently retired children's librarian at North Vancouver District Public Library; Joanne Schwartz, award-winning author and children's librarian with the Toronto Public Library; and Lorisia MacLeod (James Smith Cree Nation), Online Reference Coordinator with The Alberta Library and communications lead with the Canadian Federation of Library Association's Indigenous Matters Committee; with the support of Dr. Jenny Kay Dupuis (Nipissing First Nation), educator, researcher and author; and last, but not least, Mary Beth Leatherdale, award-winning author and editor. Special thanks also go out to Nancy Cooper (Rama First Nation), First Nations library consultant; Monique Gray Smith (Cree/Lakota/Scottish), award-winning author; and Terri Mack (Da'naxda'xw Awaetlala), CEO and Publisher, Strong Nations, for their help with the process. Also a special thank you to designer Andrew Dupuis and to editors Kathleen Keenan and Claire Caldwell for creating

this lovely catalogue. Deep appreciation as well to Patti McIntosh, Dayle Sutherland, Nicholas Aumais, Shamaila Siddique, Kathi Tanel, Stephanie Wells, and Lorisia MacLeod for their work on promoting the collection. Most of all thank you to the authors, illustrators and publishers for their extraordinary books.

We have confidence that this catalogue can help to guide you to some wonderful, quality board books and picture books. We live in an exciting time, with new picture books written by Indigenous authors and/or illustrated by Indigenous artists published more and more frequently. I encourage you to continue to read titles written and illustrated by Indigenous people and update your own collections as new titles become available. Please celebrate the titles in this collection with us by using the hashtags #ReadIndigenous and #IndigenousPictureBooks, and by tagging @IBBYCanada on social media.

Happy Indigenous picture book reading!

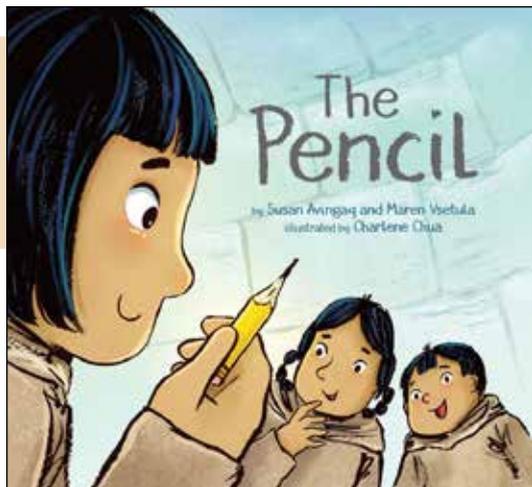
Sincerely,

Colette Poitras (Métis Nation of Alberta)

Project Chair



Kits, Cubs, and Calves: An Arctic Summer. Inhabit Media, 2020.



Avingaq, Susan [Inuit] and Maren Vsetula.

The Pencil.

Illustrated by Charlene Chua.

Inhabit Media, 2019. 9781772272161

Based on Avingaq’s memories of growing up in an iglu, this story is about three children who must amuse themselves when their anaana is called away to help deliver a baby. They have jumping contests, play hide and seek and draw on the ice window. When they grow restless, their father brings out Anaana’s precious and tiny pencil and they take turns scribbling, drawing and writing. The pencil gets shorter and shorter. When a tired Anaana returns, she explains she won’t be able to get another pencil until they travel back to the trading post. Her message about using things wisely is tempered by the conclusion: “It’s amazing how something as small as a pencil brought so much joy that day.” (Also available in Inuktitut syllabics. ᑎᑎᓄᐅᓄ. Inuktitut translation by Monica Ittusardjuat [Inuit]. Inhabit Media, 2018.)

Callaghan, Jodie [Mi’gmaq].

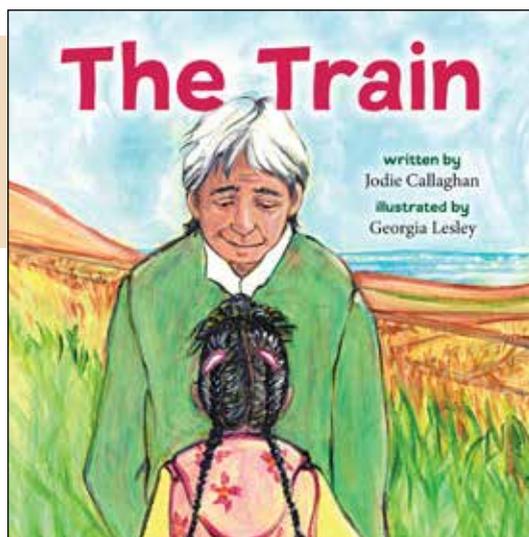
The Train.

Illustrated by Georgia Lesley.

Second Story Press, 2020. 9781772601299

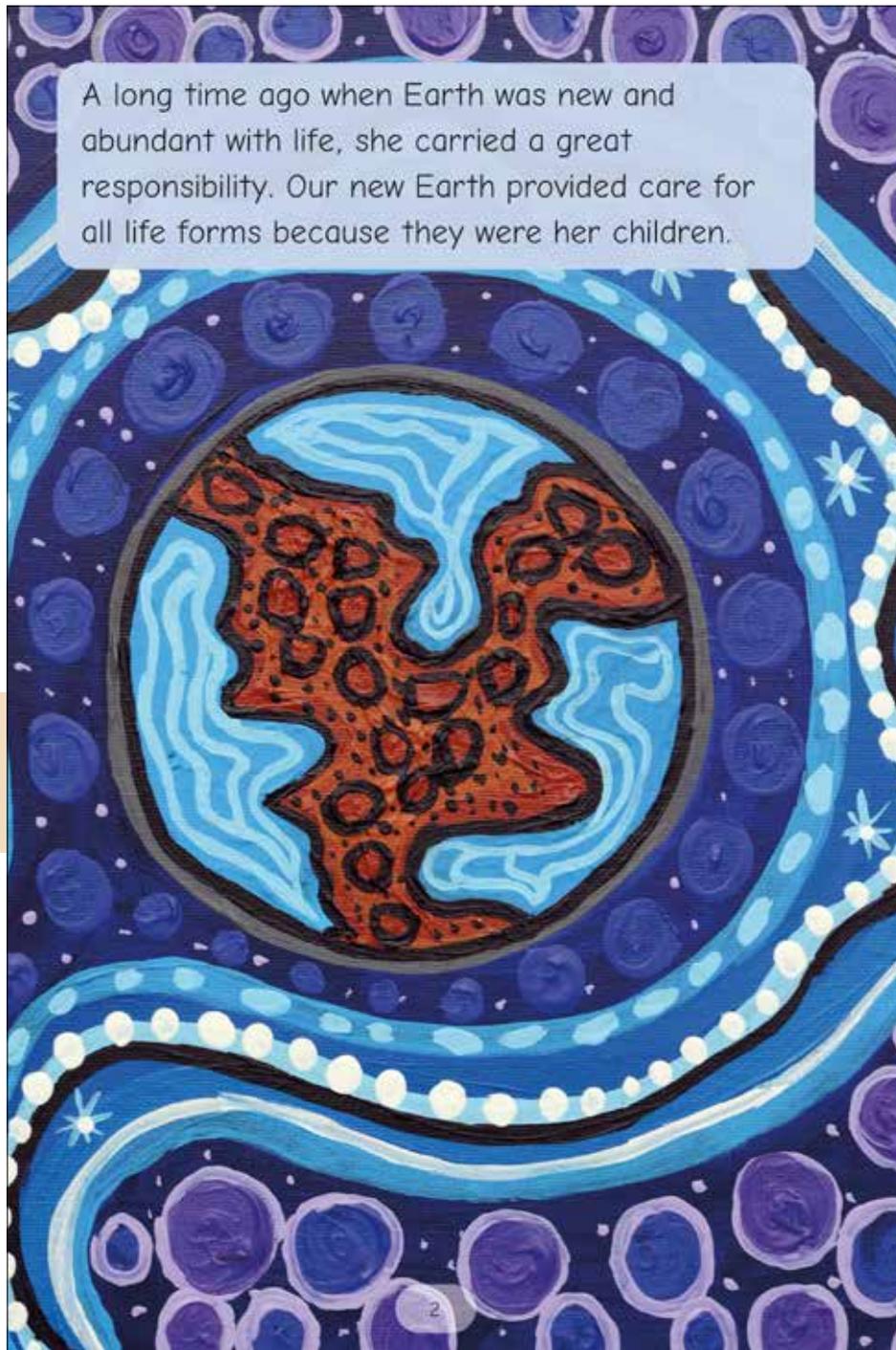
This gentle story introduces children to the residential school system through the eyes of Ashley, in conversation with her uncle. He explains that because they were different, he and other children were sent to residential school on a train. He now waits at the tracks to not only remember what happened, but to wait for everything lost to come back to him.

