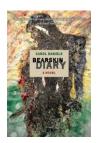


Indigenous Reading List - Centre for Teaching Excellence

This document was curated by <u>Matthew Michaud</u> at Capilano University. Please contact him regarding inquiries and assistance concerning Indigenizing your curriculum.

Fiction



Bearskin Diary by Carol Daniels, 2015

"Taken from the arms of her mother as soon as she was born, Sandy was only one of over twenty thousand Aboriginal children scooped up by the federal government between the 1960s and 1980s. Sandy was adopted by a Ukrainian family and grew up as the only First Nations child in a town of white people." (Harbour Publishing)

Carol Daniels is a journalist who became Canada's first Aboriginal woman to anchor a national newscast when she joined CBC *Newsworld* in 1989.



Birdie by Tracy Lindberg, 2015

"Birdie" is a darkly comic and moving first novel about the universal experience of recovering from wounds of the past, informed by the lore and knowledge of Cree traditions. Part road trip, part dream quest, part travelogue, the novel touches on the universality of women's experience, regardless of culture or race." (Harper Collins)

Tracey Lindberg is a citizen of As'in'i'wa'chi Ni'yaw Nation Rocky Mountain Cree and is from the Kelly Lake Cree Nation. She teaches Indigenous studies and Indigenous law at two universities in Canada.



The Break by Katherena Vermette, 2016

"The Break is a critically acclaimed novel set in Winnipeg's North End. A series of shifting narratives exposes a larger, more comprehensive story about the lives of an extended Indigenous family. A powerful intergenerational saga." (House of Anansi Press)

Katherena Vermette is a Métis writer from Treaty One territory, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.



Celia's Song by Lee Maracle, 2014

"Celia's Song relates one Nuu'Chahlnuth family's harrowing experiences over several generations, after the brutality, interference, and neglect resulting from contact with Europeans." (Cormorant Books)

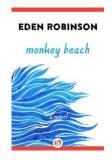
Lee Maracle is a member of the Stó: lo nation, born in Vancouver and grew up in North Vancouver.



Green Grass, Running Water by Thomas King, 1993

"Strong, Sassy women and hard-luck hardheaded men, all searching for the middle ground between Native American tradition and the modern world, perform an elaborate dance of approach and avoidance in this magical, rollicking tale." (Harper Collins)

Thomas King, PhD, is an award-winning novelist, short story writer, scriptwriter, and photographer.



Monkey Beach by Eden Robinson, 2011

"Monkey Beach combines both joy and tragedy in a harrowing yet restrained story of grief and survival, and of a family on the edge of heartbreak. In the first English-language novel to be published by a Haisla writer, Eden Robinson offers a rich celebration of life in the Native settlement of Kitamaat, on the coast of British Columbia." (Penguin Canada)

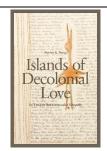
Eden Robinson is one of Canada's finest Indigenous writers. She grew up in Haisla territory near Kitamaat.



Indian Horse: A Novel by Richard Wagamese, 2012

"Indian Horse unfolds against the bleak loveliness of northern Ontario. Richard Wagamese writes with a spare beauty, sharing the story of Saul Indian Horse as he reflects on the sorrows and joys he has experienced in his life as a northern Ojibway." (Douglas & McIntyre)

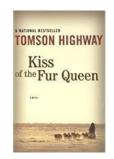
Richard Wagamese, Ojibway (Wabaseemoong First Nation), was one of Canada's best authors and journalists.



Islands of Decolonial Love by Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, 2013

"Leanne Betasamosake Simpson's debut short story collection shines a light on Canada's contemporary indigenous community and the struggles they face, especially the Anishinaabeg nation to which Simpson belongs. Islands of Decolonial Love is beautiful, emotional, raw and an important addition to the Canadian library." (CBC Books)

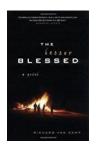
Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, PhD, is of Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg ancestry (member of Alderville First Nation).



Kiss of the Fur Queen by Tomson Highway, 1998

"Born into a magical Cree world in snowy northern Manitoba, Champion and Ooneemeetoo Okimasis are all too soon torn from their family and thrust into the hostile world of a Catholic residential school. Estranged from their own people and alienated from the culture imposed upon them, the Okimasis brothers fight to survive. Wherever they go, the Fur Queen (a shape-shifting trickster) watches over them..." (Penguin Canada)

Tomson Highway is a Cree playwright and author and has taught across North America and Europe.



The Lesser Blessed by Richard Van Camp, 1996

"The Lesser Blessed tracks the exploits of Larry Sole, a Dogrib teenager living in the small Northern town of Fort Simmer. After losing much of his memory in a violent accident, what he loves more than anything is reading, hearing and collecting stories. When good-looking, trouble-seeking Johnny Beck moves into town, he shakes up Larry's dreamy existence and leads him into a life of sex, drugs and violence..."

(Douglas & McIntyre)

Richard Van Camp was born in Fort Smith, NWT, and is a member of the Dogrib (Tlicho) Dene Nation.



