

Title: SkySisters Lesson

Bio: I graduated from the Werklund School of Education in the Spring of 2020 and hold a Bachelor of Science in Conservation Biology from the University of Alberta. I have worked in the field of environmental education for several years where I've used place-based learning to foster my students' connection and appreciation for the natural world.

<p>Resources used and possible concerns</p>	<p>Book: SkySisters                  Written by: Jan Bourdeau Waboose                  Illustrated by: Brian Deines</p>
<p>Author/creator and/or literature background</p>	<p>Jan Bourdeau Waboose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nishnawbe Ojibway from Northern Ontario</li> <li>- Written articles for Indigenous magazines and newspapers. Bourdeau Waboose has also authored several stories, poems, and the picture book Morning on the Lake (published in 1997)</li> </ul> <p>Brian Deines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Native of Red Deer, AB and now lives in Toronto.</li> <li>- Nominated for several awards including the Governor General's Award for Illustration</li> </ul>
<p>UPE course connections (not exhaustive)</p>	<p>EDUC 435 - Literacy, Language, and Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This book exposes the reader to northern culture and allows those who live in the north or have visited those areas to create connection to the text (through the Northern Lights). Students who have observed the lights before can share their experiences and knowledge with others.</li> </ul> <p>EDUC 450 - Diversity in Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Indigenous voices in the classroom promote a diverse learning environment. Utilizing this text allows students to develop their knowledge of Indigenous culture. Students can likely connect to the animals and landscape described in the book and can learn new descriptions for these such as SkySpirits (Northern Lights), Mother Earth's winter quilt (snow), and Grandmother Moon (the moon).</li> </ul> <p>EDUC 460/535 - Specialization I &amp; II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This text could be utilized to support subject specific learning objectives and outcomes. Opportunity to connect to elementary science, social studies, ELA, and art is available. The book could be used to introduce certain units and promote understanding of Indigenous language and culture through the Anishinawbe Ojibway words used.</li> </ul>

	<p>EDUC 520 - Interdisciplinary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This book could be used in Kindergarten - Grade 3 classrooms. As a result, there are many ELA, science, social studies, and even art lessons that could be developed in response to reading the book. Educators have the opportunity to approach this resource from an interdisciplinary lens and incorporate themes from the text to satisfy outcomes in multiple subject areas.</li> </ul> <p>EDUC 530 - Indigenous Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This book allows students and teachers to explore the lives of children in northern communities. It creates awareness for different Indigenous groups and allows the reader to consider how life in the north is different from other communities. Further, the Ojibway words in the book introduce the reader to an Indigenous language.</li> </ul>
<p>K-12 connection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This resource could be used to support several curriculum outcomes for Kindergarten - Grade 3.</li> <li>- For this plan, the lesson will focus on supporting Grade 3 English Language Arts outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ General Outcome 1: 1.1 Discover and Explore - Express Ideas and Develop Understanding, 1.2 Clarify and Extend - Combine Ideas</li> <li>→ General Outcome 2: 2.2 Respond to Texts - Experience Various Texts</li> <li>→ General Outcome 5: 5.1 Respect Others and Strengthen Community - Appreciate Diversity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Book: SkySisters</li> <li>- Map of eastern woodlands (electronic or print)</li> <li>- Chart paper/markers or whiteboard</li> <li>- Pencils, erasers, pencil crayons, sharpeners (for each student)</li> <li>- Writing journals or blank paper</li> </ul>
<p>Rationale</p>	<p>Big idea: Students will connect to the experience of the characters in the book through spending time in a “sit spot”. Sit spots allow for more detailed observations and promote connection to nature. Students will recognize how they can learn more about a place through taking more time to observe.</p> <p>Purpose: The sisters in the book discover the many different aspects of their local environment through carefully observing nature while walking to Coyote Hill. Through sit spots, students will be invited to learn more about a natural area near them. This activity allows</p>

