



THOMPSON-NICOLA
REGIONAL LIBRARY

One Book, One Community featuring *Five Little Indians* by Michelle Good

Book Club Kit Resources

This document is a collection of resources to support One Book, One Community projects in other library systems. These resources were prepared as part of an information session offered by the Thompson-Nicola Region Library, August 2022.



List of Contents

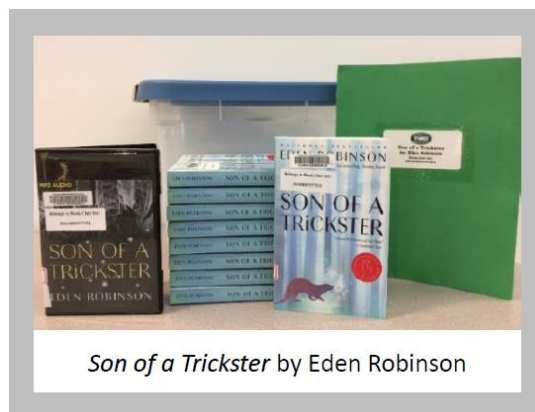
1. Welcome to Book Club Kits
2. Tips for Leaders
3. Mental Health Resources
4. Author Biography: Michelle Good
5. Discussion Questions for *Five Little Indians*
6. Discussion Questions for Any Book
7. Additional Titles by Indigenous Authors
8. Book Club Sign-out Sheet
9. Mental Health Resources Bookmarks

Welcome to Book Club Kits

What are Book Club Kits?

A Book Club Kit includes everything you need to run one session of a book club. Each kit usually contains:

- 10 print copies of the title
- 1 audio copy of the title
- sign out sheets
- tips for being a book club leader
- a short author biography
- general book club discussion questions
- specific discussion questions for this title



How does the library choose which books become kits?

The titles in our Book Club Kits are chosen by library staff, who are experts at identifying recent, diverse titles of interest. We also welcome patron suggestions! To suggest a title, speak to a staff member or use the title suggestion form on our website.

How can I find what titles are available?

A complete list of Book Club Kits is available on the library's website. Select "Devices and Book Kits" under the Explore menu, or search the library catalogue using the keyword "book club sets". All the available kits are stored at the Kamloops Library. If you'd like to pick a kit up at another branch, you can place a hold.

How can my club borrow a Book Club Kit?

- One member of your book club will need to borrow the kit. That member will be responsible if there are any lost or damaged items.
- The sets have an eight week loan period with no renewals.
- Each club is limited to two kits at a time.
- You may return the Book Club Kit to the welcome desk at any Thompson-Nicola Regional Library. Kits may not be returned through the book drop.
- The entire set must be returned together (all print & audio copies, the information folder, and the bin).

For more information:

Talk to your local library staff, or contact the Kamloops Library at 250-372-5145 or questions@tnrd.ca.



Tips for Leaders

- Be aware this book may contain sensitive material for some book club participants, as noted in the **Mental Health Resources** section. We are making readers aware that:
 - Some materials in this book may be difficult or challenging for readers. If you are a Residential School Survivor, this content may trigger you. Please be with someone for support or call a professional for assistance.
- Prepare ahead of time. Read the book, look at biographical information about the author, and find book reviews. Prepare discussion questions or use the questions included with your Book Club Kit. Consider sharing these questions with your members in advance. Make sure everyone is comfortable:
- Create a comfortable seating arrangement - a circle or oval works well.
- Begin by welcoming everyone and introducing yourself.
- If people are not all familiar with each other, ask each person to give a brief introduction. Think of yourself as a facilitator for the discussion. Your job is to maintain the group's focus and keep the discussion moving. Try to begin with a provocative question and step back. Avoid closed-ended questions like "Did you like the book?" Be a good listener and observer. Watch for quiet members and try to draw them into the discussion. Watch for someone anxious to get into the conversation and help them to find a gap in the conversation. Respect everyone's opinion. When there are differing views encourage discussion about the reasons for liking or disliking the book. Let it be known that the group is non-judgmental and everyone's opinion is valued. The best discussions often happen when not everyone agrees! Not all questions need to be asked and answered. Use the questions as conversation starters. Don't worry about short silent periods. People may pause to form their ideas but be prepared with notes to get the discussion started again. You could choose a favourite passage or two from the book to share. Reading aloud can bring a new perspective to the passage. Be sure to end on time and thank everyone for their participation. Ensure everyone has the next title and knows meeting date and location.



