Lesson Plan
1st Grade

Stolen Words

Written by Melanie Florence
Illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard
## Lesson Plan

**Wreaths Across America**

**Teacher:** 
**Date:** 
**Grade:** 1st  
**Lesson:** American Indian Heritage Month  
**Stolen Words**

### Objectives:
- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.1** Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.2** Identify the main topic and retell key details of a text.

### Strategies:
- Drawing/Coloring
- Writing
- Think/Pair/Share
- Collaboration
- Discussion Questions
- Small Groups
- Large Group

### Materials:
- Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; Copies of the You Tell the Story Analysis Worksheet; Copies of The Cree Indians in America, Copies of the What’s in Your Name Worksheet; Copies of Stolen Words Alphabetical Order Worksheet; Copies of the Dreamcatcher Coloring Sheet

### Engage: Hook the students
- Think/Pair/Share Activity- Pair the students with a partner. Explain the T/P/S directions. The students will think of their answer, get with their partner and share their answer.
- T/P/S Question: Have you ever lost something that was very important to you? What was it? How did it make you feel when you lost it? Did you ever find the item? If so, how did it make you feel to find it?

### Explore: Students make sense of a concept through observations.
- Play the YouTube Read Aloud *Stolen Words* by Author: Melanie Florence, Illustrator: Gabrielle Grimard [https://youtu.be/jglRlXviAv0?t=26](https://youtu.be/jglRlXviAv0?t=26)
- Write the name of the book, the author, and the illustrator on the board.
- Words; Ask the students the *Stolen Words* Oral Question and Answer Questions. Handout the copies of You Tell the Story Analysis Worksheet.
- Handout the copies of The Cree Indians in America, read it aloud, go over the underlined vocabulary words with students.
- Handout copies of the What’s in Your Name Worksheet.
- Handout copies of the Stolen Words Alphabetical Order Worksheet.
- Handout copies of the Dreamcatcher Coloring Sheet.

### Explain: Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.
- boarding school  
- indigenous  
- livestock  
- Cree  
- reservation  
- agriculture  
- livestock

### Elaborate: Students apply what they have learned.
- Students will complete the You Tell the Story Analysis Worksheet identifying the main idea and key details of the book *Stolen Words*. Students will ask and answer questions about the key details of the book *Stolen Words*. The Students will answer the *Stolen Words* Oral Question Answer Sheets; Students will gain an understanding of the Cree Indian and their trials as young children being moved from their homes and being forced to learn a language other than their native language. The students will complete an alphabetical order worksheet and learn about the dreamcatcher.

### Evaluate: Assessment.
- Teachers should choose which activities to use as formal/informal assessments.

### Enrichment/Service-Learning Project
- Students will brainstorm a way to serve in their local community in honor of the Navajo Code Talkers. See a list of potential projects on the last page.

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Remember-Honor-Teach
Stolen Words Oral Questions/Answers

1. Do you think the granddaughter likes her school? The granddaughter is very excited about making a dreamcatcher at school, when she leaves for the day, she is skipping and singing. She appears to really like her school.

2. Why was Grandfather sad when his Granddaughter asked him the Cree word for Grandfather? Grandfather was taken away from his home as a young boy by the men and women in black, they took all the children to the boarding schools.

3. Who took Grandfathers words? The people who worked at the school would punish the children when they spoke in their native language. They locked their words away.

4. Why is grandpa sad when he thinks about his school? It was a cold and lonely place; he missed his parents.

5. Why does the granddaughter give her grandfather the dreamcatcher she made for her room? The granddaughter told him to keep it because maybe it would help him find his words.

6. What does the granddaughter do to get her grandfather's words back? She asks the school teacher to help her find a copy a book on the Cree language.

7. Why is Grandpa so happy to get his words back? The words reminded him of his mother and he thought the words from his childhood were gone forever.

8. How do you think the girl's school was the same or different to Grandpa's school? - Answers will vary. But most will say her school was different.

9. Have you ever lost something important? How did it make you feel?
Wreaths Across America
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher:</th>
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Name_____________________

You Tell the Story Analysis

What is the name of the book?

Who wrote it? (Author)

Who drew the pictures? (Illustrator)

Main Characters—the people the book is about.

Where does the story take place? (Settings)

What is the Problem?

What is the Solution?

