

BLM 2 *Evaluating Authenticity: First Peoples Texts*

Adapted from “Authentic First Peoples Resources (K-9)”, available at www.fnesc.ca/k-7/

“Authentic First Peoples texts” are historical or contemporary texts that are created by First Peoples (or through the substantial contributions of First Peoples) and depict themes and issues that are important within First Peoples’ cultures.

“Representation” refers to how people, or groups of people are portrayed or defined.

Determining the authenticity of a work can be challenging. Use the elements below to help analyze the various works you will be looking at during this unit. You should also consider these factors when analyzing any text (novels, poems, films, etc.), particularly in cases when the authors or filmmakers are employing the point of view of a group of people to which they do not belong.

- Name of Work:
- Brief Summary:
- Author:
- Whose story is being told? Consider the point of view of the work.
- What authority does the author have to tell this story? In the case of First Peoples texts, consider First Nations, Métis, or Inuit community affiliation, collaboration with Indigenous peoples, etc.
- Are the authors representing groups of people of which they are a part (self-representation), or are the authors referring to groups of people different from their cultural contexts?
- Is the story accurate? How do you know? Are First Peoples and other characters portrayed respectfully and realistically? Are gender roles portrayed realistically?
- Are biases evident? If so, what are they?
- Does the story rely on stereotypes, or are characters unique and life-like?

Considering all of these factors, rate the authenticity of this work, and provide a brief explanation. (1=not authentic; 6=very authentic).

1	2	3	4	5	6
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