ELA A30

Ms. McLeod

Canadian Scandals

The Residential School System in Canada

**Prior Knowledge**

Create a KWL chart and fill it in based on what you know about Residential Schools.

*For over 100 years many native children were taken away from their families and forced to stay at residential schools. In 2008 the Canadian government apologized for the suffering and abuse many experienced. But the apology wasn’t enough to heal what was endured by so many. To that end, a Truth and Reconciliation Commission is hearing from some of those affected in the hopes of promoting healing.*

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS: TRUTH AND HEALING Video Review

<https://curio.ca/en/video/residential-schools-truth-and-healing-1823/>

**Pre-viewing Questions**: Before you watch the video discuss the following questions with a partner or in a small group.

1. Do you think it is important for the stories of the survivors of residential schools to be documented? Why or why not?

2. Why do you think some survivors want to share their stories?

3. Why do you think some survivors do not want to share their stories?

4. What do you think the TRC could do to ensure that survivors that decide to share their stories are supported emotionally, spiritually, physically, and financially?

**During Viewing:**

1. For how many years have residential schools existed in Canada?

2. What problem did the commission face in its first year?

3. What actions were taken by Gitan Spirit—a group of survivors—to cope with their past?

4. Why are aboriginal people in remote reserves underrepresented in the TRC’s work? List examples of the abuses suffered by children at residential schools.

6. How did Peter Kelly get a new name?

7. List examples of the effects of a residential school experience on the survivors.

Hated Structure: Indian Residential School

Schubenacadie, Nova Scotia

I lost my talk

I lost my talk

The talk you took away.

When I was a little girl

At Shubenacadie School

You snatched it away:

I speak like you

I think like you

I create like you

The scrambled ballad, about my world.

Two ways I Talk

Both ways I say,

Your way is more powerful.

So gently I offer my hand and ask,

Let me find my talk

So I can teach you about me.

After Reading Questions:

What do you think the poem means?

What is the poet’s opinion of the residential school?

What memories does the school stir in the poet?

What type of emotions is she expressing when she remembers the school.

What does the school represent to the poet?