The Malahat Review Indigenous Perspectives Issue (#197)

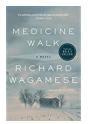
"The Malahat Review, established in 1967, is among Canada's leading literary journals. Published quarterly, it features contemporary Canadian and international works of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction as well as reviews of recently published Canadian poetry, fiction, and literary nonfiction." (The Malahat Review)



Legacy by Waubgeshig Rice, 2014

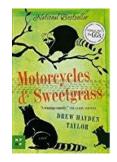
"Set in the 1990s, *Legacy* deals with violence against a young Indigenous woman and its lingering aftershocks on an Anishnawbe family in Ontario. Its themes of injustice, privilege and those denied it, reconciliation and revenge, are as timely as today's headlines." (Theytus Books)

Waubgeshig Rice is an author and journalist originally from Wasauksing First Nation.



Medicine Walk: A Novel by Richard Wagamese, 2014

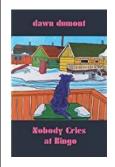
"Franklin Starlight is called to visit his father, Eldon. He's sixteen years old and has had the most fleeting of relationships with the man. The rare moments they've shared haunt and trouble Frank, but he answers the call, a son's duty to a father. What ensues is a journey through the rugged and beautiful backcountry..." (Penguin Canada)



Motorcycles & Sweetgrass by Drew Hayden Taylor, 2010

"In Ojibway mythology, Nanabush is a mischievous trickster, shapeshifter, and cultural hero. Drew Hayden Taylor uses this figure and his manic spirit to bring a modern twist to ancient native folklore. *Motorcycles and Sweetgrass* is a charming story about the importance of balance and belief—and a little bit of magic—in everyone's life." (Drew Hayden Taylor)

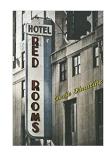
Drew Hayden Taylor is an Ojibway from the Curve Lake First Nations. He is an author, playwright, journalist/columnist, and scriptwriter.



Nobody Cries at Bingo by Dawn Dumont, 2011

"In **Nobody Cries At Bingo**, the narrator invites the reader to witness family life on the Okanese First Nation first hand. It's all here—life on the Rez in rich technicolour—as Dawn emerges from home life, through school life, and into the promise of a great future. This book embraces cultural differences and does it with the great traditional medicine of laughter." (Thistledown Press)

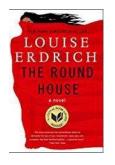
Dawn Dumont is a Plains Cree comedian/actress born/raised in Saskatchewan (member of the Okanese Nation.



Red Rooms by Cherie Dimaline, 2007

"Naomi, a Native chambermaid in a busy downtown hotel, amuses herself by imagining the past, present and future lives of five hotel guests, whom she observed in passing... Struck by their remains, their footprints and their clues, Naomi patches them together to weave tales of infatuation, love, infidelity, illness, death and family." (Theytus Books)

Cherie Dimaline is an author and editor from the Georgian Bay Métis community.



The Round House: A Novel by Louise Erdrich, 2012

"Louise Erdrich returns to the territory of her bestselling, Pulitzer Prize finalist *The Plague of Doves* with *The Round House*, transporting readers to the Ojibwe reservation in North Dakota. A page-turning masterpiece of literary fiction—at once a powerful coming-of-age story, a mystery, and a tender, moving novel of family, history, and culture." (Harper Collins)

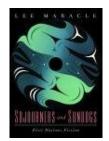
Louise Erdrich is the author of fifteen novels as well as poetry, children's books, short stories, and a memoir.



In Search of April Raintree by Beatrice Culleton Mosionier, 1999

"Two young sisters are taken from their home and family. Powerless to change their fortunes, they are separated, and each put into different foster homes. Yet over the years, the bond between them grows. As they each make their way in a society that is, at times, indifferent, hostile, and violent, one embraces her Métis identity, while the other tries to leave it behind. In the end, out of tragedy, comes an unexpected legacy of triumph and reclamation." (McNally Robinson)

Beatrice Mosionier born in Manitoba and grew up in foster homes. She wrote this novel following the suicides of her two sisters.



Sojourners and Sundogs: First Nations Fiction by Lee Maracle, 1999

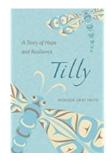
"This combined volume features two of Lee Maracle's best loved works, Sojourner's Truth and Other Stories (1990) and Sundogs (1992), with a foreword by Native American poet Joy Harjo. Sojourner's Truth is layered with unresolved human dilemmas-daring and imaginative, crossing cultures and generations, weaving together history, fiction, and a deep personal knowledge of Native American lives. Sundogs is an intimate look at one family during the high intensity of the Mohawk Warrior Society's defiant stand at Oka." (Raincoast Books)



The Stone Collection by Ateri Akiwenzie-Damm, 2015

"In these 14 unique stories, Akiwenzie-Damm takes on complex and dangerous emotions, exploring the gamut of modern Anishinaabe experience. Through unforgettable characters, these stories—about love and lust, suicide and survival, illness and wholeness—illuminate the strange workings of the human heart." (Portage & Main Press)

Ateri Akiwenzie-Damm is a writer, poet, spoken-word performer, and activist from the Saugeen Ojibway Nation



Tilly: A Story of Hope and Resilience by Monique Gray Smith, 2013

"Loosely based on author Monique Gray Smith's own life, *Tilly* tells the story of a young Indigenous woman coming of age in the 1980s. In a spirit of hope, this revealing, important work captures the irrepressible resilience of Tilly and of Indigenous peoples everywhere." (Strong Nations)

Monique Gray Smith is a mixed-heritage woman of Cree, Lakota and Scottish ancestry. Monique and her family live on Lkwungen territory in Victoria, British Columbia.