Remember-Honor-Teach
The Cree Indians in America

The Cree are indigenous people that originally lived in Canada, however, one branch later moved southwest to adopt a buffalo-hunting culture. This group, referred to as the Plains Cree, lived from Lake Superior westward in northern Minnesota, North Dakota, and Montana. Today, in the United States, most of the Cree people live in Montana, where they share the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation with Ojibwe people. Others live at Fort Peck Indian Reservation and the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, also in Montana. The Rocky Boy Reservation, named after a Chippewa leader, is in the rolling foothills and plains of the Bear Paw Mountains of north-central Montana. It is home to almost 3,600 Chippewa & Cree tribal members. The tribe calls themselves “Ne Hiyawak” which means “those who speak the same language”. The reservation’s economy is primarily supported by agriculture and livestock.

Examples of Words Written in Cree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word (Cree)</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ᐃᐢᑲᐧᐤ</td>
<td>buffalo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ᐃᐦᐃᔭᐃ</td>
<td>Cree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ᐃᐦᐃᔭᐃᐧᒪᓯᓇᐦᐃᑲᐣ</td>
<td>Cree Book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ᐃᐦᐃᔭᐃᐧᒫᐦᐃᐦ</td>
<td>family member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ᑭᔅᐪ</td>
<td>granddaughter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ᑎᐦᑎᒥᒫ</td>
<td>grandfather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ᑎᐦᑎᒥᒫ</td>
<td>teepee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ᑯᐦᐃᐋᐧᐦᑊ</td>
<td>tribe</td>
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Remember-Honor-Teach
What’s in Your Name?
Directions: Use the symbols below to write your first and last name. See the example:

NAME___________________________________________

Remember-Honor-Teach
## Stolen Words Alphabetical Order Worksheet

Directions: Put the words in the right column in alphabetical order in the column on the left.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>stolen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>tribe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Cree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>beads</td>
</tr>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>library</td>
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<td>4. dreamcatcher</td>
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Dream Catcher Coloring Sheet
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Find A Way to Serve

1. Draw pictures or make cards for servicemen and women overseas or veterans at a local VA Hospital or VA Home. [Operation Gratitude](https://www.operationgratitude.com) sends over 250,000 packages to Servicemen and Women, and First Responders annually, the link above provides guidelines for participation in their program.

2. Make cards for Senior citizens in your community for the various holidays. Teachers/Parents can help their children by:
   - contacting local nursing homes, senior centers and VA Homes to determine the procedure they have for community involvement, the numbers of residents, etc.
   - setting up a calendar as a reminder for your child letting them know when holidays are coming.
   - providing materials: crayons, paper, coloring sheets for younger students
   - setting up a time for delivery of the cards to the facility, or help your child mail the cards at the Post Office.

3. Decorate placemats to be used for Senior citizens during the holidays with a special note or picture! Many agencies deliver meals to Seniors who have mobility problems and are on a fixed income. Teachers/Parents can help their children by:
   - contacting local agencies that provide meals for Seniors, coordinate with the agency to provide placemats for an upcoming holiday
   - talking with your child’s teacher to see if this could be a classroom project
   - provide materials,

4. Donate gently used or new stuffed animals to a local fire department or police station to give to children in emergencies.

5. During your birthday month, donate cake mix, frosting, candles, and an age-appropriate toy in a box. Donate items to a local food pantry or school social worker for families in need of a birthday cake. Let your child decorate the bag/box with a birthday message. Parents can help their children by:
   - contacting a local food bank or their child’s school to arrange a drop-off point
   - purchasing the items to donate
   - taking their child to be a part of the drop-off

6. Collect school supplies, coloring books/crayons or games to donate to local homeless shelters or local children’s hospitals.
   - contacting a local food bank or their children’s hospital to arrange a drop-off point
   - purchasing the items to donate
   - taking their child to be a part of the drop-off

7. Make a no-sew fleece blanket for a child in need with [Project Linus](https://www.projectlinus.org), or a Veteran in need with [Soldiers’ Angels](https://soldiersangels.org). Parents can help their children by:
   - logging on to the Project Linus or Soldiers’ Angels to check out the specifications for the blankets,
   - help their child purchase materials
   - help their child make the blanket if necessary
   - take their child to ship or deliver the blanket

Remember-Honor-Teach