

Continuing Learning

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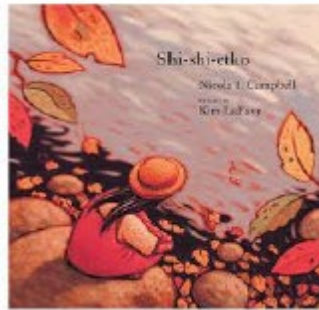


Level: Grades K -7

Category: Literacy

Title of Lesson:

Shi-shi-etko



Goals/Objectives:

Shi-shi-etko is a beautifully written story that gently introduces the subject of residential schools to younger children. In the youtube link below, the mayor of Edmonton provides a brief introduction to residential schools in Canada. Children will explore the value of being connected to family, and to our traditional territories. We will discuss how the teachings we learn from our families at home can help us deal with difficult situations. We will complete a visualization activity and can put together a memory bag with natural objects.

Materials Needed:

- Access to the internet with the ability to stream video, using a phone, tablet or computer.
- **Shi-shi-etko**, by Nicola Campbell, illustrated by Kim LaFave. Mayor of Edmonton reading the picture book on YouTube. Link: <https://youtu.be/P5B3ReaLQeY>
- blank paper, pencil, pencil crayons

1. Before Reading

- Inform students that good readers can make pictures in their mind while they read. Nicola Campbell uses such descriptive language in her book that it is easy to picture the story as it is told. Share a phrase, such as "...watched the sunlight dance butterfly steps across her mother's sleeping face..."

2. While Reading

- Listen to the reading of Shi-shi-etko focussing on the beautiful illustrations. Pause video and discuss some strong visualization words written by the author.

2. After Reading

- Have students describe activities Shi-shi-etko does with her mother, her father, and her Yayah. Have them share an activity they do with a special family member.

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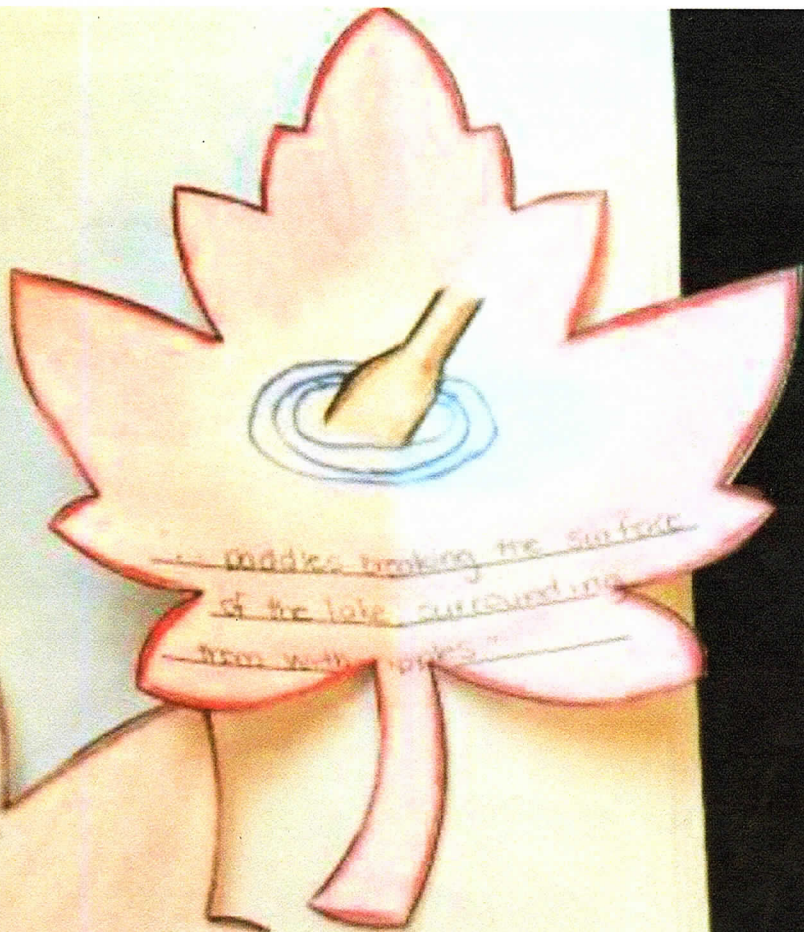
4. Visualization Activity
 - Read a few quotes. Have children choose one quote to copy and have them now illustrate their visualization on a blank piece of paper. You can print out the leaf worksheet or draw the leaf shape on a blank piece of paper. Attached is the quotes, leaf worksheet and a completed example.

