

Ed as Researcher Book Club Report

Sidney Elementary School

Indigenous Themes – Multiple Books Reading Club

Book titles:

- *Salt Water People* by Dave Elliott Sr.
- *21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act* by Bob Joseph
- *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Participants: Shannon S., Sara P., Shannon C., Robin K., Jennifer A., Rebecca W., Emma G., Sam G., Melissa R., and Jennifer D.

Rationale:

Following the success of last year's Indigenous Themes -Multiple Book- Reading Club, continuing participants decided they would like to take up another book club on the same theme. This time, in order to increase our opportunity to read multiple titles but still facilitate the fruitful discussions of regular book club meetings, we chose to create three sets of mini focus groups within the book club, with participants selecting one of the titles below and reading it with their team, rotating through the three titles. In this way we hoped to foster rich dialogue and make connections between readings, while having the opportunity to read multiple titles within our overarching theme.

First Meeting – December 10, 2020

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 16, 2021

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. We had originally planned to break into smaller groups, but due to meeting online and in-person at the same time, it was easier for us all to take turns sharing out on the books we'd read. Lots of excitement was generated around reading *Saltwater People* and incorporating it into lessons in the classroom.

Final Meeting – June 11, 2021

Our final meeting is scheduled for June 11th in our outdoor classroom. Unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts, we were unable to meet before the end of the project timeline, but teachers are still eager to meet once more. The plan is to enjoy some snacks, share our favourite highlights from our readings and how they may have informed our teaching. Teachers will also have the opportunity to sign out books for summer reading.