

Overarching Question: What is my story?

Overarching Challenge: Use the format of your choice to effectively tell your story.

Lesson Question: What are the best ways to listen to and learn from oral stories?

Lesson Challenge: Decide which thinking tools can help you before, during and after listening to stories.

Lesson Summary: Every day you hear stories told in many different forms. There are stories in the music and the shows that you watch and listen to, stories from your friends, and stories told by family and Elders. While stories are important, it's not always easy to figure out the meaning of the stories that we hear. How can you identify the meanings of oral stories and then learn from them? In this lesson, you'll decide which thinking tools can help you before, during, and after listening to oral stories.

Big Idea: Using a variety of thinking tools to help you before, during, and after listening to a story can help you more effectively tell your story.



Lesson Question: What are the best ways to listen to and learn from oral stories?

Lesson Challenge: Decide which thinking tools can help you before, during and after listening to stories.

Start Your Thinking

Every day you hear stories told in many different forms. There are stories in the music and the shows that you watch and listen to, stories from your friends, and stories told by family and Elders. While stories are important, it's not always easy to figure out the meaning of the stories that we hear. How can you identify the meanings of oral stories and then learn from them?

Watch and listen to the short video "The Last Walk." As you listen, see if you can identify an important lesson or learning in the stories told by the Elder and his son.

You can watch and listen to the story here:

<https://vimeo.com/347172131>



I think that the important lesson or learning in the story is...

- Sometimes there are challenges in life.
- The old ways of life were better than life in the towns.
- Elders were important people.
- The old ways of life can help people in challenging times.
- Remember the good times.
- Other:

What details from the story support your decision?



Think About the Lesson Challenge

In this lesson, you will explore thinking tools that you can use before, during, and after listening to oral stories. While learning from listening to stories is important in many cultures, it's especially important for Indigenous peoples. The sharing of important knowledge and wisdom is often done through oral storytelling.

Before moving on to the next part of the lesson, pause and think about some ideas that you may already have or have learned from a friend, a relative, a Knowledge Keeper, or an Elder.



Use words, symbols, or pictures to describe ideas you have about how to listen to and learn from oral stories.

Grow Your Thinking

“Some say we should listen with three ears: two on our head and one in our heart.”¹

One of the important steps in learning from oral stories is to prepare your heart and mind before the story telling begins. Taking a moment to reflect before you hear a story can help you organize your thoughts and identify your feelings. Doing this can help you be ready to listen with your ears—and your heart. On this step of the lesson you’ll practice using a thinking strategy to help you prepare to learn from oral stories.

In a moment, you’ll watch and listen to “When I Was Young,” a short video of stories told by Elders. The Elders describe how their community of Opawikoscikcan (also known as Pelican Narrows) in Saskatchewan, has changed since they were young.

Before you watch and listen to the video, follow these steps:

1. Read through the description of the video and the questions on page 5. Using words or images, answer as many questions as you can in the space provided (it’s okay to leave some questions unanswered).
2. Draw words or images in the space provided on page 5 to answer the questions. Some of the answers you may *know* after reading the description of the video. Other answers you may *feel*.

Before you listen to this story, think about how it might make you feel. If you’re concerned about how the story may make you feel, please talk with your teacher or a trusted adult.

¹ <https://firstnationspedagogy.ca/storytelling.html>

**Description of the story**

“When I Was Young” is a short video of Elders describing how their community has changed since they were young. Opawikoscikcan, or Pelican Narrows, is a community of about 2,700 people in north-eastern Saskatchewan. The community is on the shores of a narrow bit of water that connects two large lakes, Mirond Lake and Pelican Lake.

Questions to help prepare my mind and heart to listen**Words and images to describe what I know and feel *before* I watch and listen to the story****Knowing**

- What do I know about the person telling the story?
- What do I know about this topic, place, or idea that might *help* me listen and learn?
- What do I know about this topic, place, or idea that might *keep* me from listening and learning?