	<p>students to connect to their previous knowledge and explore new ideas while recording their thoughts in a variety of ways.</p> <p>Options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sit spots can be completed at school or at home (depending on time available for activity). Ideally, the sit spot should be in a natural area, but any outdoor area is sufficient.</li> <li>● Students can represent their knowledge in different ways such as sketches, writing, or oral recording. Also, students can utilize technology to enhance their observations (recording sounds, taking photos, etc.)</li> </ul>
<p>Lesson/Activities Part 1</p>	<p>Introduction (20)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduce the class to the book</li> <li>● SkySisters is a story about two sisters who observe many different aspects of the natural world on their way to see the Northern Lights.</li> <li>● Ask students to share with a partner if they have ever gone on a fun adventure with a sibling or other family member close to their age. Who did they go with? Where did they go? What did they learn? What made it memorable?</li> <li>● Acknowledge the Anishinawbe Ojibway words used in the text (Nishiime - younger sister, Nimise - older sister, Nokomis - Grandmother) and explain how they are pronounced using the guide at the start of the book. Include the students practicing the words</li> <li>● Discuss the Ojibway people and explain the reason these words are used in the book is because the author is Nishnawbe Ojibway. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Ojibway traditional lands are found in the eastern woodlands (show map).</li> <li>➤ Ojibway language has many different dialects and is spoken by many people across Canada.</li> <li>➤ The author is Nishnawbe Ojibway - from northern Ontario.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Read aloud and Comprehension Activity (20)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Option to dim the classroom lights while reading the story (the story takes place at night, so it will allow students to connect to the setting).</li> <li>● Ask clarifying questions while reading to promote understanding. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What type of story is this? How do you know?</li> <li>➤ Does this story remind you of an adventure you have been on before?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● At the end of the book, have the students orally retell a part of the story in small groups. Each student will describe their understanding of a specific part of the book (beginning, middle, or end).</li></ul>
Lesson/Activities Part 2	<p>Outdoor Sit Spots (Sierra Club BC, n.d.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● In the next lesson, review the book and ask the students if they have any questions or comments they would like to share.</li><li>● Introduce the concept of sit spots - they are a place in nature where we spend time to observe our surroundings. Students will return to these sit spots several times to continue adding to their observations. This will allow them to learn more about a certain outdoor space while recording their observations in a variety of ways. Writing journals or blank paper will be used to record observations.</li><li>● Assist students with page setup - divide page in half horizontally. The top part of the page will be for sketches and the bottom for writing. Students will need to include 2-3 detailed sketches of objects they observe near their sit spot and one paragraph about their experience (can adjust depending on time available).</li><li>● Note: a detailed sketch involves drawing something exactly how we see it and noticing the unique details.</li><li>● Remind students to make a note or take a mental picture of their sit spot so they remember it for next time!</li><li>● Students will spend the first minute of the activity using their senses (hear, smell, see, feel) to “get to know” their spot. After one-minute (the teacher will let students know when this is) students can start sketching and writing.</li><li>● Ensure to leave 5-10 minutes at the end of the class for sharing. Students can share their observations with a partner or the whole class. Emphasize sharing the observations that required more time to find rather than what they noticed only at first.</li><li>● Connect back to the book - What did the sisters observe at first while outside? What took them longer to observe? What do you hope to observe after spending more time in your spot?</li><li>● Discuss how students will be returning to their sit spot next class (or next week or season - many options) and will be asked to focus on something different when completing their observations. For example: What has changed since the last time you visited the spot? What do you hear/smell vs.</li></ul>

	see? How is your spot the same or different from others?
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### Supporting Sources (APA):

Bishop, C. (2008, August 13). *Ojibwe*. The Canadian Encyclopedia.  
<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/ojibwa>

Kids Can Press. (2020). *Jan Bourdeau Waboose - Author*. Kids Can Press.  
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Sierra Club BC. (n.d.). *Sit Spot Activity*. Sierra Club BC.  
<https://sierraclub.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Sit-spot-activity-new-June-2019.pdf>

Waboose, J. B., & Deines, B. (2000). *SkySisters*. Toronto, ON: Kids Can Press.

### Book Information:

Title: SkySisters

Author: Bourdeau Waboose, Jan & Deines, Brian

Grades: Kindergarten - Grade 3

Themes: Ojibway, northern lights, family circle, child's wonder

APA Citation: Waboose, J. B., & Deines, B. (2000). *SkySisters*. Toronto, ON: Kids Can Press.

Subjects: Science, Art, English

Summary: Two Ojibway sisters set off across the frozen north country to see the SkySpirits midnight dance. It isn't easy for the younger sister to be silent, but gradually she begins to treasure the stillness and the wonderful experiences it brings. After an exhilarating walk and patient waiting, the girls are rewarded by the arrival of the SkySpirits - the Northern Lights - dancing and shimmering in the night sky. This powerful story, with its stunning illustrations, captures the chill of a northern night, the warmth of the family circle and the radiance of a child's wonder. Jan Bourdeau Waboose is First Nations.

Two Ojibway sisters set off across the frozen north country to see the SkySpirits' midnight dance, and after an exhilarating walk and patient waiting, the girls are rewarded by the arrival of the SkySpirits - the Northern Lights.â€•Books for Growing Minds. The text and pictures work together to express the sense of wonder and excitement that surrounds the phenomenon of the Northern Lights.â€•School Library Journal.Â Waboose couches her big-and-little-sister story in Native American lore. Powered by Shopify Â© 2021, Sister Sky. Close (esc). stay up to date with the sisters. Always be the first to hear about what Sister Sky is up too. Subscribe. Age verification. By clicking enter you are verifying that you are old enough to consume alcohol. Enter. Search. Search. Check out Sky-sisters's art on DeviantArt. Browse the user profile and get inspired.Â Sky-sisters. 4 Watchers6.4K Page Views11 Deviations. Profile Navigation. Sky-sisters. Home Gallery Favourites Posts Shop About. Send Note. Sky Sisters. 248 likes. This page was created for our female cabin crew but ALL passengers are welcome! Shop here for ALL THINGS FLY!Â \*\*\*ALERT\*\*\* October is fast approaching and is breast cancer awareness month and anti bullying month! Sky Sisters believes in both of these causes and are big supporters and our creative team develops products that you LOVE to benefit these causes! Help us to beat our last record for donations!