Mental Health Resources

Warning:

Some materials in this book may be difficult or challenging for readers. If you are a Residential School Survivor, this content may trigger you. Please be with someone for support or call a professional for assistance.

BC BEREAVEMENT HELPLINE

- 1-877-779-2223
- <https://bcbh.ca>

CRISIS CENTER

- 1-866-661-3311
- www.CrisisCentreChat.ca (Live one-on-one chat)
- <https://crisiscentre.bc.ca/>

HOPE FOR WELLNESS HELPLINE

- [1-855-242-3310](tel:1-855-242-3310)
- <https://www.hopeforwellness.ca>

INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS & FAMILY CRISIS LINE

- [1-866-925-4419](tel:1-866-925-4419)
- <https://www.irsss.ca>

KUU-US CRISIS LINE SOCIETY

- 1-800-KUU-US17 (1-800-588-8717)
- <https://www.kuu-uscrisisline.com/24-hour-crisis-line>

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT LINE

- Call 310-6789 (do not add 604, 778 or 250 before the number)

WELLNESS TOGETHER

- 1-866-585-0445
- <https://wellnesstogether.ca/en-CA>



Author Biography: Michelle Good

Michelle Good is of Cree ancestry, a descendent of the Battle River Cree and a member of the Red Pheasant Cree Nation. She has worked with Indigenous organizations since she was a teenager and at forty decided to approach that work in a different way obtaining her law degree from UBC at 43. She has practiced law in the public and private sector since then, primarily advocating for Residential School Survivors.



She graduated from UBC with a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Creative Writing MFA in 2014 where her novel *Five Little Indians* first started taking shape. Her poetry, and short stories have appeared in a number of publications.

Five Little Indians won the HarperCollins/UBC Best New Fiction Prize, Governor General's Literary Award and the Amazon First Novel Award, was shortlisted for the Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, and was longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize. Michelle is currently working on her second novel.

Adapted from:

"Biography". *Michelle Good*, n.d. <https://www.michellegood.ca/biography.htm> Accessed 1 October 2021

"Michelle Good". *Writers' Trust of Canada*, n.d. <https://www.writerstrust.com/authors/michelle-good/> Accessed 1 October 2021



Discussion Questions for *Five Little Indians*

1. How did the prologue affect the way you experienced reading the rest of the book? How did your perception of the prologue change when you reread it after finishing the book?
2. In many interviews Michelle Good mentions that she wrote this book as a response to the question “why can’t they just get over it?” Do you think this book answers this question?
3. The story does not take us through time in a linear manner, strictly moving from the past into the present. Instead, Michelle Good moves back and forth through time as she tells the story. Why do you think she chose to write the novel this way? How did this method of storytelling influence your perception of the events and these events as they relate to the characters?
4. Kenny leaves home for the second time on New Year’s Day, 1967. The last residential school closed in 1996. Were you aware of the existence of Indian Residential Schools at any point during this period, and if so, what did you know about them?
5. Bella sent letters and Christmas presents to Kenny at the Indian Residential School, but he never received them. What were the people in charge of the school hoping to achieve by intercepting these correspondences?
6. The title of the book is *Five Little Indians*. Obviously, *Five Little Indigenous People* would not have had quite the same effect. Why do you suppose the author chose that title?
7. In a book with no shortage of villains, Walt stands out as uniquely awful. What is it about him that makes the reader’s skin crawl, even before he’s shown his true nature?
8. The girls who work at the Manitou prefer to be paid in cash so that they don’t have to “get bank accounts and face the stiff smiles of the blond tellers at the bank on the corner.” In 2019, a teller at a Vancouver bank called the police on a Heiltsuk man named