The book includes a short glossary of Mi’gmaq words used in the story as well as a statement about residential schools. (Also available in bilingual English/Mi’gmaq. *Ga’s / The Train*. Mi’gmaq translation by Joe Wilmot [Mi’gmaq]. Second Story Press, 2021.)





The Train. Second Story Press, 2020.



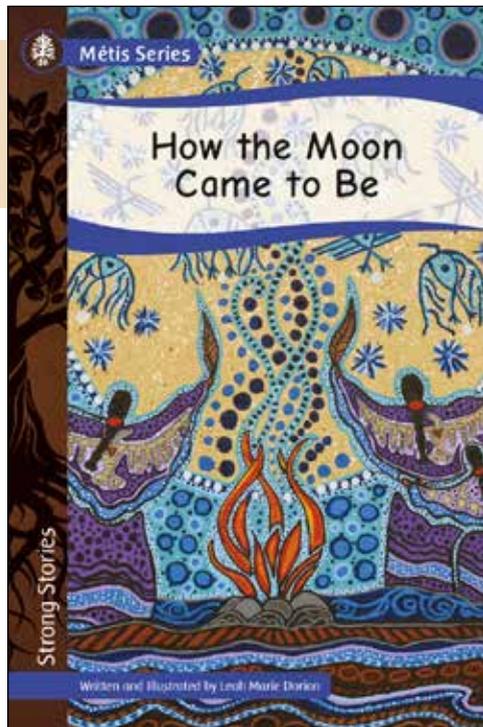
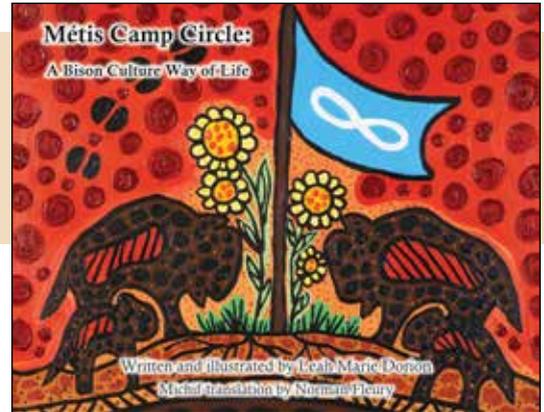
How the Moon Came to Be. Strong Nations Publishing, 2018.

Dorion, Leah Marie [Métis].

**Métis Camp Circle:
A Bison Culture Way of Life.**

Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2019. 9781926795959

Alongside colourful, full-page illustrations, Dorion outlines the traditional Métis way of life. Featuring text in both English and Michif, the story particularly focuses on the relationship between the Métis and the bison. Additional educational material is included at the end of the book, including images of bison artifacts, information about pemmican and more.

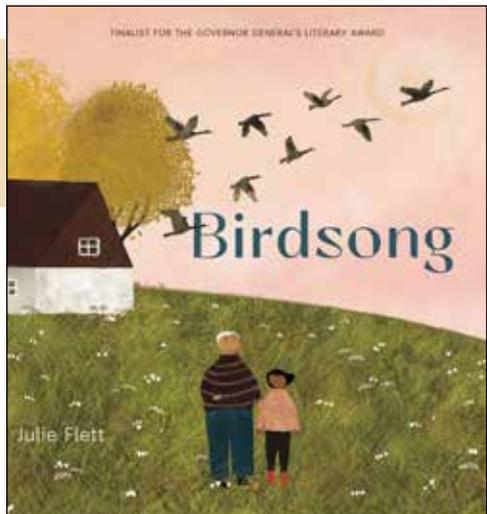


Dorion, Leah Marie [Métis].

How the Moon Came to Be.

Strong Nations Publishing, 2018. 9781771743143

With lyrical text and stunning illustrations, Dorion shares the traditional Métis story of Grandmother Moon's creation, as well as how the moon and Mother Earth came to be named. This is part of the Strong Stories: Métis series.



Flett, Julie [Cree/Métis].

Birdsong.

Greystone Books, 2019. 9781771644730

Young Katherena moves to a new home. She finds warmth and friendship after befriending Agnes, an elderly neighbour. Offering beautiful illustrations that are both calming and expressive, as well as thoughtful and tender text, this book demonstrates the value of intergenerational friendships and of caring for others. Flett integrates the Cree worldview seamlessly.

Gauthier, Clayton [Cree/Dakelh].

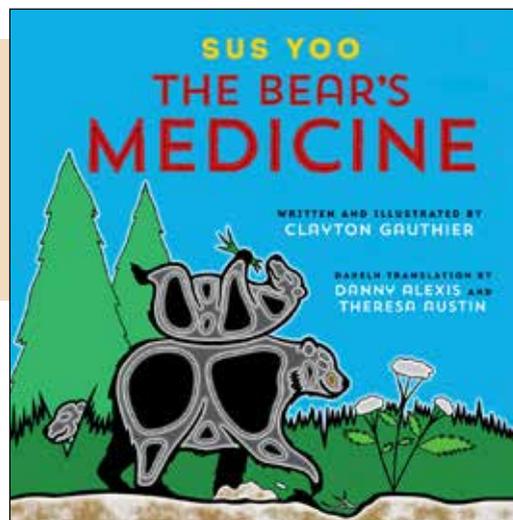
Sus Yoo / The Bear's Medicine.

Dakelh translation by Danny Alexis (Dakelh) and

Theresa Austin (Dakelh).

Theytus Books, 2019. 9781926886572

Told in the voice of a mother bear, this book by multimedia artist Gauthier shares a simple story that works as a rich metaphor for an Indigenous worldview. Spring has arrived and a mother bear and cubs move through the season, grateful for the sun, the food and the teachings of their ancestors. Each page features a single poetic line and a bold image that illustrates the interconnectedness of all living things. Written in English and Dakelh.