Feeling

- What do I feel about this topic or situation that might *help* me listen and learn?
- What do I feel about this topic or situation that might *keep* me from listening and learning?

Practise the Tool

On this step of the lesson you'll practice using a thinking strategy to help you listen to oral stories.

After you've reflected on what you know and how you're feeling, you're ready to listen to the stories in the video "When I Was Young." While you watch and listen to the video, follow these steps:

1. Read through the questions in the left-hand column of the table below. This can help you focus while you're watching and listening to the story.
2. Watch the video here: <https://vimeo.com/227495831>
3. Use the space provided in the right-hand column of the table to draw words or images that describe what you feel and see as you watch the video.



Before you listen to this story, think about how it might make you feel. If you're concerned about how the story may make you feel, please talk with your teacher or a trusted adult.



The theme or learning of the original story	Words and images that describe what I feel and see <i>while</i> I listen to the story
<p>Feeling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What emotions am I feeling as I listen to the story? • What questions or thoughts arising in my mind distract me from listening? <p>Seeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What words or images do I think of when I listen to the story? • Does this story remind me of any people, places, or experiences in my life? • What questions or thoughts arise in my mind about what the speaker is saying? 	

Lesson Question: What are the best ways to listen to and learn from oral stories?

Even though learning from stories is important, it's not always easy. Sometimes the meaning of a story may not always be obvious, and other times the important lesson of a story may take its time to make itself known to you. On this step of the lesson you'll practice using a thinking strategy to help you identify the important lessons and learning in oral stories.

Think back to the video: what important lessons do you think the Elders might want you to learn from their stories?


Lessons that might be learned from the Elders' stories in the video "When I Was Young"

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BUILDING MY TOOLBOX

What makes a lesson or learning from an oral story important? An important lesson or learning from an oral story can influence or change how someone sees, thinks, feels, or behaves.

Review your thoughts about what lessons might be learned from the Elders' stories in the video "When I Was Young." Circle any of your ideas about lessons that might change how someone sees, thinks, feels, or behaves.

After you've watched the video "When I Was Young" follow these steps:

1. Read though the questions in the left-hand column of the table on page 8.
2. Use the space provided in the right-hand column of the table to draw words or images that describe your ideas about the important lessons or learning from the stories in the video.
3. Use your words and pictures to help you think about the most important learning or lesson from the Elders' stories. Remember that the learning may not be obvious right away. You can use the questions from the "Doing" part of the thinking strategy to help identify actions that you could take.

While you listen to this story, pay attention to how it makes you feel. If you're concerned about how you're feeling, please stop listening and talk with your teacher or a trusted adult.



Questions to help me learn after I listen to the story	Words and images that describe what I feel and see <i>after</i> I listen to the story
<p>Feeling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did the story make me feel? • What did the story make me think? <p>Seeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What questions I could ask to help make or find meaning in the story? • This story was not about me but what might it mean for me? <p>Doing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who could I talk to about the story? • How might this story influence or change how I see, think, feel, or behave? 	
<p>An important lesson or learning from this story:</p>	
<p>Criteria for an important lesson or learning: An important lesson or learning from an oral story can influence or change how someone sees, thinks, feels, or behaves.</p>	

Lesson Question: What are the best ways to listen to and learn from oral stories?

If you would like more practise learning from oral stories, try using the thinking strategy on pages 10 and 11 to describe an important lesson or learning from one of these stories:

- “For Generations to Come” Elders share stories while trapping and preparing rabbit.
<https://vimeo.com/325931880>
- “Why the Loon Feet Are Near the Tail” A short legend told in Moose Cree about how a creature received an important feature. <https://www.pathoftheelders.com/audio/item/207>
- “Sigwan” A short video of the story of a young girl who is comforted by forest animals.
https://www.nfb.ca/film/sigwan_en/
- “Hedgehog’s Home” A short animated film about a hedgehog defending its home from other forest creatures. https://www.nfb.ca/film/hedgehogs_home/
- “The Bear and the Mouse” A short film about the relationship between a bear and a mouse.
https://www.nfb.ca/film/bear_and_the_mouse/



You can also use the thinking strategy to help learn from other stories that you hear. Try using the thinking strategy on pages 10 and 11 to guide your thinking about a story that you listen to. For example, you could use the thinking strategy if an Elder is going to speak to your class at school, or if you listen to a recording of a story told by an Elder.