- Maxwell Johnson when he tried to open a bank account for his granddaughter. What does this say about how much has (or hasn't) changed in the past 50 years?
9. For many years, it was thought that Indigenous people had a genetic predisposition to become addicted to alcohol and substance use. How might widespread acceptance of that theory have contributed to public ignorance about Indigenous people and the long-term impacts of Indian Residential Schools?
 10. Were you aware of the American Indian Movement before reading this book? Many countries, like Canada, have unresolved historic injustices with Indigenous peoples. Over 40 countries have established Truth Commissions in the hopes of fostering healing and meaningful restorative justice. What do you think of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission? What are you personally doing to meet the 94 Calls to Action?
 11. Holding a stolen crucifix, Howie wonders "how many lives... were broken down like garbage in the name of this cross?" With church-run Residential Schools again in the news, there are renewed calls for accountability. How do you feel about how the different churches and organizations have responded?
 12. Imagine that Sister Mary and Mariah encounter each other at a well-intentioned event designed to foster "Reconciliation." How do they behave toward one another?
 13. Clara is a fighter who manages to channel her considerable energy into "keep[ing] Indians out of jail." What is gained or lost by this?
 14. Most of the novel is told in the third person, but there are a couple sections that are told in first person. For example, only part of Kenny's story is told in first person. Why might that be? And what effect does it have on how you relate to the characters?
 15. How did reading this book change your understanding of the Residential School System and the lasting harm it has caused?



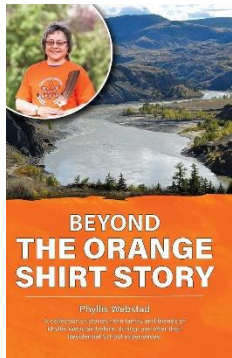
Discussion Questions for Any Book

If you can't find discussion questions for the book your group is reading, use these general questions to get the group talking. Encourage each member to ask their own questions, too!

1. The circumstance that sets the book in motion is called the inciting moment. What is the inciting moment of this book?
2. Describe the character development. Who do you identify with? Do your opinions about any of the characters change over the course of the novel?
3. How does the author use language and imagery to bring the characters to life? Do the book's characters or style in any way remind you of another book?
4. What message is the author trying to convey to the reader? What did you learn from this book? Is it educational in any way?
5. Why do you think the author chose the title? Is there a significant meaning behind it?
6. Is there a part of the novel you don't understand? Are you confused by a character's actions or the outcome of an event?
7. Do you think the setting time and location plays a large role in this novel? Could it happen anywhere, anytime? If so, how would the novel change?
8. In your opinion, is the book entertaining? Explain why or why not.
9. What is your favourite passage?
10. How did this book touch your life?

Additional Titles by Indigenous Authors

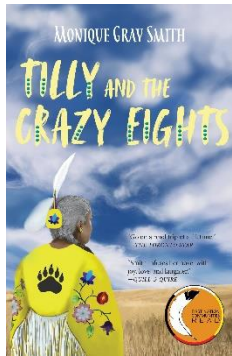
Find these titles and many more at <https://www.tnrl.ca/read-for-reconciliation/>



Beyond the Orange Shirt Story: A collection of stories from family and friends of Phyllis Webstad before, during, and after their residential school experiences

By Phyllis Webstad (Adult Non-Fiction)

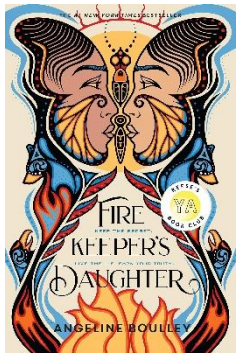
Beyond the Orange Shirt Story is a unique collection of truths, as told by Phyllis Webstad's family and others, that will give readers an up-close look at what life was like before, during, and after their Residential School experiences. In this book, Survivors and Intergenerational Survivors share their stories authentically and in their own words. Phyllis Webstad is a Residential School Survivor and founder of the Orange Shirt Day movement. Phyllis has carefully selected stories to help Canadians educate themselves and gain a deeper understanding of the impacts of the Residential School System.