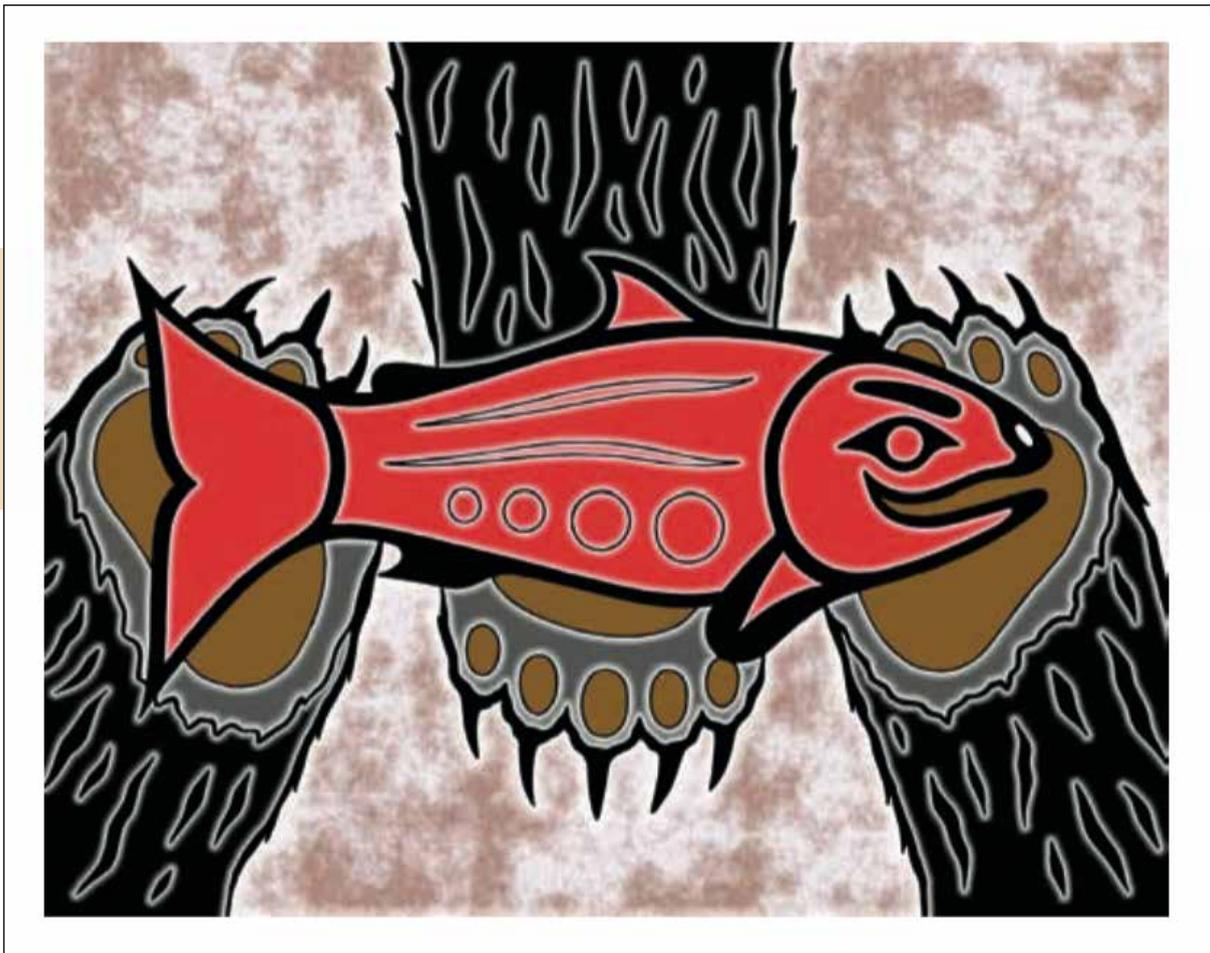


George, Bridget [Anishinaabe].

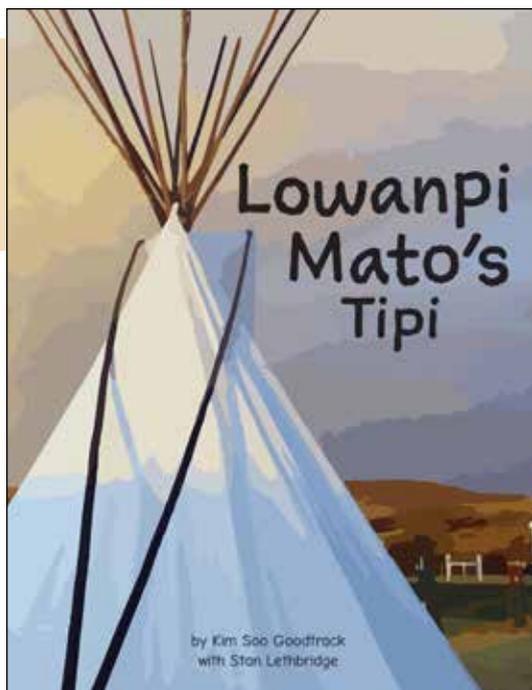
It's a Mitig!

Douglas & McIntyre, 2020. 9781771622738

Take a trip through the forest while learning some basic Ojibwe nature words. This book features a glossary and introduction to the pronunciation system plus online recordings to support family reading with integrated language learning.



Sus Yoo / The Bear's Medicine. Theytus Books, 2019.



Goodtrack, Kim Soo [Hunkpapa Lakota] and Stan Lethbridge [Hunkpapa].

Lowanpi Mato's Tipi.

Strong Nations Publishing, 2020. 9781771744751

Stan Lethbridge's ancestral name is Lowanpi Mato. Through photographs and mixed media art, Stan and Kim Soo Goodtrack illustrate all the steps in building a summer tipi. From gathering supplies from the store and from nature, to carefully constructing the initial tripod of tall lodgepole pine, to covering the fifteen poles with canvas and securing it with lacing pegs, this informative picture book illuminates the cultural significance of the tipi to the Lakota people. A final invitation to visit and have a cup of cheyaka tea concludes this visually stunning book.

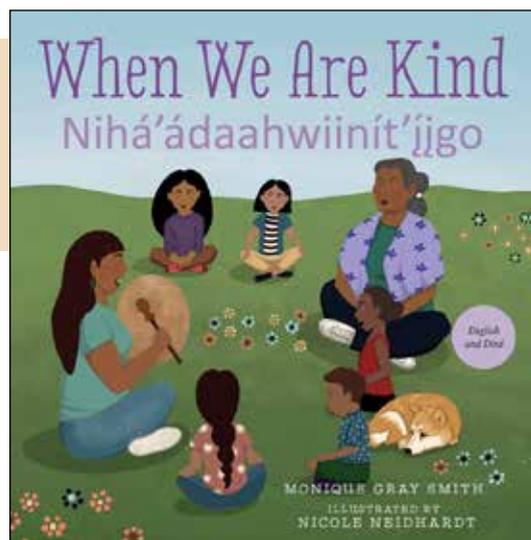
Gray Smith, Monique [Cree/Lakota].

When We Are Kind.

Illustrated by Nicole Neidhardt [Diné].