Extension Activity

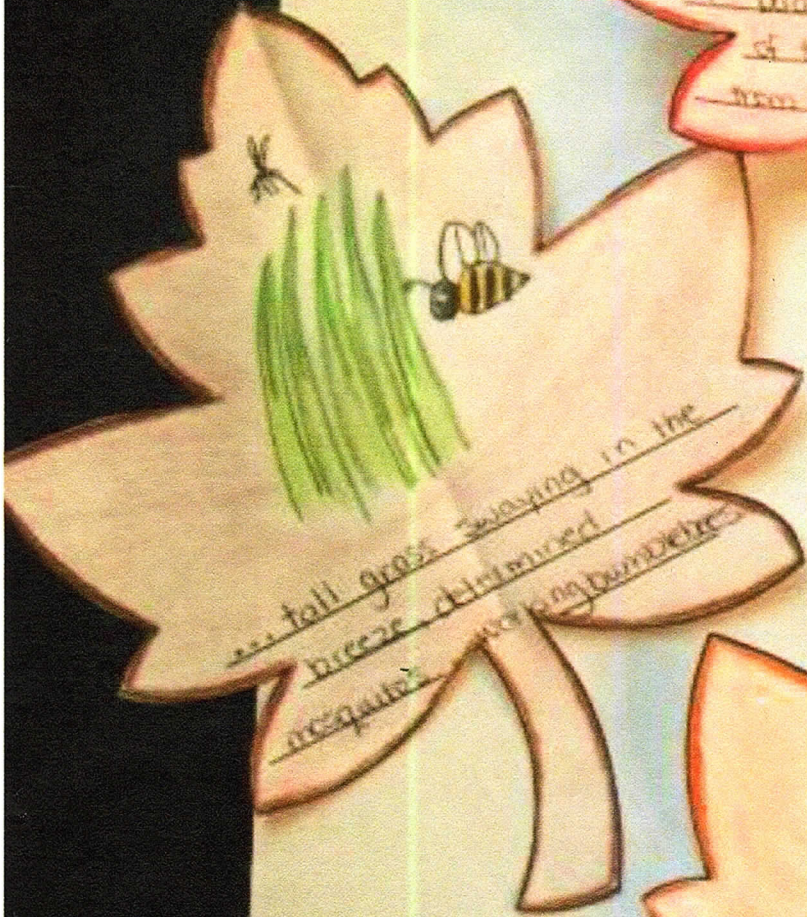
5. Memory Bag
 - Go outdoors and collect natural objects such as small stones, shells, sprigs, leaves, feathers, etc. Have children place a few of these items into their felt or fabric (using fall colours) memory bag. Have them also write one word that describes family (e.g. love, strength, teachings, stories) to include in their memory bag. Using a draw string, weave it through the holes to close the bag. Add a couple pony beads to decorate the draw string.



