

First Nations & Metis Literature List - All Titles Available through Saskatchewan Public Libraries

Title/Author	Synopsis
<i>Wild Berries</i> By Julie Flett	Spend the day picking wild blueberries with Clarence and his grandmother. Meet ant, spider, and fox in a beautiful woodland landscape. This book is written in both English and Cree, in particular the n-dialect, also known as Swampy Cree from the Cumberland House area. <i>Wild Berries</i> is also available in the n-dialect Cree, from the Cross Lake, Norway House area, published by Simply Read Books.
<i>Peter's Moccasins</i> By Jan Truss	Peter's Moccasins is a great children's book. It is a true depiction of a Cree child's life on a reserve or in a rural community; he takes the school bus and shares a classroom with other First Nations children. The story is about the day Peter takes his home-made moccasins to school and is afraid to wear them because all the other children wear running shoes or slippers. But it all takes a good turn at recess. My daughter and I both love the book.
<i>Niwechihaw / Help</i> By Caitlin Dale Nicholson	This simple story in Cree and English explores a young child's relationship to his kuhkom, his grandmother, as they go for a walk in the bush to pick rosehips. The young boy follows his grandmother, walking, listening, picking, praying, eating, just as she does. In doing so, he absorbs the rich cultural traditions and values of his Cree heritage.
<i>POW WOW: Counting in Cree</i> By Penny M. Thomas	A unique book for young children that teaches counting from one to ten in the Cree language. Both words and pictures reflect the rich culture and tradition of the Cree people.
<i>The Giving Tree</i> By Leah Dorion	The Giving Tree is a charming story that focuses on the boyhood reminisces of Moushoom as he describes finding the «Great Giving Tree» with his mother and father. This book also includes an accompanying narration CD in English and Michif.
<i>Pepere Played the Fiddle</i> By Linda Ducharme	After working hard all day, it's time to clear the floor, tune up the fiddle and prepare for a lively evening of music, dance and fun, the old-fashioned way! <i>Pepere Played the Fiddle</i> is a joyous account of Metis joie de vivre at a house party in the late 1940s.
<i>The Bannock Book</i> By Linda Ducharme	A young Metis girl helps her mother bake bannock for grandfather, who has diabetes. This is a lively and warm-hearted story that helps young readers understand diabetes and the importance of eating well. Two bannock recipes are included, one traditional and one healthy
<i>The Aboriginal Alphabet for Children</i> By Evelyn Ballantyne	The Aboriginal Alphabet for Children is a slim volume of words whose first letters reflect cultural artifacts from First Nations, Metis, and Inuit traditions. Developed by Evelyn Ballantyne of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation and illustrated by J. Marleen Ross and Noah Hood also from Opaskwayak, the book covers each letter of the alphabet (upper and lower case) with a word and includes an illustration and single sentence to illuminate the meaning of the object.