Orca Book Publishers, 2020. 9781459822522

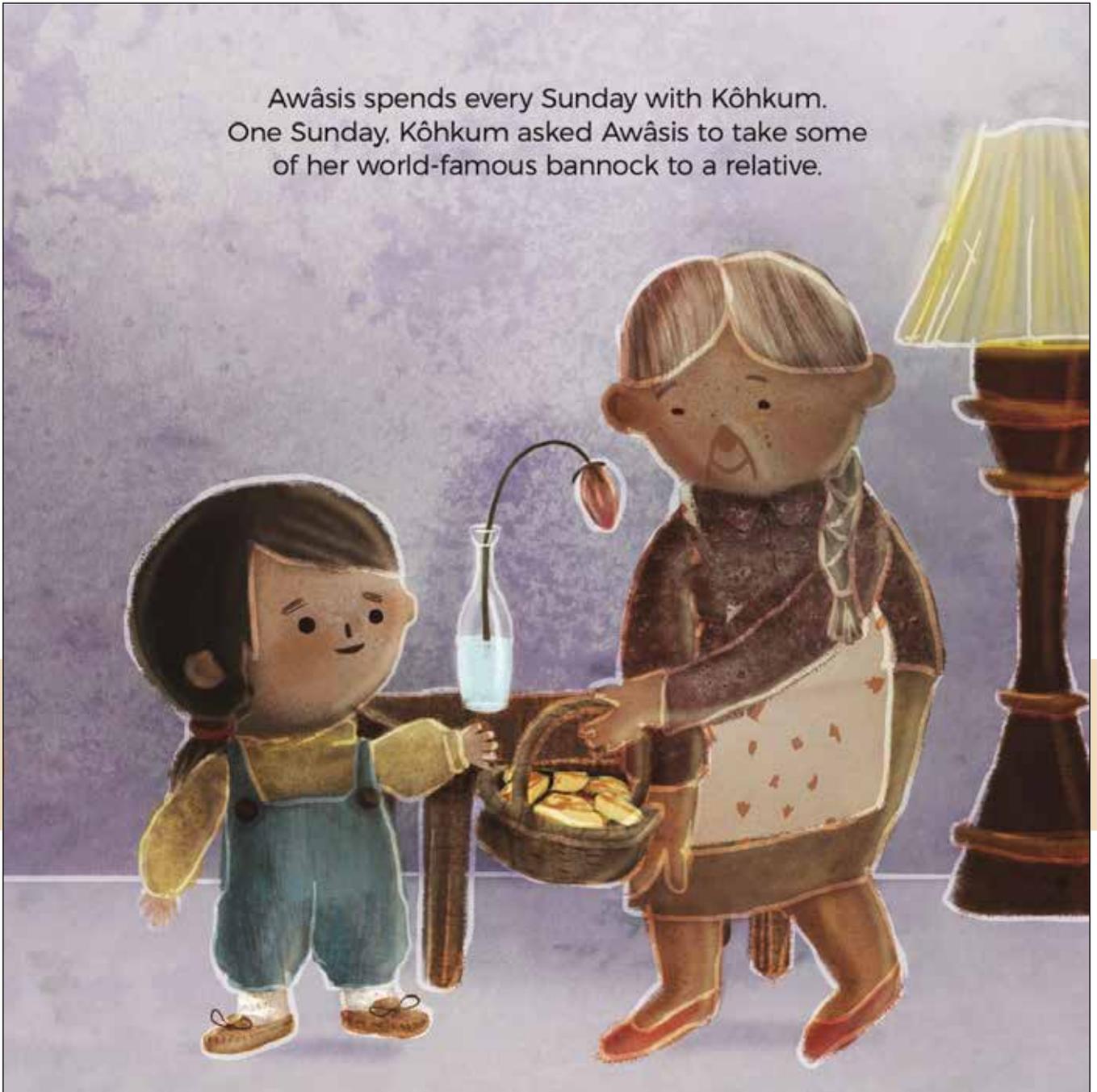
When We Are Kind is a celebration of kindness, empathy and gratitude. The text is simple, yet powerful in conveying the importance and impact of being kind to others and ourselves. The book also explores and appreciates how it feels to both bestow and be the recipient of caring and compassion. (Also available in French and bilingual English/Diné. *Nous sommes gentils*. Translated by Rachel Martinez. Orca Book Publishers, 2020. *When We Are Kind / Nihá'ádaahwiinít'íjgo*. Translated by Mildred Walters. Orca Book Publishers, 2020.)





When We Are Kind. Orca Book Publishers, 2020.

Awâsis spends every Sunday with Kôhkum.
One Sunday, Kôhkum asked Awâsis to take some
of her world-famous bannock to a relative.



Awâsis and the World-Famous Bannock. HighWater Press, 2018.

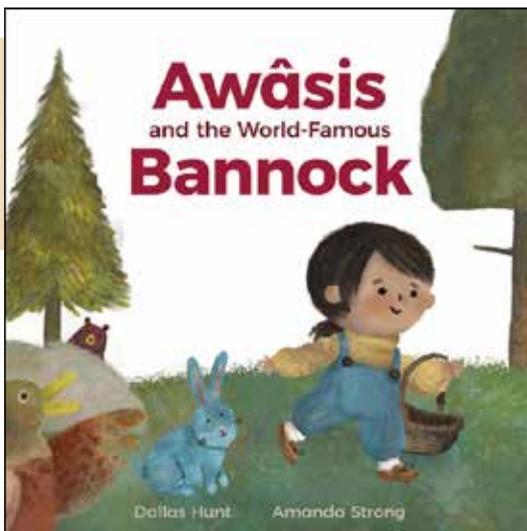
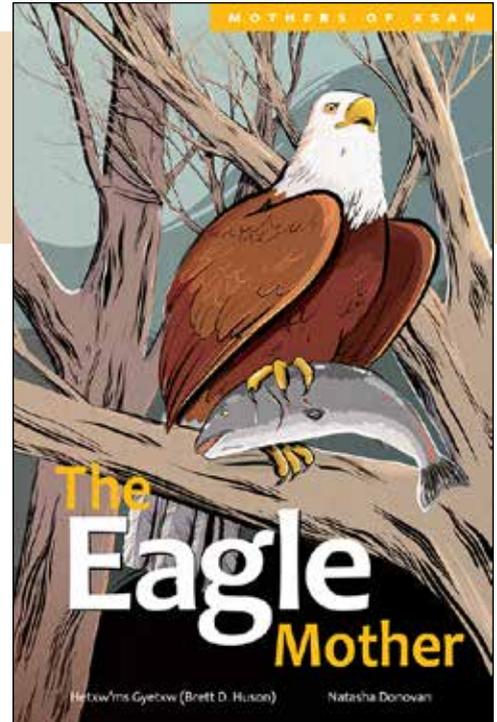
Hetxw'ms Gyetxw (Brett D. Huson) [Gitxsan Nation]

The Eagle Mother

Illustrated by Natasha Donovan [Métis].

Highwater Press, 2020. 9781553798590.

From an unexpected storm in the Spring Salmon's Returning Moon, Lasa ya'a, we follow an eagle mother as she protects her eggs from snow, through the Berry Moon as both parents hunt to feed their eaglets, to the babies' time as fledglings when they "branch" and try their wings. Finally, in the Grizzly Bear Moon the young eagles hunt on their own. This highly informative and stunningly illustrated picture book also tells a parallel story of the Gitxsan people and their relationship with the land, the salmon, and their home in Xsan, the River of Mists. Part of the Mothers of Xsan series (*The Sockeye Mother*, *The Grizzly Mother*, with more forthcoming).



Hunt, Dallas [Wapiseewipi (Swan River First Nation)].

Awâsis and the World-Famous Bannock.

Illustrated by Amanda Strong [Michif].

Highwater Press, 2018. 9781553797791

Awâsis is tasked with delivering Kôhkum's (Grandmother's) world-famous bannock to her relative, but as she walks, she loses it. Thankfully, she has many animal friends in the forest who help her along the way. Because of their help, Kôhkum and Awâsis can then make more bannock to share with their new friends. Included at the back of the book is a recipe for Kôhkum's world-famous bannock, as well as a glossary of the Cree words used within the story and a pronunciation guide.

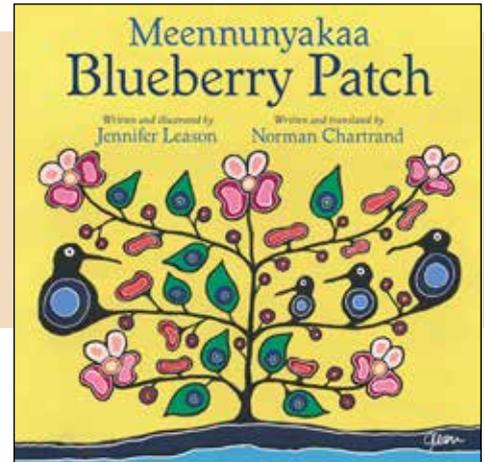
Leason, Jennifer [Saulteaux-Métis Anishinaabek] and Norman Chartrand [Saulteaux-Métis Anishinaabek].

Meennunyakaa/ Blueberry Patch.

