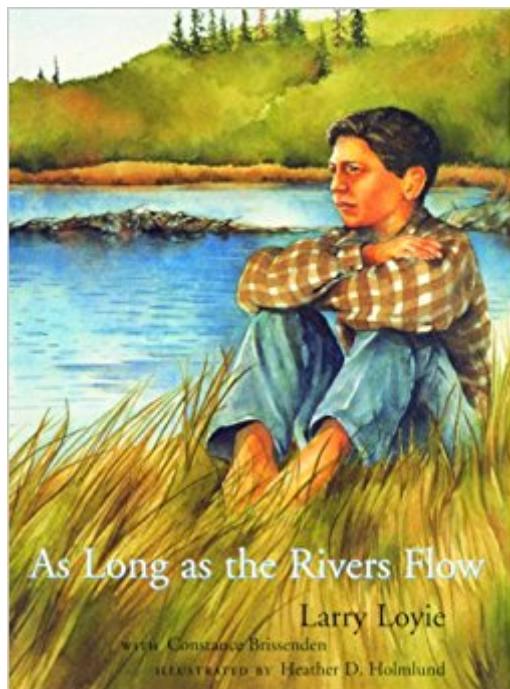


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As Long As The Rivers Flow



Synopsis

Starting in the 1800s and continuing into the 20th century, First Nations children were forcibly taken to government-sponsored residential schools to erase their traditional languages and cultures. This moving book tells of one such child, author Larry Loyie, and his last summer with his Cree tribe. It is a time of learning and adventure. He cares for an abandoned baby owl, watches his grandmother make winter moccasins, and sees her kill a huge grizzly with one shot. The sensitive text and Heather Holmlund's expressive illustrations beautifully capture the joy and drama of a First Nations family's last summer together.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 660 (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Groundwood Books; Reprint edition (October 12, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780888996961

ISBN-13: 978-0888996961

ASIN: 0888996969

Product Dimensions: 7.3 x 0.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #825,392 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Canada #127 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional Canada #1630 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values

Age Range: 8 and up

Grade Level: 4 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 3-6-Given the appearance in recent years of books about Indian boarding schools, both fiction and nonfiction, this title offers an important perspective on the issue. Loyie shares a quiet but powerful first-person account of his last summer before he and his siblings were taken away from their family. Most of the story focuses on what was otherwise a normal seasonal routine for the Cree people of that era, with the family moving from their main cabin to their summer "camp" for a few weeks. Apart from the foreshadowed separation, this particular spring-summer progression was

enlivened by the opportunity for the children to care for an orphaned baby owl, and an encounter with one of the biggest grizzly bears ever shot in North America. All of the day-to-day detail, close family bonding, and unexpected adventure draw readers comfortably into 10-year-old Lawrence's experience so that the final pages are all the more painful. When the children learn that they must go to the residential school or their parents will be imprisoned, and they are physically loaded onto the back of a truck by strangers, the sense of separation and loss is keenly felt. Holmlund's realistic and detailed watercolors expertly illuminate events throughout the story, in vignettes, plates, and a few full-page pictures. The epilogue briefly summarizes the facts about boarding schools in general, highlighting Lawrence's own experience, and includes several black-and-white photos. Sean George, Memphis-Shelby County Public Library & Information Center, Memphis, TNCopyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 3-6. Loyie remembers himself at 10 years old, happy at home with his large extended Cree family in northern Alberta, Canada. With his father, he cares for an abandoned baby owl. On a camping trip with his grandma, he faces a grizzly bear that suddenly rears up before them on the trail. He learns patience and discipline, and he earns the name Oskiniko, Young Man. But always in the background of this idyllic coming-of-age account is the looming threat of separation, the nightmare the adults are whispering about. At the end of the book, the children must go to boarding school or their parents will be put in prison. "Strange white men" lift the terrified children onto a truck and drive away. Loyie's quiet words and Holmlund's authentic watercolor art capture the happy wilderness home without paint-and-feathers pageantry. But readers will want to know much more about the school experience and about the story behind the black-and-white photos that are crowded into the short epilogue. What happened to Loyie in those years at the school? We need a second book. Hazel RochmanCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

We are doing a unit study on Canada and I chose this book based on the recommendation of our homeschooling curriculum. What a lovely story! The writing was excellent and we felt like we were right there with Lawrence on his journey. It is an authentic description of life as a Native Canadian and my children learned many things through experiencing this story. The end brought us all to tears, but it was worth it to share the journey. Thank you for this book, Mr. Loyie. It is a wonderful deed you are doing to preserve this important cultural piece of Canada.

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