<p><i>Owls See Clearly at Night</i> <i>A Michif Alphabet</i> By Julie Flett</p>	<p>This picture book is a small glimpse, from A to Z, of some of the sights and sounds of the Michif language and its speakers. The language of the Métis, Michif is a combination of French and Cree with a trace of other regional languages. Once spoken by thousands of people across the prairies of Canada and the northern United States, Michif is now so little spoken that it might disappear within a generation. The book even includes a brief introduction to the language's history, a pronunciation guide, and a list of references for those interested in learning more about Michif.</p>
<p><i>D is for Drum</i> By Debbie and Michael Shoulders</p>	<p>Did you know that natives of the Northwest used dried sharkskin to sand totem poles? Or that horses were called medicine dogs, because dogs had been used to aid in hunting before horses were introduced by Europeans? In "D is for Drum: A Native America Alphabet," readers will get an A-Z introduction to the many customs and cultures of the first people of this beautiful land. Bison, teepees, Kachinas and dugout canoes will all help to paint a fascinating picture of the more than 500 indigenous tribes inhabiting the Americas.</p>
<p><i>Ningwakew's ABC Book</i> By Doug Maracle</p>	<p>This book is published by Mohawk illustrator Doug Maracle. He includes First Nations and Inuit of the Americas as well as the peoples of Tibet and Africa. Each letter and illustration is accompanied by three sentences about the subject of the drawings. For example, the letter M represents moccasins. The caption explains moccasins are made from deer or moose hide and each First Nation has a particular style.</p>
<p><i>Thanks to the Animals</i> By Allen Sockabasin</p>	<p>Little Zoo Sap and his family are moving from their summer home on the coast to the deep woods for the winter, traveling on a big bobsled pulled by big horses through the snow. When Zoo Sap falls off of the sled unnoticed, the forest animals hear his cries. All of the forest animals circle round--everyone from the tiny mouse to the giant moose to the great bald eagle--keeping him warm and safe until his father comes back to find him.</p>
<p><i>I is for Inuksuk</i> By Mary Wallace</p>	<p>Each letter of the word "inuksuk" is represented in an acrostic poem by another Inuktitut word, which, together with Wallace's original paintings, creates a wondrous overview of life in the Arctic. Words are written in Inuktitut symbols (one of the official languages of Nunavut). For added enjoyment, readers can look for the inuksuit hidden in each section. Also included is a pronunciation guide to help readers sound out Inuktitut words.</p>
<p><i>The Polar Bear Son</i> By Lydia Dabovich</p>	<p>A lonely old woman adopts, cares for, and raises a polar bear as if he were her own son, until jealous villagers threaten the bear's life, forcing him to leave his home and his "mother," in a retelling of a traditional Inuit folktale.</p>
<p><i>Rabbit's Snow Dance</i> By James & Joseph Bruchac</p>	<p>Rabbit loves the winter. He knows a dance, using an Iroquois drum and song, to make it snow—even in summertime! When rabbit decides that it should snow early, he starts his dance and the snow begins to fall. The other forest animals are not happy and ask him to stop, but Rabbit doesn't listen. How much snow is too much, and will Rabbit know when to stop?</p>
<p><i>Ancient Thunder</i> By Leo Yerxa</p>	<p>Years in the making, the book is truly a work of art — one that reflects Yerxa's (an artist of Ojibway ancestry) sense of nature and the place of the First Peoples within it.</p>
<p><i>Ten Little Rabbits</i></p>	<p>Weaving, fishing, and storytelling are all part of this spirited book that celebrates Native American traditions as it teaches young children to count from one to ten. Ideal for storytime or bedtime,</p>

