

LIBRARIES
COMMITTEE
CUPE BC

INDIGENOUS READING LIST

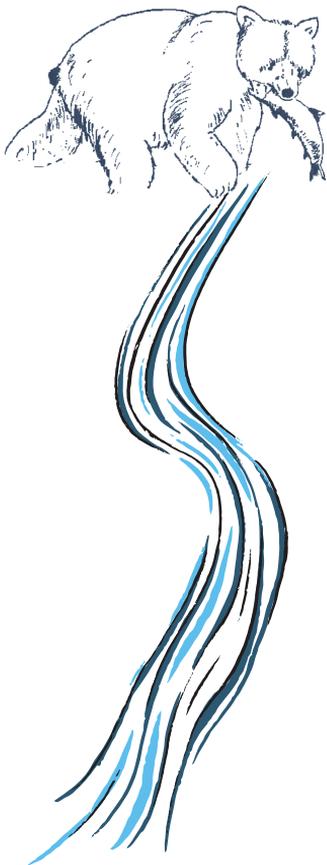
CHILDREN

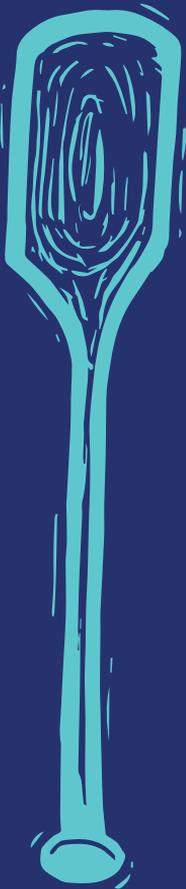
Nokum is My Teacher by David Bouchard, illustrations by Allen Sapp - This is a thoughtful story about a young Indigenous boy who asks his grandmother a series of questions about the world outside their community. The book is written as a dialogue between a young boy and his grandmother or Nokum. The boy asks why he should have to learn to read and wonders if knowledge of the world outside their reserve has value. Nokum knows that reading opens a world of possibilities, even though she never learned to read. Nokum skillfully guides her grandson to a new understanding of the larger world outside, while still retaining respect for the way of the people.

Coyote Tales by Thomas King - Two tales, set in a time "when animals and human beings still talked to each other," display Thomas King's cheeky humour and master storytelling skills. In *Coyote Sings to the Moon*, Old Woman and the animals sing to the moon each night. Coyote attempts to join them, but his voice is so terrible they beg him to stop. In *Coyote's New Suit*, mischievous Raven wreaks havoc when she suggests that Coyote's toasty brown suit is not the finest in the forest, thus prompting him to steal suits belonging to all the other animals.

Little You by Richard Van Camp - Internationally renowned storyteller and bestselling author of the hugely successful **Welcome Song for Baby: A Lullaby for Newborns**, has partnered with award-winning illustrator Julie Flett to create a tender board book for babies and toddlers that celebrates the potential of every child.

Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox by Danielle Daniel - Children's love for animals and disguise come together in this award-winning introduction to the Anishinaabe tradition of totem animals. In the story, young children explain why they identify with different creatures such as a deer, beaver or moose. Delightful illustrations show the children wearing masks representing their chosen animal, while the few lines of text on each page work as a series of simple poems throughout the book. In a brief author's note, Danielle Daniel explains the importance of totem animals in Anishinaabe culture, and how they can also act as animal guides for young children seeking to understand themselves and others.





YOUNG ADULT

The Marrow Thieves by Cherie Dimaline - Humanity has nearly destroyed its world through global warming, but now an even greater evil lurks. The Indigenous people of North America are being hunted and harvested for their bone marrow, which carries the key to recovering something the rest of the population has lost: the ability to dream.

A Girl Called Echo graphic novel series by Katherine Vermette - Echo Desjardins, a 13-year-old Métis girl adjusting to a new home and school, is struggling with loneliness while separated from her mother. Then an ordinary day in Mr. Bee's history class turns extraordinary, and Echo's life will never be the same. During Mr. Bee's lecture, Echo finds herself transported to another time and place -- a bison hunt on the Saskatchewan prairie-and back again to the present.

This Place: 150 Years Retold - Multiple authors explore the past 150 years through the eyes of Indigenous creators in this ground-breaking graphic novel anthology. Each story includes a timeline of related historical events and a personal note from the author. These stories are an emotional and enlightening journey through Indigenous wonderworks, psychic battles, and time travel.

If I Go Missing by Brianna Jonnie and Nahanni Shingoose, illustrated by Neal Shannacappo - Combining graphic fiction and non-fiction, this young adult graphic novel serves as a window into one of the unique dangers of being an Indigenous teen in Canada today. The book is derived from excerpts of a letter written to the Winnipeg Chief of Police by fourteen-year-old Brianna Jonnie. In her letter, Jonnie calls out the authorities for neglecting to immediately investigate missing Indigenous people and urges them to "not treat me as the Indigenous person I am proud to be" if she were to be reported missing.



ADULT

The Inconvenient Indian by Thomas King - Rich with dark and light, pain and magic, this book distills the insights gleaned from Thomas King's critical and personal meditation on what it means to be "Indian" in North America, weaving the curiously circular tale of the relationship between non-Natives and Natives in the centuries since the two first encountered each other.

Unsettling Canada by Arthur Manuel and Grand Chief Ronald Derrickson - This is a landmark text built on a unique collaboration between two First Nations leaders. Together, they bring a fresh perspective and bold new ideas to Canada's most glaring piece of unfinished business: the place of Indigenous Peoples within the country's political and economic space.

21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act by Bob Joseph - Since its creation in 1876, the Indian Act has shaped, controlled, and constrained the lives and opportunities of Indigenous Peoples, and is at the root of many enduring stereotypes. Bob Joseph's book comes at a key time in the reconciliation process, when awareness from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities is at a crescendo. Joseph explains how Indigenous Peoples can step out from under the Indian Act and return to self-government, self-determination, and self-reliance - and why doing so would result in a better country for every Canadian.