

# English 12 First Peoples

## **Specified Texts/Readings**

### **AN ANTHOLOGY OF CANADIAN NATIVE LITERATURE (2005 edition)**

**Edited by Daniel David Moses**

**School price \$40.46**

This collection presents writing in English by Canadian Native authors featuring prose selections, traditional songs, short stories, plays, poems and essays, showing a complexity and rich wealth of this culture.

**HALF-BREED by Marie Campbell**

**School price \$8.96**

Maria was a strong and sensitive child who lived in a community robbed of its pride and dignity by the dominant culture. At 15 she tried in vain to escape by marrying a white man, only to find herself trapped in the slums of Vancouver. But the inspiration of her great-grandmother gives her confidence in herself and in her people. *Half-Breed* offers an unparalleled understanding of the Métis people and of the racism and hatred they face. Maria Campbell's story cannot be denied and it cannot be forgotten: it stands as a challenge to all Canadians who believe in human rights and human dignity.

**KEEPER N ME by Richard Wagamese**

**School price \$17.91**

A mystical novel reflecting a positive view of native life and philosophy, it's about a three-year-old who was taken from his home on an Ojibway reserve and placed in a series of foster homes. Join him as he travels back to the reserve and discovers his sense of place and self.

**KISS OF THE FUR QUEEN by Tomson Highway**

**School price \$19.80**

*Kiss of the Fur Queen* is Tomson Highway's highly anticipated first novel, and it is the story of two boys born on a snowy Cree reservation in northern Manitoba, and thrown into the vastly different world of a Catholic boarding school. Both boys are teased, renamed, assaulted and alienated, but all the while, the trickster Fur Queen is there to keep a watchful eye on them. Deeply moving, a story that you won't soon forget.

**MONKEY BEACH by Eden Robinson**

**School price \$18.90**

Five hundred miles north of Vancouver is Kitamaat, an Indian reservation in the homeland of the Haisla people. Growing up a tough, wild tomboy, swimming, fighting, and fishing in a remote village where the land slips into the green ocean on the edge of the world, Lisamarie has always been different. Haunting, funny, and vividly poignant, *Monkey Beach* gives full scope to Robinson's startling ability to make bedfellows of comedy and the dark underside of life. Informed as much by its lush living wilderness as by the humanity of its colourful characters, *Monkey Beach* is a profoundly moving story about childhood and the pain of growing older--a multilayered tale of family grief and redemption.

**NATIVE POETRY OF CANADA Edited by Jeanette Armstrong and Lally Grauer**

**School price \$26.05**

A broad selection is featured from the sixties to the present day. It includes pieces from the coffee-house, counter-culture days of the 1960s, the "Red Power" movement of the 1970s and the introspective approach to the native experience in the 1980s. The anthology ends with the 1990s and the diverse, eloquent voices coming from reservation and street, city and university.

**ONLY DRUNKS AND CHILDREN TELL THE TRUTH by Drew Hayden Taylor**

**School price \$15.26**

The emotional struggle of a Native woman who was adopted by a White family to acknowledge her birth family. Cast of 2 women and 2 men. *James Buller Award for Playwright of the Year, 1997 Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Play, Small Theatre Division, 1996.*

**REZ SISTERS by Tomson Highway**

**School price \$11.66**

Tired of losing at Bingo, a group of seven sisters band together to beat the system and secure their financial future. Evoking the harsh realities and impossible dreams that come to life on Canada's Native reserves, *The Rez Sisters* is at once witty and disturbing. It captures the true nature of reserve life in its strange contradictions of old and new, tradition and distress. *Winner of the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best New Play and nominated for the Governor General's Award.*

**SMOKE SIGNALS (Screenplay) by Sherman Alexie**

**School price \$13.46**

*Smoke Signals* is the story of two Native American boys on a journey. Victor is the stoic, handsome son of an alcoholic father who has abandoned his family. Thomas is a gregarious, goofy young man who lost both his parents in a fire at a very young age. Through storytelling, Thomas makes every effort to connect with the people around him: Victor, in contrast, uses his quiet countenance to gain strength and confidence. When Victor's estranged father dies, the two men embark on an adventure to Phoenix to collect the ashes. Along the way, *Smoke Signals* illustrates the ties that bind these two very different young men and embraces the lessons they learn from one another.

**THREE DAY ROAD by James Boyden**

**School price \$19.80**

Inspired in part by real-life World War I Ojibwa hero Francis Pegahmagabow, this unblinking, impeccably researched novel is the astonishing story of two Cree snipers in the killing fields of Ypres and the Somme, and the winding journey home to northern Ontario that only one of them will make. A remarkable tale of brutality, survival, and rebirth, *Three Day Road* is an unforgettable reading experience. The National Bestseller, shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award, One of The Globe and Mail One Hundred Best Books of 2004.

**TRUTH ABOUT STORIES by Thomas King** (Also, available in audio CD format)

**School price \$17.06**

In his 2003 Massey lectures, award-winning author and scholar Thomas King looks at the breadth and depth of Native experience and imagination. Beginning with Native oral stories, King weaves his way through literature and history, religion and politics, popular culture and social protest, in an effort to make sense of North America's relationship with its Aboriginal peoples.

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*DVDs for FAST RUNNER, HANK WILLIAMS FIRST NATIONS, WHALE RIDER, SMOKE SIGNALS, and RABBIT-PROOF FENCE are available through amazon.ca or chapters.ca*

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