Before you listen to any story, think carefully about how the story might make you feel. If you’re concerned about how a story may make you feel, please talk with your teacher or a trusted adult.



Learning From Oral Stories	
Description of the story	
Before I listen to the story	
Knowing	Words and images that describe what I know <i>before</i> I watch and listen to the story
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do I know about the person telling the story? • What do I know about this topic, place, or idea that might <i>help</i> me listen and learn? • What do I know about this topic, place, or idea that might <i>keep</i> me from listening and learning? 	
Feeling	Words and images that describe what I feel <i>before</i> I watch and listen to the story
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do I feel about this topic or situation that might <i>help</i> me listen and learn? • What do I feel about this topic or situation that might <i>keep</i> me from listening and learning? 	
While I listen to the story	
Feeling	Words and images that describe what I feel and see <i>while</i> I listen to the story
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What emotions am I feeling as I listen to the story? • What questions or thoughts arising in my mind distract me from listening? 	

(continued on next page)

Lesson Question: What are the best ways to listen to and learn from oral stories?



After I listen to the story	
Feeling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did the story make me feel? • What did the story make me think? 	Words and images that describe what I feel <i>after</i> I listen to the story
Seeing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What questions I could ask to help make or find meaning in the story? • This story was not about me but what might it mean for me? 	Words and images that describe what I see <i>after</i> I listen to the story
Doing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who could I talk to about the story? • How might this story influence or change how I see, think, feel, or behave? 	Words and images that describe what I could do <i>after</i> I listen to the story
An important lesson or learning from this story:	
Criteria for an important lesson or learning: An important lesson or learning from an oral story can influence or change how someone sees, thinks, feels, or behaves.	



Reflect on Your Thinking

Think About the Lesson Challenge

Think back to “The Last Walk,” the story that you listened to at the beginning of this lesson. Would your ideas about the important learning or lesson in the story change or stay the same?



I originally thought that the important lesson or learning in the story was...	Now I think that the important lesson or learning in the story is...
<input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes there are challenges in life. <input type="checkbox"/> The old ways of life were better than life in the towns. <input type="checkbox"/> Elders were important people. <input type="checkbox"/> The old ways of life can help people in challenging times. <input type="checkbox"/> Remember the good times. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes there are challenges in life. <input type="checkbox"/> The old ways of life were better than life in the towns. <input type="checkbox"/> Elders were important people. <input type="checkbox"/> The old ways of life can help people in challenging times. <input type="checkbox"/> Remember the good times. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
My thinking stayed the same/changed (choose one) because: 	



Can you think of other times and situations where you could use this thinking strategy?

Think About the Overarching Challenge

Remember our overarching question: What is my story? After you’ve finished the English lessons, you’ll select the format of your choice to tell your story.



How might the tools in this lesson help me tell my story?

Lesson Question: What are the best ways to listen to and learn from oral stories?

To complete this lesson, take a moment to reflect on your learning.

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 well am I doing?			
<p>I can explain why it is important to learn through listening to stories from Elders and other important storytellers.</p>	1	2	3	4
<p>I can use a thinking strategy before, during, and after listening to stories.</p>	1	2	3	4
<p>I can use a thinking strategy to help identify important learnings or lessons in oral stories.</p>	1	2	3	4

I'm still working on it **I've got it**

Examples that support my rating and next steps: (e.g., practice using the thinking strategy, ask for help)

I'm still working on it **I've got it**

Examples that support my rating and next steps: (e.g., practice using the thinking strategy, ask for help)

I'm still working on it **I've got it**

Examples that support my rating and next steps: (e.g., use the criteria, practice using the thinking strategy, ask for help)