By Virginia Grossman \$ Sylvia Long	and now perfectly sized for toddlers, <i>Ten Little Rabbits</i> is sure to leave children counting rabbits instead of sheep.
<i>My Kokum Called Today</i> By Iris Lowewn	A young Native girl living in the city gets a call from her grandmother, inviting her and her mother to visit the reserve for the weekend. As she gets ready for the weekend, the young girl reminisces about past experiences with her kokum (grandmother). This is a story about loving, caring, and devotion between generations of women. Every page features soft pastel illustrations by Gloria Miller.
<i>Jingle Dancer</i> By Cynthia Leitich Smith	The warm, evocative watercolors of Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu complement author Cynthia Leitich Smith's lyrical text as she tells the affirming story of how a contemporary Native American girl turns to her family and community to help her dance find a voice.
<i>Carry Me, Mama</i> By Monica Devine	The color and beauty of the Far North is captured in Paquin's energetic and expressive oil paintings. This engaging and reassuring story about a parent-child relationship has significant cross-cultural appeal. A visually stunning picture book.
<i>Solomon's Tree</i> By Andrea Spalding	Solomon has a special friendship with the big old maple outside his house. He knows the tree in all seasons and all weathers. When a terrible storm tears it up by its roots, Solomon is devastated. But through the healing process of making a mask from part of the tree with his uncle, he learns that the cycle of life continues and so does the friendship between himself and the tree.
<i>A Northern Alphabet</i> By Ted Harrison	A is for Arctic, B for Bering Sea, C for Clyde River – and Z for Zangeza Bay – all to be explored above the 60th parallel.
<i>What's the Most Beautiful Thing You Know About Horses?</i> By Richard VanCamp	It's a surprise question since dogs are more important to the people of this small Arctic community-horses don't survive here. It is evident that satellite TV viewing influences the responses to the concept of beauty in this southern beast. The author engages in a remarkable free flow of musings, questions, and answers. His startling narrative style, lively pace, offbeat sense of humor, and refreshing stance give readers a lot to think about. The result is a direct and highly amusing comparison of the value of dogs and horses. In Littlechild's vibrant, surrealistic illustrations, horses vibrate and prance off the pages, dogs bay or lounge at the center of attention, and distorted figures eye readers.
<i>Thirteen Moons of Turtles Back</i> By Joseph Bruchac	Each moon has its own special name that, while varying among the First nations, is consistent with the legend that the 13 scales on Old Turtle's back hold the key to these moons. The authors present 13 poems that take readers through the year. This unusual and intelligent book is an exemplary introduction to Native American culture with its emphasis on the importance of nature.
<i>At the Park</i> By Judy Nayer	A Mohawk boy visits the park and uses his five senses to discover the natural world around him.
<i>Fancy Dance</i> By Leslie Johnson	Joe is dancing the Fancy Dance at a powwow for the first time. He is nervous, but once the dance starts he knows just what to do.

<i>Living in An Igloo</i> By Jan Reynold	Meet a young Inuit girl and her family. Learn why they sometimes live in an igloo and what life in an igloo is like.
<i>Fiddle Dancer</i> By Anne Patton & Wilfred Burton	Fiddle Dancer tells the tale of a young Métis boy, Nolin, and his growing awareness of his Métis heritage and identity while his "Mooshoom" or grandfather, teaches him to dance. Authors Wilfred Burton and Anne Patton masterfully weave a childhood story rich in Métis culture and language. This delightful story captures the importance of Elders as role models, a child's apprehension at learning new things, and the special bond between grandparents and children. Sherry Farrell Racette provides many beautiful illustrations for the book.
<i>Tansi</i> By Flora Rideout	Flora Rideout, a Cree woman from Moose Lake, MB, wrote this book as a resource for young moms and dads who would like to teach their children Cree. She believes that it is important that language learning starts at a young age.
<i>The Metis Alphabet Book</i> By Joseph Fauchon	The Métis Alphabet Book is a unique addition to the creative genre of children's alphabet books. Emerging Métis author Joseph Jean Fauchon highlights historical figures, significant events, places of interest and other aspects of Métis identity to take youthful readers beyond the alphabet to explore the richness of Métis history and culture. Sheldon Mauvieux's softly-coloured images, inspired by illustrations and photographs, provide an engaging complement to the text. The Métis Alphabet Book strengthens Métis pride and identity while providing young readers with an informative reference book about the essence of being Métis.
<i>Everybody Needs a Rock</i> By Byrd Baylor	Everybody needs a rock -- at least that's the way this particular rock hound feels about it in presenting her own highly individualistic rules for finding just the right rock for you.
<i>Grandmother /Grandfather</i> By Native Reflections	Have children learn about key Native cultural icons such as: the dreamcatcher, medicine wheel and talking stick.
<i>The Song Within My Heart</i> Story by David Bouchard Paintings by Allen Sapp	Renowned Cree painter Allen Sapp's inspired and stunning paintings beautifully complement this sweet story of a young First Nations boy preparing for his first pow wow. The young boy's Nokum - his beloved grandmother-guides him through the exciting day and watches over him as events unfold. David Bouchard's rhythmic and informative text is based on remembrances from Allen Sapp's childhood.
	<i>Add additional resources that you have discovered.</i>