

About *ELVIS, ME, AND THE LEMONADE STAND SUMMER*

It's the summer of 1978 and most people think Elvis Presley has been dead for a year. But not eleven-year-old Truly Bateman — because she knows Elvis is alive and well and living in the Eagle Shores Trailer Park. Maybe no one ever thought to look for him on the Eagle Shores First Nation on Vancouver Island.

It's a busy summer for Truly. Though her mother is less of a mother than she ought to be, and spends her time drinking and smoking and working her way through new boyfriends, Truly is determined to raise as much money for herself as she can through her lemonade stand ... and to prove that her cool new neighbour is the one and only King of Rock 'n' Roll. And when she can't find motherly support in her own home, she finds sanctuary with Andy El, the Salish woman who runs the trailer park.

About LESLIE GENTILE

Leslie Gentile is a singer/songwriter of Northern Salish, Tuscarora, and Scottish heritage. She performs with her children in The Leslie Gentile Band, and with one of her sisters in The Half White Band. Gentile currently lives on Vancouver Island with her husband. *Elvis, Me, and the Lemonade Stand Summer* is her first novel.

Curriculum

Grade 4, 5, 6 Language (Reading)

Student Objectives

After reading *Elvis, Me, and the Lemonade Stand Summer*, students should be able to:

- Make inferences about texts using stated and implied ideas from the texts as evidence
- Analyze texts and explain how specific elements in them contribute to meaning
- Extend understanding of texts by connecting the ideas in them to their own knowledge, experience, and insights, to other familiar texts, and to the world around them
- Develop interpretations about texts using stated and implied ideas to support their interpretations

Getting Started

- Discuss the historic use of the term “Indian” and how and why it is not an appropriate term today.
- Describe what life was like in the 1970s. (E.g. no cell or smart phones; no internet; music; lifestyle)
- Introduce Elvis Presley and his music to the students. Discuss his impact on popular culture.
- Introduce tribute artists as a concept.

Discussion Questions

1. Before starting to read *Elvis, Me, and the Lemonade Stand Summer*, define “family.” After reading the novel, define “family” again. Has your definition changed?
2. What can you infer about the way Clarice reacted to the mistake on Truly’s birth certificate?
3. Truly ends up selling more than just lemonade; she also sells jars of jam, books, and muffins. What would you want to sell with lemonade if you had a stand?
4. If you had a lemonade stand for a summer, what would you spend your earnings on?
5. Why might Truly’s neighbours give her extra things to sell?
6. Esther told Truly that she’d rather not shop at Robertson’s Department store unless absolutely necessary. What does she say about her experience there that made her feel this way? (Chapter 4)
7. Truly says she was “overwhelmed at the thought that some of the other residents actually cared that I got my puppy.” Why might that be overwhelming for her? (Chapter 12)
8. Why is Truly surprised that Andy El knew it was her birthday? (Chapter 19)
9. How would you interpret Truly’s relationship with Andy El? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Activities

- Draw your own lemonade stand with the additional things you’d sell at it from question 3.