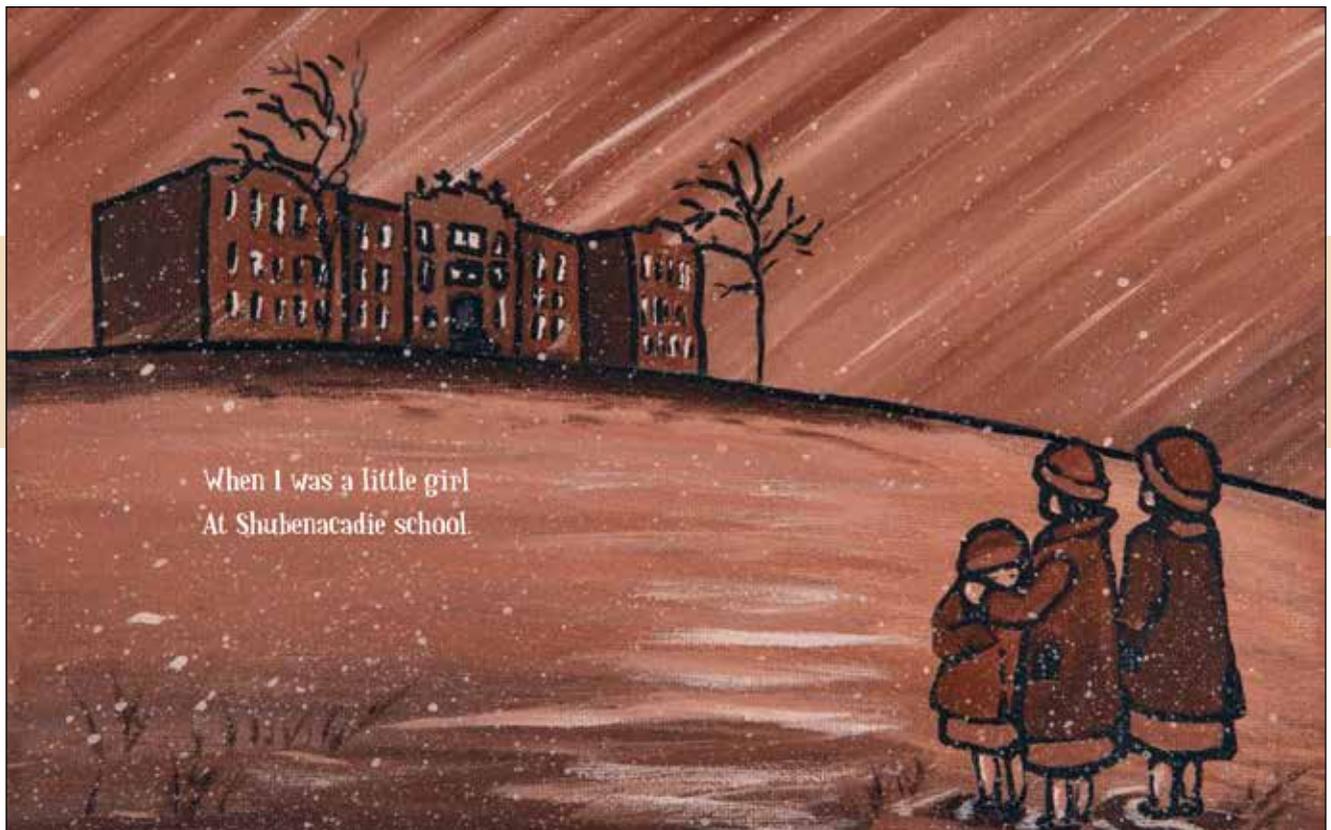
Illustrated by Jennifer Leason

Anishinaabemowin translation by Norman Chartrand.

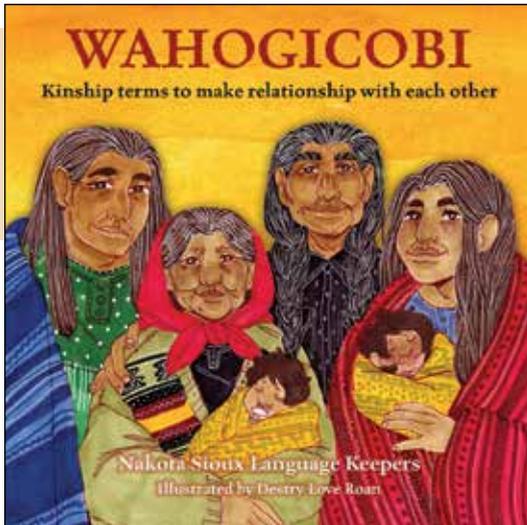
Theytus Books, 2019. 9781926886589.



It is the 1940s and a family is preparing for their annual trek by horse and wagon through the Manitoba bush to pick blueberries for a month. The smoky scent of campfires and bannock, the sounds of the nighthawk farts and horses munching on grass epitomize this time, which is “heaven for children.” Jennifer Leason’s bold and luminous illustrations accompany the text, which is also recounted in Anishinaabemowin by co-writer and Elder Norman Chartrand.



I Lost My Talk. Nimbus Publishing, 2019.



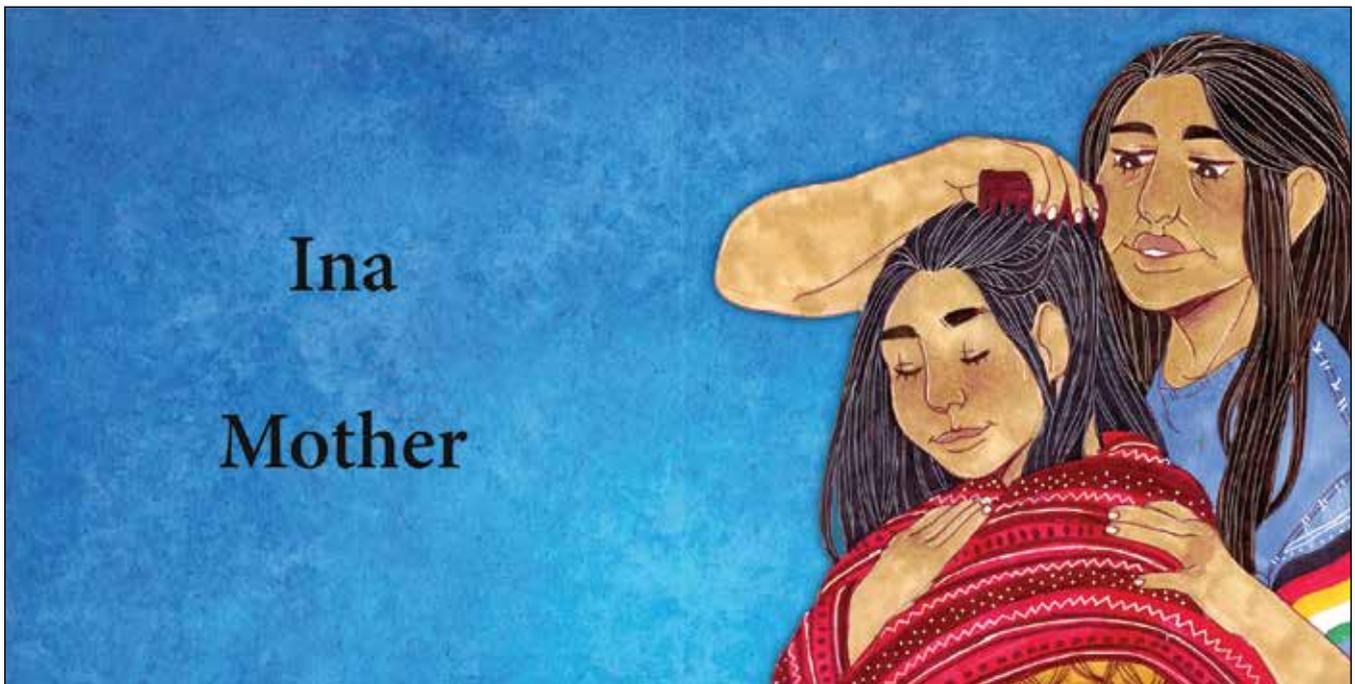
Nakota Sioux Language Keepers.

