

Ed as Researcher Book Club Report

Sidney Elementary School

Indigenous Themes – Multiple Books Reading Club

Book titles: *Speaking Our Truth*, *The Inconvenient Indian*, *Ingenious Writes*, *Son of a Trickster*, *Tilly: A Story of Hope and Resilience*, *Tilly and the Crazy Eights*, *Monkey Beach*, *Moon of the Crusted Snow* and *Empire of the Wild*

Participants: Karen M., Shannon S., Sara P., Robin K., Jennifer A., Kaley R., Rebecca S., Alyssa E. and Jennifer D.

Rationale:

The Sidney Elementary School AEEA Key People team decided to initiate the Indigenous Themes Multiple Book Reading Club in hopes to inspire our colleagues and ourselves to dive into our professional development through a broad range of literature. After discussing the idea of an Indigenous book club with staff, as a tool to help 'Indigenize' our practice as educators, it was agreed that this book club would be a great opportunity for us to connect, learn, and share ideas to help us weave Indigenous perspectives and worldviews into the new curriculum.

The selected titles were recommended to us by our Indigenous Education Assistant. The team felt that these titles have the potential to deeply influence our teaching practice and understanding of Indigenous knowledge and peoples.

First Meeting – December 12, 2019

For our first meeting we met to discuss our individual goals and intentions for the book club. We took turns reading the backs of the books and shared what we already knew about some of the titles. We then chose books to read for our next meeting.



Second Meeting – February 5, 2020

At our second meeting we did a round-table discussion about the books each of us had read and highlighted topics and quotes that stood out for us. Many teachers had also read other relevant books that they connected to our discussions. One topic that really hit home for us was intergenerational trauma and teaching in the context of this.

Takeaway:

With the falling away of momentum for our book club during times of school closure, the Key People team decided to create an Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement classroom for its Sidney teachers in hopes to connect with our colleagues and continue our learning journey together. On the classroom we have gathered together a small selection of resources and ideas to share with our colleagues, in hopes that they might find something to engage with while in this teaching-at-a-distance scenario. There are, of course, a whole myriad of amazing resources on the SD63 Indigenous Ed website – our school site is intended to highlight a small collection of professional development resources and lessons. The motivation to continue our push for more indigenous themed professional development was built on the opportunity to get started in our book club.