Tilly and the Crazy Eights

By Monique Gray Smith (Adult Fiction)

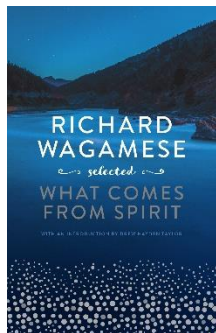
When Tilly receives an invitation to help drive eight elders on their ultimate bucket list road trip to Albuquerque for the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow, she impulsively says yes. Before she knows it, Tilly has said goodbye to her family and is behind the wheel--ready to embark on an adventure that will transform her in ways she could not predict. Tilly and the Crazy Eights each choose a stop to make along the way--somewhere they've always wanted to go or something they've wanted to experience.



Firekeeper's Daughter

By Angeline Boulley (YA Fiction)

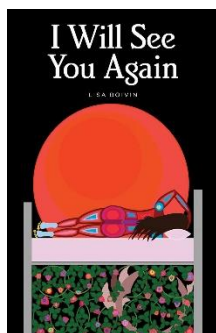
Eighteen-year-old Daunis Fontaine has never quite fit in, both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. She dreams of a fresh start at college, but when family tragedy strikes, Daunis puts her future on hold to look after her fragile mother. The only bright spot is meeting Jamie, the charming new recruit on her brother Levi's hockey team. Yet even as Daunis falls for Jamie, she senses the dashing hockey star is hiding something. Everything comes to light when Daunis witnesses a shocking murder, thrusting her into an FBI investigation of a lethal new drug. Reluctantly, Daunis agrees to go undercover. But the search for truth is more complicated than Daunis imagined, exposing secrets and old scars.



Richard Wagamese Selected: What comes from spirit

By Richard Wagamese, with an introduction by Drew Hayden Taylor (Adult Non-Fiction)

This new collection of Wagamese's non-fiction works, with an introduction by Drew Hayden Taylor, brings together more of the prolific author's short writings, many for the first time in print, and celebrates his ability to inspire. Drawing from Wagamese's essays and columns, along with preserved social media and blog posts, this beautifully designed volume is a tribute to Wagamese's literary legacy.



I Will See You Again

By Lisa Boivin (YA Non-Fiction)

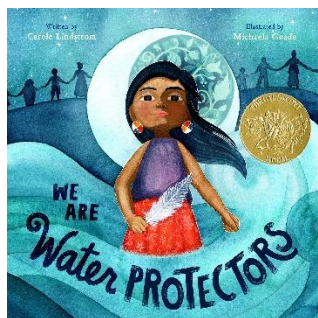
When the author learns of the death of her brother overseas, she embarks on a journey to bring him home. Through memories and dreams of all they shared together, she follows Dene teachings to find comfort and strength. The lyrical art and story leave readers with a universal message of hope and love.



This Place: 150 years retold

Foreword by Alicia Elliott, stories by Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm and others, illustrations by Tara Audibert and others (YA Graphic Novel)

Explore the past 150 years in what is now Canada through the eyes of Indigenous creators in this groundbreaking graphic novel anthology. Beautifully illustrated, these stories are a wild ride through magic realism, serial killings, psychic battles and time travel. See how Indigenous peoples have survived a post-apocalyptic world since Contact.



We are Water Protectors

By Carole Lindstrom, illustrated by Michaela Goade (Easy)

Water is the first medicine. It affects and connects us all... When a black snake threatens to destroy the Earth and poison her people's water, one young water protector takes a stand to defend Earth's most sacred resource. Inspired by the many indigenous-led movements across North America, this bold and lyrical picture book issues an urgent rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption.

More titles by Indigenous authors available at <https://www.tnrl.ca/read-for-reconciliation/>



Book Club Sign-Out Sheet

Book Club Name: _____

Book Title: _____

Discussion Date: _____

Name	Telephone Number	Book Number	Date Given	Date Collected

Please help us protect your personal information by removing this sheet before you return the set.

Five Little Indians
by Michelle Good

Be aware that some parts of this book may be difficult or challenging for readers.

If you are a Residential School Survivor, this content may trigger you.

Consider having someone nearby for support or see the other side of this bookmark to find a professional organization for assistance.

Please take care of yourself.

Five Little Indians
by Michelle Good

Be aware that some parts of this book may be difficult or challenging for readers.

If you are a Residential School Survivor, this content may trigger you.