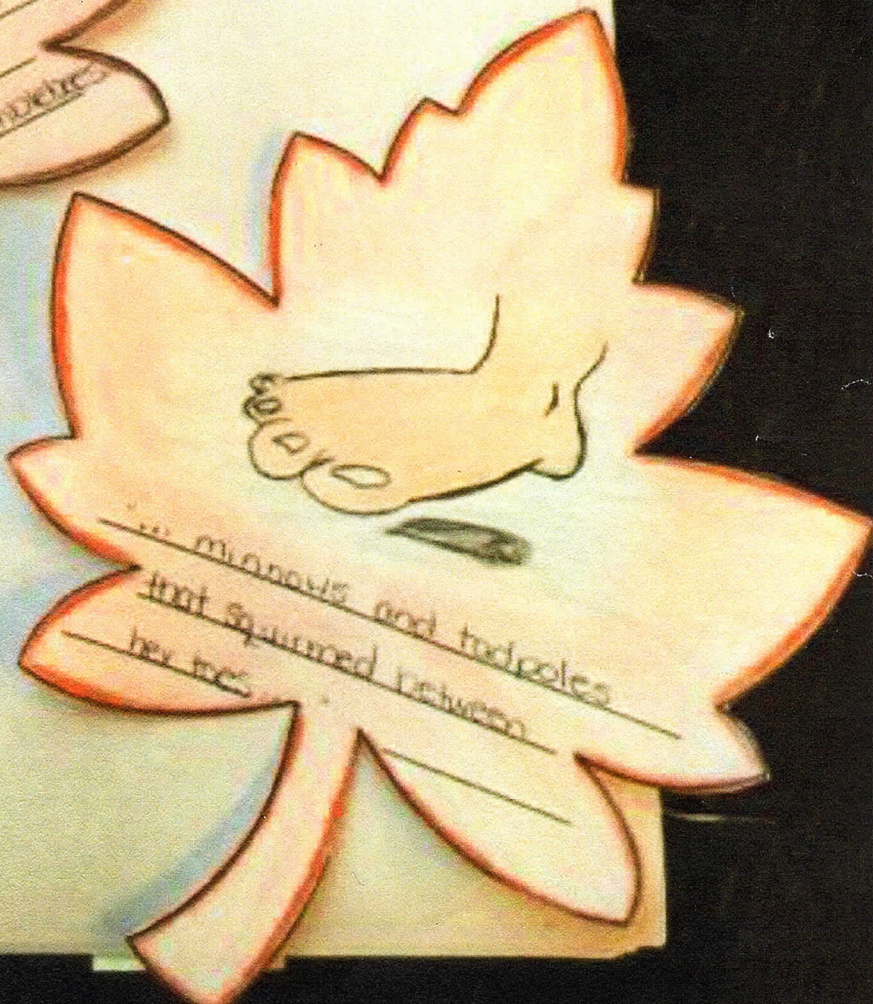
Visualizing Activity adapted from *The Power of Story: Exploring First Nations Literature through Reading Power*. Created by Kaitlin McWhinney and Sarah Hudson in collaboration with Adrienne Gear.



... bubbles breaking the surface
of the lake surrounding
them with ripples.



... tall grass swaying in the
breeze determined
acquaintance among themselves



... minnows and tadpoles
that squirmed between
her toes

QUOTES FROM "Shi-shi-etko"

"... as she watched sunlight dance butterfly steps across her mother's sleeping face..."

"... skipped along the worn path through the cottonwood trees all the way to the creek..."

"... the wild roses bloom in spring and the salmon have returned to our river..."

"... voice traveled from tree to tree, flowing through the valley, caught by the wind, carried on the wings of eagles in flight..."

"... tall grass swaying to the rhythm of the breeze, determined mosquitos, working bumblebees..."

"... memorized each shiny rock, the sand beneath her feet, crayfish and minnows and tadpoles that squirmed between her toes..."

"Sunlight, wood smoke and scents of barbequed sockeye salmon filled the air."

"Dishes clattered, footsteps pitter-pattered, and laughter echoed from tree to tree."

"... tucked safely under Yayah's patchwork quilt, Shi-shi-etko counted her fingers. "There are only one, two, three more sleeps until I go to school.""

"... the sky was changing, navy to brilliant blue."

"With yellow cedar paddles, they strolled across smooth water."

"... paddles breaking the surface of the lake, surrounding them with ripples."

"...tasted the rain that fell on her face."

"... small bag made from soft, tanned deer hide and sinew."

"The path was dark and smelled alive with rain, wet soil and leaves."

"...visited a hemlock, a cedar, even a pine, and each time she placed a sprig into her bag..."

"...fields of wild roses, Indian paintbrush, fireweed and columbine."

"...placed dried berry root, flower and fragrant leaf into her bag of memories."

"...the cattle truck that gathered children waited."

"She placed the tobacco at its base, then tucked her bag inside its roots."

"...rattled down the dirt road and into the trees..."

Shi Shi Etko

Name: _____

