MODERN DAY STORYTELLING

GRADE LEVEL: Adult Education

SUBJECT AREA: English Language, Native Studies Program

GOAL: To increase awareness and appreciation of modern day Aboriginal writers while enhancing understanding of the written word.

OBJECTIVES: 1. Students will learn techniques necessary to locate books related to specific topic areas.
2. Students will improve his/her reading, writing and verbal skills

CULTURAL CONCEPT: Storytelling plays an important role in our tradition. We express our understanding of the world in our stories and these stories in turn teach our children about that way of understanding.

CULTURAL LESSON: Traditionally, telling has been an honored and sacred way of teaching and of sharing our experience of the world. The art of storytelling has been lost. We have storytellers in our communities and in our families who continue the oral tradition. We also have Aboriginal people who share their knowledge and their experiences with us in a written format. N.S. Scott Momaday states that "stories are true to human experience . . . [they] tend to support and confirm our perceptions of the human world and of the creatures within." The story that reflects our own experience is more likely to have meaning for us. The characters will be more real; we can picture them, relate to them and learn from them. The non-fiction writer provides information about the history of our people from the Aboriginal perspective, and about our culture and the ceremonies that are so much a part of our heritage. In works of fiction we can share the experiences of our people in the world today. All are important resources that we need to explore. For this reason each student will be asked to read a book or an article written by an Aboriginal writer and to reflect and share their response to what they have read.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES: 1. Have an elder or local storyteller visit the class to discuss the role of storytelling in our culture.
2. Have the students visit a local library or bookstore to find and list articles and books written by Aboriginal authors that might be of interest to individual students.
3. Have each student select one book or article and read it

**EVALUATION ACTIVITIES:**
Have students give an oral or written report on the selected book or article.

**RESOURCES:**
- Elder - to describe to class the role of storytelling in our culture
- Storyteller from the community Library Bookstore

**DEVELOPED BY:**
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