

**Overarching Question:** What is my story?

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

**Lesson Question:** Which stories need to be told and heard?

**Lesson Challenge:** Select and describe stories that need to be told and heard.

**Lesson Summary:** 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? In this lesson, you'll practise selecting and describe stories that need to be told and heard.

---

**Big Idea:** Knowing how to select stories that need to be told and heard can help you more effectively tell your story.

---



**Lesson Question:** Which stories need to be told and heard?

**Lesson Challenge:** Select and describe stories that need to be told and heard.

## Start Your Thinking

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.



### Think About the Lesson Challenge

In this lesson, you will practise selecting and describing stories that need to be told and heard. Before moving on to the next part of the lesson, pause and think 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?**

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

## Grow Your Thinking

In the next part of the lesson, you will practice using criteria to help you 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><i>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: <a href="http://www.our-story.ca/winners/writing/5862:the-sacred-object">http://www.our-story.ca/winners/writing/5862:the-sacred-object</a></i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> meaningful <input type="checkbox"/> influential	
<p>2. <i>Between Worlds</i> by Sunshine O'Donovan (2017)</p> <p><i>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: <a href="http://www.our-story.ca/winners/writing/6220:between-worlds">http://www.our-story.ca/winners/writing/6220:between-worlds</a></i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> meaningful <input type="checkbox"/> influential	
<p>3. <i>Election Day</i> by Cory Cappo (2005)</p> <p><i>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: <a href="http://www.our-story.ca/winners/writing/294:election-day">http://www.our-story.ca/winners/writing/294:election-day</a></i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> meaningful <input type="checkbox"/> influential	
<p>The criteria for selecting and describing which stories need to be heard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>Meaningful:</i> An meaningful story reveals and helps other people remember and understand important details, ideas, or questions about identity, community, or world.</li> <li>✓ <i>Influential:</i> An influential story can help teach, heal, inspire, and empower other people.</li> </ul>		

**Lesson Question:** Which stories need to be told and heard?**Practise the Tool**

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 6.
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 6 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





### 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.)

**Lesson Question:** Which stories need to be told and 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 below 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.



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.

**Lesson Question:** Which stories need to be told and heard?



## Reflect on Your Thinking

### Think About the Lesson Challenge



Think back to the beginning of this lesson. 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?

### 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 this thinking strategy help me tell my story?

