The Adventure of the Missing Moccasin

Curriculum connection: Narrative texts are one of the oldest forms for recording and making sense of human experience, as well as articulating the world of imagination.

Level: Elementary Cycle 1

Items in exhibit to focus on: Porcupine quill moccasin

Class Time: 1 to 2 periods

Suggested materials: Chart paper, blank paper, markers, crayons or pencil crayons and a world map.

For this lesson, the focus should be limited to only one moccasin.

Introduction to Lesson: Introduce the moccasins to the class by showing a picture of them. Explain that these shoes were made between 1780 and 1820. These were decorated with porcupine quills and were so pretty that people from all around the world wanted a pair. Somehow the shoes were separated over time and one ended up in a museum in Toronto and the other in a museum in Zurich, Switzerland. On a map, point out where Eeyou Istchee is, and then point out where Toronto and Zurich are. Ask the class to imagine how these two shoes ended up so far away and what adventures might have happened during their travels.

Student Centred: Ask the class to come and sit in a circle around a display board and chart paper, where a title, such as "The Adventures of the Missing Moccasin", is written. As a class, think about the adventures one of these moccasins might have had when itwas separated from its partner, andwrite a story about the adventures of the missing moccasin. Allow each student to contribute a sentence about what happened and record it on the chart paper.

While writing the story, guide the students as to what will happen next. How did the moccasin feel? What were some of the places that it went to? What did it do when it was there? Who wore it? Asking these questions will help develop the story and give it life.

After the story has been written, read the story to the class.

Conclusion: Give each student a piece of paper and their writing tools, and have them illustrate their favourite part of the story. Once everyone has contributed to the story by drawing a picture, hang the story and illustrations up in a highly visible place for all to enjoy.

We would love to have your stories for display here for many more to enjoy. If you want to send us your final product we would love to see what you have done. Please send anything to:

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