



Journey Stop: Suggest which stories need to be heard

On this journey stop, you'll practise selecting and describing stories that need to be told and heard.



Surveying the path...

How could this lesson help me?

If the legends fall silent, who will teach the children of our ways?

(Chief Dan George, My Heart Soars)

Stories are all around us, and can even live inside each of us. How do we know which stories should be told and heard? What makes a story memorable and important?

Take a moment to reflect and think about the stories that you've heard and know. The stories could be from books, songs, movies, pieces of art, legends, or even poems. Of all the stories that you've heard, which is the most memorable? Which story is so important that you think other people need to hear it?



A memorable and important story that I know:

Three reasons why other people need to hear this story:

1.

2.

3.



Moving along the path...

How can I decide which stories should be heard?

On this step of the journey, you'll practise selecting and describing stories that need to be told and heard.

Have you ever thought about all of the stories that live inside you? These stories come from many places: experiences, community, family, and from the land. These stories may have meaning, symbolism, power, and teachings in them. You also have stories to tell, stories that other people should hear.

Can you think of a story that is important to your family, your people, or community? What makes it a story that needs to be told and heard?



What story is important to your family, your people, or community?



Why makes this a story that needs to be told and heard?



We can use criteria to help us decide which stories need to be told and heard. Remember that criteria are guidelines or standards that can guide our thinking and decision-making.

BUILDING MY TOOLBOX

Criteria can help you thoughtfully select and describe stories that need to be heard:

- ✓ *Meaningful:* An meaningful story reveals and helps other people remember and understand important details, ideas, or questions about identity, community, or world.
- ✓ *Influential:* An influential story can help teach, heal, inspire, and empower other people.



Imagine that a librarian or teacher has asked you to help describe why people should read three new stories that have just arrived in the school library. How could you explain why the stories need to be heard? Read the summary of each story, then check the criteria the story seems to meet.

Summaries	Criteria	Reasons why this story needs to be heard
<p>1. <i>The Sacred Object</i> by Aline Fontaine (2016)</p> <p>Fontaine tells the story about her father's relationship with a drum. She writes about how he inspired youth and died too young. This story can be found at: http://www.our-story.ca/winners/writing/5862:the-sacred-object</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> meaningful <input type="checkbox"/> influential	
<p>2. <i>Between Worlds</i> by Sunshine O'Donovan (2017)</p> <p>O'Donovan tells the story of a residential school survivor and the journey they went through in order to bury their siblings who died at residential school. This story can be found at: http://www.our-story.ca/winners/writing/6220:between-worlds</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> meaningful <input type="checkbox"/> influential	
<p>3. <i>Election Day</i> by Cory Cappel (2005)</p> <p>Election day is the story of a boy whose father is running in an election for chief. The story describes the fights that erupt on the school bus and in the community. This story includes wisdom from Elders. This story can be found at: http://www.our-story.ca/winners/writing/294:election-day</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> meaningful <input type="checkbox"/> influential	

The criteria for selecting and describing which stories need to be heard:

- ✓ *Meaningful*: An meaningful story reveals and helps other people remember and understand important details, ideas, or questions about identity, community, or world.
- ✓ *Influential*: An influential story can help teach, heal, inspire, and empower other people.



Practising the tool

How can I get better at explaining why stories need to be heard?

Let's look at one of the stories more carefully and practice using the criteria to explain why the story needs to be told and heard.

1. Read the questions on page 5.
2. Choose one of the stories to read. Remember to keep the questions in mind as you read your story. The stories can be found here:
 - *The sacred object* <http://www.our-story.ca/winners/writing/5862:the-sacred-object>
 - *Between Worlds* <http://www.our-story.ca/winners/writing/6220:between-worlds>
 - *Election Day* <http://www.our-story.ca/winners/writing/294:election-day>
3. Return to the questions on page 5 and write down your ideas.



Word power!

As you read the story, note any words you want to understand better. Look up the definitions of the words. Record the meaning of those words here.

Word	Definition



Practicing the tool

How can I get better at explaining which stories need to be heard?

The story I selected to read:

Why do you think that the author told the story?

- ☐ To share an experience or idea
- ☐ To teach people about something important
- ☐ To inspire other people
- ☐ To ask important questions
- ☐ Other: _____

How did the story make you feel?

- ☐ Inspired
- ☐ Thoughtful
- ☐ Sad
- ☐ Empathetic
- ☐ Empowered
- ☐ Angry
- ☐ Other: _____

What might be the most meaningful part of the story for other readers?

(A meaningful story reveals and helps other people remember and understand important details, ideas, or questions about identity, community, or world.)

What might be the most influential part of the story for other readers?

(An influential story can help teach, heal, inspire, and empower other people.)



Practicing the tool

How can I decide which story should be heard?

You can use the same criteria and thinking strategy to select stories that need to be told and heard. Try using the thinking strategy on page 7 to help you think of three stories that need to be told and heard.

Remember that stories can come from many different sources and can be in many different forms:

- Oral stories: These can include stories that have been told by Elders or family members. Remember to get their permission and to follow and respect proper protocols when using these stories.
- Dream narratives: These can be descriptions or memories of dreams. Remember to follow and respect proper protocols when sharing these stories.
- Personal stories: Memories or experiences that you have written or told.



Practicing the tool

How can I decide which story should be heard?

Story	Criteria	Reasons why this story needs to be heard
1.	<input type="checkbox"/> meaningful <input type="checkbox"/> influential	
2.	<input type="checkbox"/> meaningful <input type="checkbox"/> influential	
3.	<input type="checkbox"/> meaningful <input type="checkbox"/> influential	

Criteria for selecting a story that needs to be heard

- *Meaningful*: An important story reveals and helps other people understand important details, ideas, or questions about identity, community, or world.
- *Influential*: An important story can help teach, heal, inspire, and empower other people.



Looking back on the journey and planning ahead

How can I use these tools to respond to the challenge?



Think back to the beginning of this lesson journey. What have you learned that might help you select stories that need to be told and heard?



Can you think of some other times and situations where you could use the criteria and the thinking strategy?



Remember our overarching question: What is my story?

How might this thinking strategy help me tell my story?



Reflecting on my journey: assessing my ability to suggest which stories need to be heard.

1. Provide examples that show how you have met the success criteria.
2. Use the rating scale to indicate how well you have met the success criteria.
3. Describe the next steps in your learning.



Success criteria	How am I doing?			
<p>I can use criteria and a thinking strategy to help me select stories that need to be told and heard.</p> <p>Examples:</p>	1	2	3	4
	<p>I'm still working on it I've got it</p> <p>Next steps: (e.g., use the criteria, practice using the thinking strategy, ask for help)</p>			
<p>I can use criteria and a thinking strategy to explain why stories need to be told and heard.</p> <p>Examples:</p>	1	2	3	4
	<p>I'm still working on it I've got it</p> <p>Next steps: (e.g., use the criteria, practice using the thinking strategy, ask for help)</p>			