Wahogicobi.

Illustrated by Destry Love Roan.

Eschia Books, 2020. 9781926696867

Featuring full-page colourful illustrations, *Wahogicobi* is sure to delight young readers and encourage language learning with simple kinship phrases in both English and Nakota Sioux. Written by language keepers of Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, this is a prime example of nation-engaged work in language and children's literature.

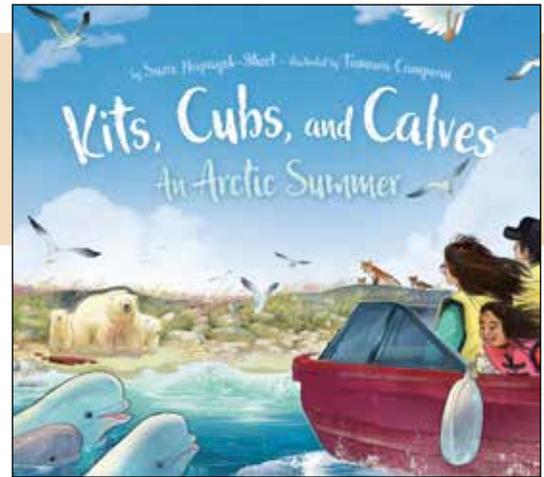


Napayok-Short, Suzie [Inuit].

Kits, Cubs, and Calves: An Arctic Summer.

Illustrated by Tamara Campeau.

Inhabit Media, 2020. 9781772272741

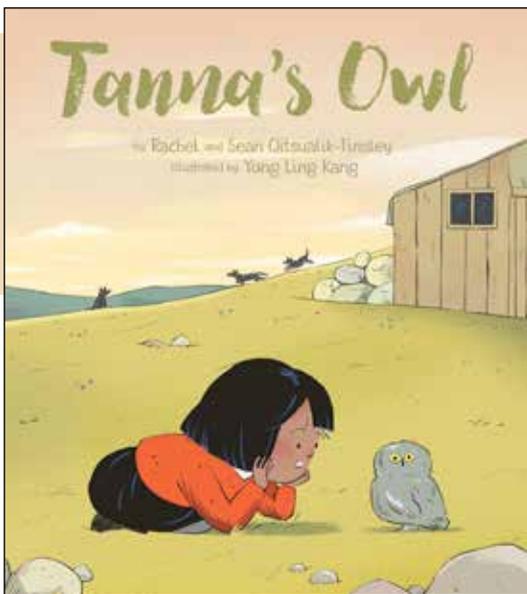


Akuluk is spending her summer with relatives in the Arctic.

She accompanies her uncle and aunt out onto the open ocean by boat to check on their old camping grounds.

Through Akuluk's eyes, we spend an afternoon following the fate of an orphaned beluga and learning all kinds of

fascinating details about Arctic wildlife that lives in the ocean and along the shores. The lively illustrations bring the dramatic environment to life, making the reader feel the excitement of this very special outing.



Qitsualik-Tinsley, Rachel [Inuit] and

Sean Qitsualik-Tinsley [Mohawk].

Tanna's Owl.

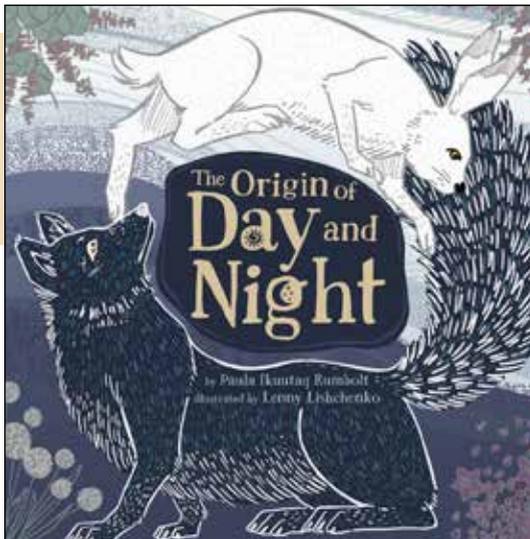
Illustrated by Yong Ling Kang.

Inhabit Media, 2019. 9781772272505

Arctic owls belong both to the land and the sky, and the ability to bring those elements together is powerful.

Tanna's father presents her with an orphaned baby snowy owl, a creature that grows up on land but ultimately belongs to the sky. Tanna has to rise very early every morning to catch lemmings for the owl to eat and try to teach it to fly. Later, while Tanna is away at school, her

father releases the owl. The following summer there is a magical visit from a full-grown snowy owl. Could this be Tanna's own snowy owl?



Rumbolt, Paula Ikuutaq [Inuit].
The Origin of Day and Night.
Illustrated by Lenny Lishchenko.
Inhabit Media, 2018. 9781772271805

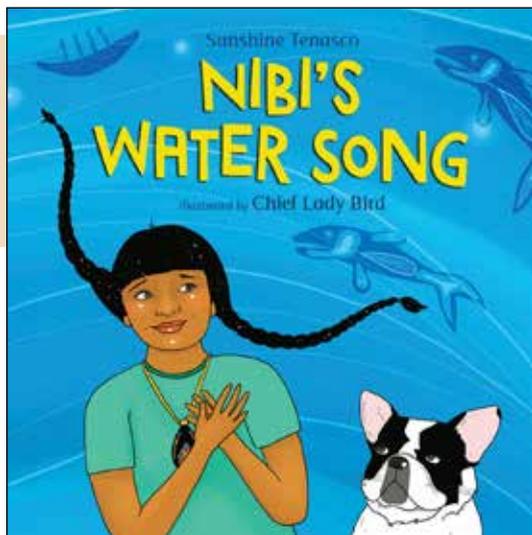
Tiri the Arctic fox prefers the dark for hunting, but Ukaliq the Arctic Hare calls for the daylight so that she can find moss to eat. So begins the story of how day and night take turns so that humans, foxes and hares have enough time to find their next meal. Stunning black and white images accompany this tale of “why we now have day and night.” (Also available in Inuktitut syllabics.)

ᐱᓕᐱᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ ᐅᓕᓂᓂ ᐅᓐᓂᐱᓂᓂ. Inuktitut translation by Sadie Hill [Inuit]. Inhabit Media, 2018.)



Ukaliq perked up her ears and twisted them toward the noise the fox was making.

Tiri was about to chase the hare, but as he moved toward her, he caught the scent of another animal. He could tell by the smell that this animal was much tastier than a hare or even a lemming.



Tenasco, Sunshine [Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg].

Nibi's Water Song.

Illustrated by Chief Lady Bird [Chippewa and Potawatomi].

Scholastic, 2019. 9781443107891

This is the story of Nibi (“water” in Anishinaabemowin). She is thirsty, but there is no clean water to drink in her community. The water from the tap is brown, and the river water is also polluted. Nibi goes door to door in the next town over and, through her activism, is able to raise awareness and get clean water for her community. There is a short afterword about the lack of clean drinking

water in Indigenous communities throughout Canada. (Also available in French. *Nibi a soif, très soif.* Scholastic, 2019.)

