



Children's Indigenous Book Guide

REFLECTION GUIDE

WHY THIS MATTERS

Stories help children see the world through someone's else's eyes. They build empathy, connection, curiosity, and understanding. These books by Indigenous authors and illustrators open the door to meaningful conversations about identity, culture, community, and the world around us.

Use these stories to spark reflection and help children relate to the people in the stories, their experiences, and their strengths.



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE



Read the story together.

Enjoy the words, the pictures, and the feelings that come up.



Use the conversation starters to begin talking.

There are no right or wrong answers.



Encourage children to relate to the story.

Which character reminds them of themselves? What would they do in the story? How would they feel?



THE BOOKS



A Book About Belonging:

When We Are Kind -
Monique Gray Smith & Nicole Neidhardt



A Book About Courage:

The Water Walker -
Joanne Roberston



A Book About Family:

A Day with Yayah -
Nicola I. Campbell



A Book About Culture:

We All Count: A Book of Cree Numbers -
Julie Flett



A Book About Land:

Be a Good Ancestor -
Leona Prince & Gabrielle Prince



CONVERSATION STARTERS

You will find conversation starter questions beside each book. These questions invite children to see themselves in the story, understand others' experiences, and explore the world with curiosity.



*Stories help children see themselves,
see others, and see the world with
more kindness and understanding.*



The Books

A BOOK ABOUT BELONGINGS



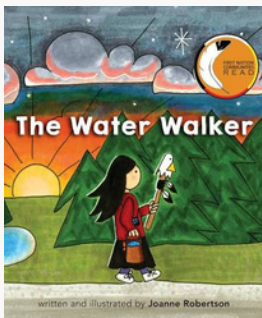
When We Are Kind
By: Monique Gray Smith

A heartwarming story that shows how kindness can be expressed through our everyday words and actions. It encourages children to recognize how even small acts of kindness can help others feel seen, valued, and connected.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- ♥ Which character reminded you of yourself?
- ♥ How do you know this story is about belonging?

A BOOK ABOUT COURAGE



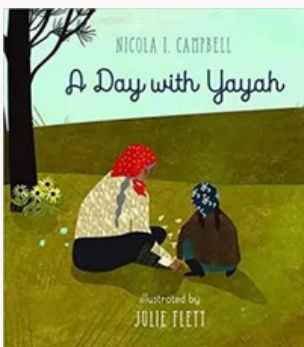
The Water Walker
By: Joanne Robertson

Inspired by the life of Indigenous water protector Josephine Mandamin, this story celebrates courage, determination, and the responsibility we all share to care for the water and the world around us.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- ♥ What helped this character keep going?
- ♥ When have you needed courage in your own life?

A BOOK ABOUT FAMILY



A Day with Yayah
By: Nicola I. Campbell

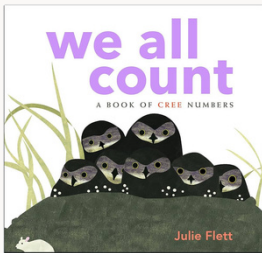
A gentle story about a young child spending time with their grandmother while learning Cree words, traditions, and the importance of family, language, and connection to the land.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- ♥ Who teaches you important things in your life?
- ♥ What traditions make your family special?

The Books

A BOOK ABOUT CULTURE



We All Count: A Book of Cree Numbers By: Julie Flett

A beautifully illustrated introduction to Cree numbers that celebrates language, culture, and the joy of learning through Indigenous ways of knowing.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- ♥ **What is something new you learned from this story?**
- ♥ **Why is it important to learn about cultures that are different from our own?**

A BOOK ABOUT LAND



Be a Good Ancestor By: Leona Prince & Gabrielle Prince

A thoughtful story that encourages children to consider how today's choices can help care for future generations, reminding us that we all have a responsibility to care for the land, water, and one another.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- ♥ **How did the people in this story care for the land?**
- ♥ **What can you do today to be a good ancestor?**