Consider having someone nearby for support or see the other side of this bookmark to find a professional organization for assistance.

Please take care of yourself.

Five Little Indians
by Michelle Good

Be aware that some parts of this book may be difficult or challenging for readers.

If you are a Residential School Survivor, this content may trigger you.

Consider having someone nearby for support or see the other side of this bookmark to find a professional organization for assistance.

Please take care of yourself.

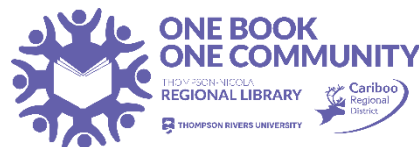
Five Little Indians
by Michelle Good

Be aware that some parts of this book may be difficult or challenging for readers.

If you are a Residential School Survivor, this content may trigger you.

Consider having someone nearby for support or see the other side of this bookmark to find a professional organization for assistance.

Please take care of yourself.



Mental Health Supports:

BC Bereavement Helpline

- 1-877-779-2223
- <https://bcbh.ca>

BC Crisis Center

- 1-866-661-3311
- www.CrisisCentreChat.ca
(Live one-on-one chat)

Hope for Wellness Helpline

- 1-855-242-3310
- <https://www.hopeforwellness.ca>

Indian Residential School Survivors & Family Crisis Line

- 1-866-925-4419
- <https://www.irsss.ca>

KUU-US Crisis Line

- 1-800-KUU-US17 (1-800-588-8717)
- <https://www.kuu-uscisline.com/24-hour-crisis-line>

Mental Health Support Line

- 310-6789 (do not add 604, 778 or 250 before the number)

Wellness Together Canada

- 1-866-585-0445
- <https://wellnesstogether.ca/en-CA>

Mental Health Supports:

BC Bereavement Helpline

- 1-877-779-2223
- <https://bcbh.ca>

BC Crisis Center

- 1-866-661-3311
- www.CrisisCentreChat.ca
(Live one-on-one chat)

Hope for Wellness Helpline

- 1-855-242-3310
- <https://www.hopeforwellness.ca>

Indian Residential School Survivors & Family Crisis Line

- 1-866-925-4419
- <https://www.irsss.ca>

KUU-US Crisis Line

- 1-800-KUU-US17 (1-800-588-8717)
- <https://www.kuu-uscisline.com/24-hour-crisis-line>

Mental Health Support Line

- 310-6789 (do not add 604, 778 or 250 before the number)

Wellness Together Canada

- 1-866-585-0445
- <https://wellnesstogether.ca/en-CA>

Mental Health Supports:

BC Bereavement Helpline

- 1-877-779-2223
- <https://bcbh.ca>

BC Crisis Center

- 1-866-661-3311
- www.CrisisCentreChat.ca
(Live one-on-one chat)

Hope for Wellness Helpline

- 1-855-242-3310
- <https://www.hopeforwellness.ca>

Indian Residential School Survivors & Family Crisis Line

- 1-866-925-4419
- <https://www.irsss.ca>

KUU-US Crisis Line

- 1-800-KUU-US17 (1-800-588-8717)
- <https://www.kuu-uscisline.com/24-hour-crisis-line>

Mental Health Support Line

- 310-6789 (do not add 604, 778 or 250 before the number)

Wellness Together Canada

- 1-866-585-0445
- <https://wellnesstogether.ca/en-CA>

Mental Health Supports:

BC Bereavement Helpline

- 1-877-779-2223
- <https://bcbh.ca>

BC Crisis Center

- 1-866-661-3311
- www.CrisisCentreChat.ca
(Live one-on-one chat)

Hope for Wellness Helpline

- 1-855-242-3310
- <https://www.hopeforwellness.ca>

Indian Residential School Survivors & Family Crisis Line

- 1-866-925-4419
- <https://www.irsss.ca>

KUU-US Crisis Line

- 1-800-KUU-US17 (1-800-588-8717)
- <https://www.kuu-uscisline.com/24-hour-crisis-line>

Mental Health Support Line

- 310-6789 (do not add 604, 778 or 250 before the number)

Wellness Together Canada

- 1-866-585-0445
- <https://wellnesstogether.ca/en-CA>