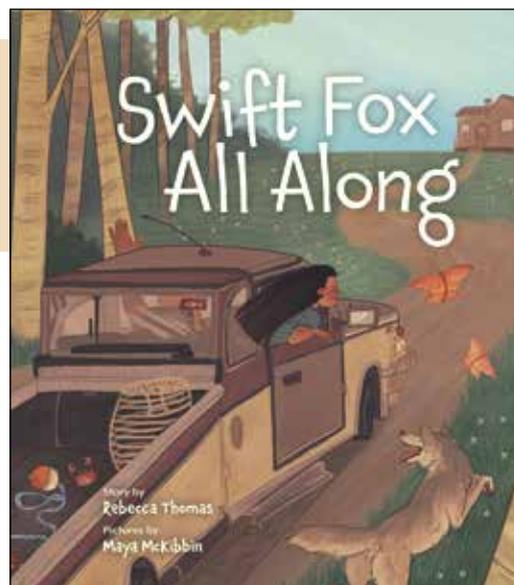
Thomas, Rebecca [Mi'kmaq].

Swift Fox All Along.

Illustrated by Maya McKibbin [Ojibwe, Yoeme, and Irish].

Annick Press, 2020. 9781773214481

Based on Thomas's own experiences, *Swift Fox All Along* recognizes the experiences of urban Indigenous youth connecting to their culture. With warm and bright illustrations, the story follows young Swift Fox, who is going with her Mi'kmaq dad to meet his family for the first time. Swift Fox frets when she discovers she doesn't know how to smudge, but after reflection she realizes she can learn and that is enough.



Tremblay, Ida [Cree/Nehiyawak] and Miriam Körner.

**When We Had Sled Dogs:
A Story from the Trapline /
ācimowin ohci wanihikīskanāhk**

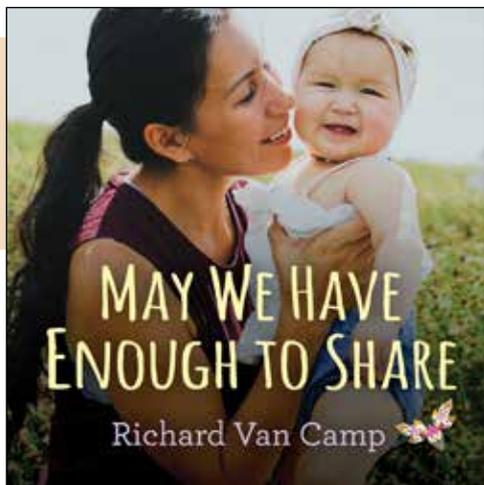
Illustrated by Miriam Körner.

Your Nickel's Worth, 2019. 9781988783390



Ida Tremblay's childhood memories of travelling between her family's summer fishing camp and winter traplines in Saskatchewan are accompanied by vibrant illustrations that bring the family's hunting, fishing and canoeing adventures to life. The simple text is peppered with Woodland Cree and the book contains a pronunciation guide.





Van Camp, Richard. [Tłıchǫ]

May We Have Enough to Share.

Photographs by Tea&Bannock.

Orca Book Publishers, 2019. 9781459816244

Van Camp adds to his board book library with another ode to sharing, caring and family happiness. The text is accompanied by beguiling photographs of babies and families by Tea&Bannock, a collective of Indigenous women photographers.

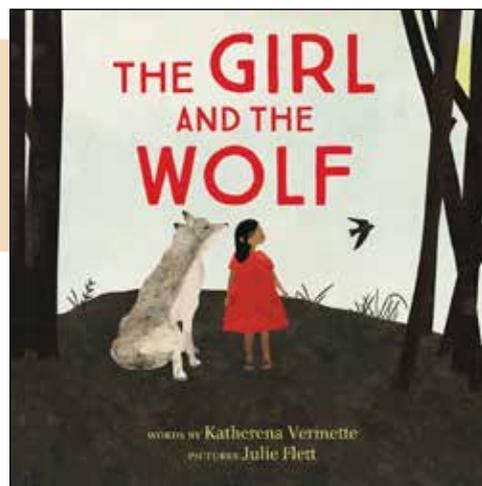
Vermette, Katherena [Métis].

The Girl and the Wolf.

Illustrated by Julie Flett [Cree/Métis].

Theytus Books, 2019. 9781926886541

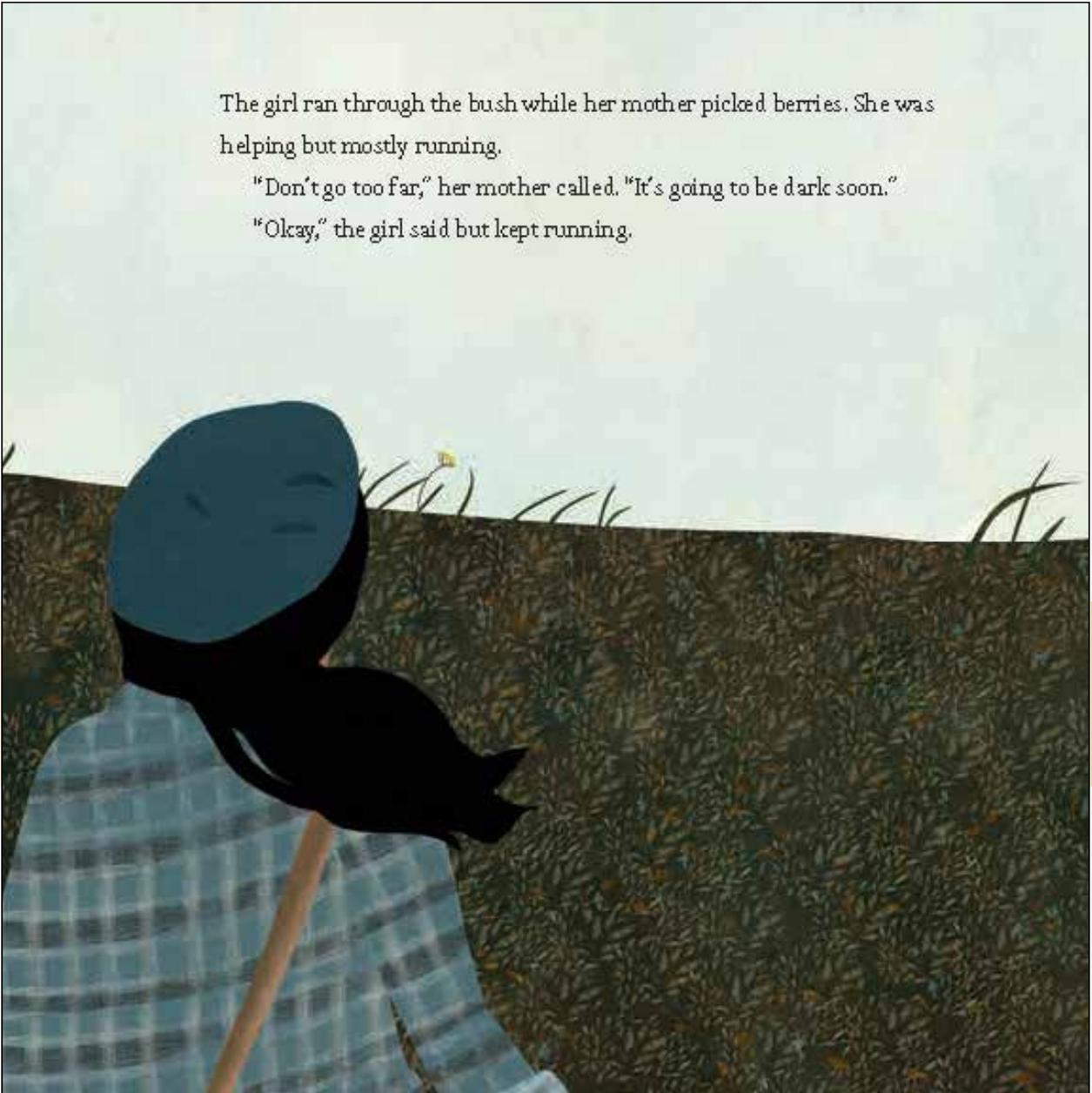
A little girl becomes lost in the woods. It is growing dark and she is cold and hungry. A wolf encourages her to close her eyes and breathe deeply to find food, to calm her fears and to find landmarks. Julie Flett's illustrations of the girl's bright red dress glow amidst the soft greys and browns of the forest in this stunning riff on a classic fairy tale motif.



