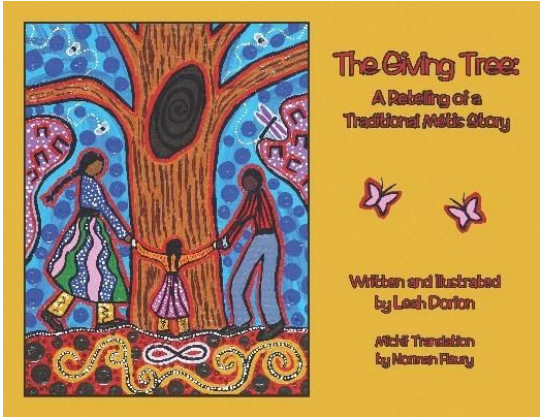


Elementary- Division 2- Lesson for The Giving Tree- Teachers' Guide & Activities

<p>Resources used and possible concerns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Giving Tree - Written and illustrated by Leah Dorion 
<p>Author/creator and/or literature background</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Author Leah Dorion with Métis heritage - Retelling of a Métis elders' story - Story told through the eyes of a young boy - Focal point of the story is a hollow in a sacred tree that acts as a Métis trade/ message centre and has been used for generations - Story shares 12 core Métis values: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Courage 2. Honesty 3. Mother Earth 4. Patience 5. Tolerance 6. Respect 7. Love 8. Kindness 9. Strength 10. Sharing 11. Balance 12. Caring
<p>UPE course connections (not exhaustive)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EDUC 420- Issues in Learning & Teaching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Throughout this lesson students are making

	<p>personal connections to literacy and examining their own values and the way these values interact with current realities in society. This supports the concepts discussed in EDUC 420, Issues in Learning and Teaching, encouraging students to learn from the world around them and to co-create knowledge.</p> <p>EDUC 450- Diversity in Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learning about Métis values and ways of life will help students to identify social inequalities and will help teachers to provide students with an education that fosters social justice and diversity. Students will develop a sensitivity and respect of the Métis culture. <p>EDUC 535- Specialization II- K-12 Social Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This lesson helps students connect the past and present, by looking at the ways traditional Métis values are connected to and shape their lives today. By writing about this in a firsthand way, it will be relevant, meaningful and engaging for students. By extending the lesson with the Art project, the Indigenous symbolism, woven throughout Social Studies education, will become meaningful to students. This will help pre-service teachers develop ways to deepen their understanding of the Social Studies Alberta Program of Studies (2007).
K-12 connection	<p>Target age range: Grade 4- 6 This book is also suitable for younger audiences, but the written component of this lesson makes it more suitable for Division 2 students.</p> <p>Subjects: Literacy, Social Studies, Art</p> <p>This lesson also supports the Alberta TQS in applying foundational knowledge about First Nations, Métis and Inuit.</p>
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Book: The Giving Tree - Notebook/ paper & pencil for students to brainstorm/

	<p>mind map</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Writing journals - Classroom or library computers for students to type final product - Pastels - Art paper
<p>Rationale</p>	<p>This lesson is designed to help students understand connections with mother nature and the land. Through the examination of Métis values, students will begin to recognize and identify their own values and how those values are seen and fostered within their lives. Students will develop a personal connection with Métis culture and values.</p>
<p>Lesson/activities (designed to take place over the course of a week, during periods of Social Studies & Literacy (Humanities) and Art</p>	<p>Big Idea/ Purpose: Students not only develop a personal connection and understanding of Métis values, but they begin to recognize their own values and connections with the land and consider how they can share these gifts and values with the world.</p> <p>This lesson sequence is designed to take place over a 2-week period for approximately 1 hour per school day.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin by Reading, The Giving Tree by Leah Dorion aloud to the class. As students listen to the story, they identify ways that they can see the 12 traditional Métis values represented throughout the story. A wheel referencing the 12 traditional Métis values can be found in the book, following the story: <div data-bbox="664 1327 1359 1818" data-label="Image"> </div>

2. Once completed, discuss the way students saw these values represented throughout the book. Students share with the class what they noted.
3. Introduce task: Students are tasked with choosing a sacred symbol from their lives (much like the hollow in the tree) that connects them to nature and to their values. Students are going to complete an expository writing assignment explaining the symbol that they have chosen and reasoning. Discuss what Métis values are shared through this symbol and how it connects them to nature.
This symbol could be a special place where they camp with their family, a lake cabin where they share memories and kindness with loved ones, a sacred park or area near home where they walk with their family or friends or a place where they play sports on the land and share values of honesty and respect with their team mates. This should be a personal connection.
4. Think, pair, share:
Students look at their own lives to determine what symbols connect them to the land. Students then brainstorm ideas in small groups while creating jot notes, then come together as a class to share and build a mind map of ideas and what Métis values are seen through these symbols and how they intertwine.
5. Reread the book if necessary, for students to reexamine Métis values.
6. Students begin to outline their topic, 3 Métis values and supporting evidence using template.
7. Students begin to work on expository writing.
8. Peer editing/ teacher editing
9. Students type out their final draft.
10. Opportunity for students to share their piece with the class if they choose.
11. Extension Activity: Students to create an illustration to support their writing. As a class, look at Leah Dorion's artistic style and Indigenous symbolism including, her use of circles/ dots throughout her work, the infinity symbol and her choice of colors. Discuss Indigenous symbolism as a class and meanings. There is an addition at the back of the book that shares the meaning behind the infinity

	<p>symbol, this should be read with the class). Discuss artistic style and techniques of layering pastels.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">12. Students begin by sketching their illustration in pencil, then layering pastel once they are satisfied with their art.13. Writing and art can be hung together on bulletin board to display student work.

Supporting Sources (APA):

Alberta Education. (2018). Teaching Quality Standard. Retrieved from https://education.alberta.ca/media/3739620/standardsdoc-tqs-_fa-web-2018-01-17.pdf

Alberta Education (2007) Program of studies: Social Studies (k-12). Retrieved from <https://education.alberta.ca/media/3273004/social-studies-k-6-pos.pdf>

Dorion, Leah. *The Giving Tree*. Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2009.

The Giving Tree

By Leah Dorion

Using jot notes, record examples of where you see each of the Métis values represented throughout the story.

