Go Show the World: A Celebration of Indigenous Heroes

Author/Publisher/Website: Kinew, W.
Copyright: 2018
Evaluation/Record Entry Date: May/2019
Submitting Suppliers: Not Available
Primary Identifier: 9780735262928

Recommended Grades: 3-7
Subjects/Courses: Social Studies, English Language Arts, Arts Education

ERAC Review

DESCRIPTION

This important picture book celebrates Indigenous heroes from 1750 to the present and inspires children to believe in themselves. The text and illustrations demonstrate our connection to the land and support the importance of global challenges including climate change and inequality. Composed of three sections (main story, explanatory note, short biographies), this resource is an effective and inspiring introduction to Indigenous heroes and reflects themes of heroism, perseverance, adversity, culture, empowerment, equality, and connection. Suitable for grades 3-7, it can be a strong starting point for inquiry work and research on Indigenous peoples and cultures in North America.

CURRICULUM FIT

Does the resource support BC curriculum? Extensively

This product supports the Core Competencies of the BC curriculum:

- Communication
- Creative Thinking
- Critical thinking
- Positive Personal and Cultural Identity
- Personal Awareness and Responsibility
- Social Responsibility

Comments:
Go Show the World highlights Indigenous tradition, culture, and personal accomplishments. It could be used as a read-aloud for any age. It fits well with Grade 5, 6 & 7 Language Arts Big Ideas: Exploring stories and other texts help us understand ourselves and make connections to others; Gr. 4 Social Studies Big Idea: Interactions between First Peoples and Europeans led to conflict and cooperation which continues to shape Canada’s identity; Gr. 5 Social Studies Big Idea: Canada’s policies and treatment of minority peoples have negative and positive legacies; Arts Education Big Idea: Engaging in creative expression and experiences expands people’s sense of identity and belonging.

Social Considerations

Violence: There are some images depicting war and conflict (WWI). The important story of Olympian Waneek Horn-Miller’s experience being stabbed by a Canadian soldier with a bayonet as a child in 1992 is referred to in the poem but slightly more thoroughly in the back of the book mini-autobiographies.

Ethical: Water protectors at odds with resource development are depicted in imagery. Text on this page discusses doing right, being positive, forgiveness, and “taking a stand”. Protest as a democratic right could be discussed as well as unceded territory, world views, perspectives, and treaties.

Language: If you use Wab Kinew’s rap song students will hear the word ‘damn.’

Social Considerations Comments: Do the social considerations support, rather than detract from, student learning? Moderately

This book represents a diversity of Indigenous peoples through time who have achieved greatness despite great odds. The message to students is a challenge to the narrative of Indigenous peoples as victims of history or social political change. It instead shows Indigenous people as heroes who triumph over adversity. Mini-biographies in the back share information about context to expand the detail in the poetic verses in the text.

General Content

Content: Should this product be identified as Canadian? Yes
Is the resource an Authentic First Peoples Text? Yes

This resource supports the characteristics of Aboriginal worldviews and perspectives:

- Connectedness and Relationship
- Awareness of History
- Local Focus
- Engagement with the Land, Nature, the Outdoors
- Emphasis on Identity
- Processes and Protocols
- Traditional Teaching
- Language and Culture
### GENERAL CONTENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Extensively</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the resource engaging?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the content current for the intended curriculum and grade?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the content accurate for the intended curriculum and grade?</td>
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<td>Is the content timely and important for student broad understandings?</td>
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**Audience:**

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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the content appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does the resource provide opportunities for creative and critical thinking?</td>
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<td>Can the content be differentiated?</td>
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<td>Can reading level be adjusted?</td>
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<td>Is the level of detail appropriate?</td>
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<td>Is the language use appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?</td>
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<td>Are the visuals appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?</td>
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**Comments:**

This resource is composed of three sections: a main story (told in straightforward language, but with a poetic cadence), an explanatory note from the author, and short biographies of the Indigenous heroes highlighted in the text. Taken as a whole, the resource is an effective, inspiring introduction to some of North America's indigenous heroes. The images in the text are rich and engaging, offering visual scaffolding for learners who may struggle with the sometimes off-beat meter of the text.

### TECHNICAL DESIGN

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<tr>
<td>Does the resource make effective use of the medium?</td>
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<td>Is the location of illustrations appropriate?</td>
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<td>Is the resource easy to use?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the use of font, text size and presentation uniform?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are extraneous elements/illustrations kept to a minimum?</td>
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**Comments:**

Biographies at the back share information about context to expand the detail in the poetic verses in the text. The images are in full colour (water colour, collage, digital colour) with the exception of the biography section where black and white portrait-style drawings are used effectively. Biographies include birth and death years as well as cultural backgrounds of the individuals highlighted.

### PRINT NOVEL

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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
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<tr>
<td>Does the text show insight into the complexity of the human condition?</td>
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<td>Does the text broaden students’ experiences and understanding?</td>
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<td>To what degree is this text stylistically rich?</td>
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**Plot description:**

...
This necessary picture book fills a literary gap by showcasing a diverse group of Indigenous heroes from 1750 to the present throughout Turtle Island (North America). Kinew’s intent is to inspire young people by telling them “they matter” so they can believe in themselves. The anchor line of the poem is “go show the world what a person who matters can do”. Joe Morse’s images weave the Indigenous heroes into their cultures and contexts supporting our connection to them and to the Earth we share as we read. Inspired by Barack Obama’s picture book Of Thee I Sing and K’naan’s song ‘Take a Minute’, Wab Kinew wrote a remix called ‘Heroes’ which inspired this picture book.

Related Comments:
This is an important book as we grapple with reconciliation in Canada. It also supports our thinking about global challenges like climate change and inequality. Kinew shares many Indigenous voices and values by highlighting these varied heroes offering Indigenous solutions such as water is life, we are all related, and interconnectedness.

Descriptors:
Genre:
Autobiography

Literary Highlights:
Complex conflict
Rich Characterization
Well-developed themes
Effective figurative language
Point of view

Type:
Poetry
Picture book

Visual Highlights:
Effective use of visual elements
Compelling images
Visual convey character, emotions and attitudes
Visuals convey mood

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM USAGE
Comments:
Go Show the World is a resource that can be read and re-read many times to invite different focuses and inspire rich discussions. The personal histories outlined in this resource could be used as a platform from which to explore many themes including heroism, perseverance, adversity, culture, empowerment, equality, and connection. The resource would provide an excellent starting place for inquiry work and research around Indigenous peoples and cultures in North America, and a deeper investigation of the heroes outlined in the text. Go Show the World would also be an excellent resource to use as part of a biography unit in ELA, as it is unique in its focus on Indigenous heroes.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
Readability:
At intended grade level(s)

Comments:
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Wab Kinew's rap song upon which the book was based:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Ul4KmHlzMc