The girl ran through the bush while her mother picked berries. She was helping but mostly running.

"Don't go too far," her mother called. "It's going to be dark soon."

"Okay," the girl said but kept running.



The Girl and the Wolf. Theytus Books, 2019.

Addendum to the 2018 Edition of *From Sea to Sea to Sea:* *Celebrating Indigenous Picture Books* New editions and titles in series

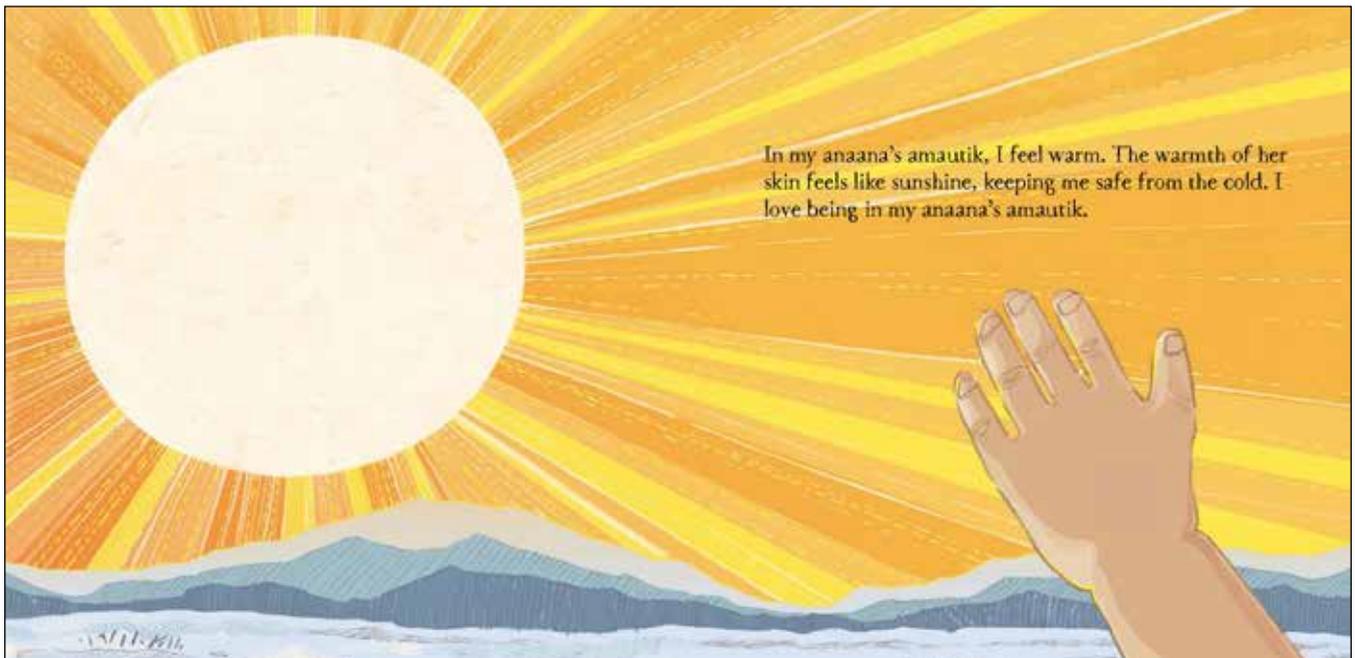
- Baker, Darryl [Inuit]. *Kamik Takes the Lead*. Illustrated by Ali Hinch. Inhabit Media, 2019. 9781772272666
- Gray Smith, Monique [Cree/Lakota]. *J'ai le coeur rempli de bonheur*. Illustrated by Julie Flett [Cree/Métis]. French translation by Rachel Martinez. Orca Book Publishers, 2020. 9781459825345
- Gray Smith, Monique [Cree/Lakota]. *Mi corazón se llena de alegría*. Illustrated by Julie Flett [Cree/Métis]. Spanish translation by Lawrence Schimel. Orca Book Publishers, 2020. 9781459824294
- Jameson, Catherine [Shuswap/Okanagan]. *Zoe and the Fawn*. Illustrated by Julie Flett [Cree/Métis]. Theytus Books, 2019. 9781926886534
- Van Camp, Richard [Tłıchǫ]. *Kiss by Kiss: A Counting Book for Families / Ocêtowina*. Plains Cree translation by Mary Cardinal Collins [Saddle Lake First Nation]. Orca Book Publishers, 2018. 9781459816213.
- Van Camp, Richard. *Little You / kiya kâ-apisisisiyan*. Illustrated by Julie Flett [Cree/Métis]. Plains Cree translation by Mary Cardinal Collins [Saddle Lake First Nation]. Orca Book Publishers, 2018. 9781459820067
- Van Camp, Richard. *Tout petit toi*. Illustrated by Julie Flett [Cree/Métis]. French translation by Rachel Martinez. Orca Book Publishers, 2020. 9781459825444
- Van Camp, Richard. *Tú eres tú*. Illustrated by Julie Flett [Cree/Métis]. Spanish translation by Lawrence Schimel. Orca Book Publishers, 2020. 9781459825475
- Van Camp, Richard. *Welcome Song for Baby / Ni Nikamon 'Tawâw Nipepîmis'*. Plains Cree translation by Mary Cardinal Collins [Saddle Lake First Nation]. Orca Book Publishers, 2018. 9781459820104
- Van Camp, Richard. *We Sang You Home / Kikî-Kîwê-Nikamôstamâtinân*. Illustrated by Julie Flett [Cree/Métis]. Plains Cree translation by Mary Cardinal Collins [Saddle Lake First Nation]. Orca Book Publishers, 2018. 9781459820142
- Vickers, Roy Henry [Tsimshian, Haida and Heiltsuk] and Robert Budd. *One Eagle Soaring*. Harbour Publishing, 2018. 9781550178289
- Vickers, Roy Henry [Tsimshian, Haida and Heiltsuk] and Robert Budd. *Raven Squawk, Orca Squeak*. Harbour Publishing, 2020. 9781550179040
- Vickers, Roy Henry [Tsimshian, Haida and Heiltsuk] and Robert Budd. *Sockeye Silver, Saltchuck Blue*. Harbour Publishing, 2019. 9781550178708

Using the Collection

This list reflects the most current attitudes and approaches to Indigenous literature today. Having these titles in your collection will allow children to find the books they need at the right moment.

Creating a caring environment

When using the books in this collection, it's important to create a caring environment where readers can ask questions and explore perspectives. Some topics may be difficult for readers. Be prepared to be faced with potentially sensitive topics or challenging, thought-provoking conversations. Come with strategies for facilitating and encouraging discussions that will prepare, engage and inform readers. Readers who are learning about issues that have affected their own lives, their families and/or communities, such as the residential school system, may find discussions very challenging. Consider raising awareness of support services available to readers and their families in the event that discussing the topic has a personal impact.



In My Anaana's Amautik. Inhabit Media, 2020.

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Second Story Press

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Scholastic Canada (North Winds)

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IBBY Canada is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating a more inclusive and equitable world by connecting children to books that spark the imagination, challenge thinking, and promote friendship and understanding between cultures around the world. We are one of more than 80 national sections of IBBY (the International Board on Books for Young People), founded in 1953 to bring books and children together. IBBY Canada was formed in 1980 to enact positive change through children's literature by supporting, promoting, and honouring creators of Canadian children's literature and encouraging the creation and distribution of quality children's literature.



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