

Aboriginal Studies 10

Theme IV: Aboriginal Symbolism and Expression

General Outcome

Students will demonstrate an understanding of Aboriginal art forms, oral tradition and literature.

Students will have a firmer grasp of related concepts that include cultural transmission, values, beliefs, symbolism, analogy, diversity, cultural expression, holistic, integration, interpersonal relationships.

Specific Outcomes

Interpret and recognize significant oral symbolism and expressions

- Explore the lives, experiences and values of Aboriginal authors through their writings
- Examine contributions made by Aboriginal authors

Teacher Information

The following is a list of books by Aboriginal authors. It would be a good idea to have these books or other suitable books available for the students to read. Students will also have to do some research in the library or the Internet to learn more about the authors.

The list is as follows

- *All My Relations: An Anthology of Contemporary Canadian Native Fiction* by Thomas King
- *Becoming Brave: The Path to Native American Manhood* by Laine Thom
- *Harper's Anthology of 20th Century Native American Poetry* by Duane Niatum
- *Honour the Sun* by Ruby Slipperjack
- *I Walk in Two Worlds* by Eleanor Brass
- *Native Voices* by Freda Ahenakew, Brenda Gardipy, and Barbara Lafond
- *One Good Story, That One: Stories by Thomas King* by Thomas King
- *Our Bit of Truth: An Anthology of Canadian Literature* by Agnes Grant
- *Silent Words* by Ruby Slipperjack
- *Song of Eskasoni: More Poems of Rita Joe* by Rita Joe
- *Bear Bones and Feathers* by Louise Halfe
- *Ravensong* by Lee Maracle

There are many other authors you can include for this lesson plan, so don't limit yourself to the above suggestions.

Lesson

Have the students browse the resource list before they make a selection. After reading the selected books, have students write an essay either describing how the values and experiences of the author are reflected in the writing, or how the author is making a contribution through their writing to society and culture.