Métis Nation of Ontario Early Learning & Child Care

ELCC ADVISORS' BOOK CLUB

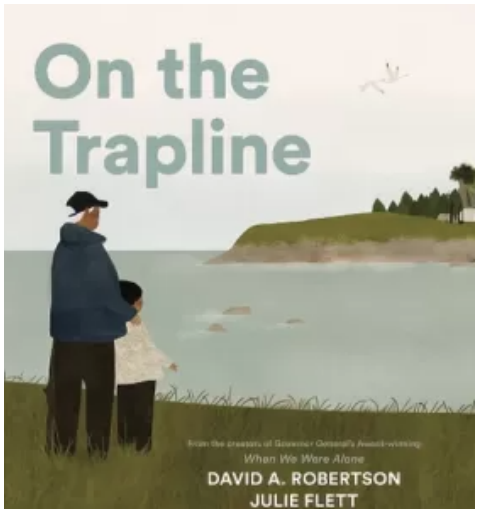
Our Book Recommendation:

On the Trapline by David A. Robertson
Illustrated by Julie Flett

Age Recommendation: 3+

Synopsis:

This is a heartfelt story that beautifully captures the bond between a young boy and his grandfather as they journey to a trapline where the grandfather spent his childhood. The book reflects on family, memory and the deep connection to the land.



Where to purchase:

- Strong Nation

Why We love It

This story celebrates intergenerational relationships and provides a meaningful glimpse into traditions, history and relationship to the land. Julie Flett's stunning illustrations bring the narrative to life, making it both engaging and visually captivating. It's a powerful resource for fostering conversations about identity, belonging, and the importance of preserving one's heritage in a way that is accessible to children.

Metis Connections

On the Trapline beautifully reflects the deep connection between land, tradition, and identity. Values that are central to Métis culture. Gathering and harvesting has long been an important part of Métis ways of life, tied to self-sufficiency, storytelling, and intergenerational knowledge. This book provides an opportunity to explore traditions, the significance of the land, and the passing down of wisdom from Elders to younger generations, fostering a sense of belonging and cultural pride.

Connection to "How Does Learning Happen?" Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years

Well-Being: Time spent in nature and engaging in hands-on activities supports both physical and emotional well-being.

Engagement: Sensory play and outdoor exploration spark curiosity and sustained focus as children interact with the story and their environment.

Expression: Retelling the story and incorporating their own experiences allow children to communicate their thoughts, feelings, and ideas through play.

Storytime Outdoors

Storytime doesn't have to be confined to indoor spaces. Bring the book outdoors and listen to the story together. If you're near a forest, river, or pond, give the children time to explore their surroundings. Encourage them to notice the space they're in, fostering curiosity and sparking meaningful conversations. This simple activity helps children build a connection to and respect for the land, nurturing a sense of wonder and belonging. Allowing them to play with natures loose parts: rocks, twigs, logs, leaves and safe items they find on the ground.

Sensory Play

The book features children swimming, people fishing from boats, and animals in the water. A perfect inspiration for a water-based sensory play experience! Create a water play area with rocks, twigs, toy boats, plastic fish, and animal figurines. Encourage children to engage with the materials as they retell the story or bring in their own lived experiences. This type of play deepens their understanding of the story while promoting creativity and self-expression.

Additional Resources and Links

Here is a read-aloud of On the Trapline by David A. Robertson, illustrated by Julie Flett. The story begins at 7:30 and ends at 16:45 in the video.

Book Launch | On the Trapline by David A. Robertson & Julie Flett | Indigenous Picture Books

On the TVOkids website, there's an interview with David A. Robertson where he shares the inspiration behind On the Trapline.

On the Trapline | That TVOKids Show | National Indigenous History Month | TVOKids.com

Let's Chat About the Book!

For each book we cover, you can join us and chat about it in the MNO Education Hub's "ELCC Professionals" discussion area! See you there!

Don't have the app? Download it by scanning the QR code.

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