



# CORE LEARNING RESOURCES

Building Strong Nations Together!

## Grade 12 Aboriginal Authors

### DREAMWHEELS

Richard Wagamese

School price \$18.90

Joe Willie Wolfchild is on the verge of becoming a World Champion rodeo cowboy when a legendary bull cripples him. At the same time, in the same city, Claire Hartley is brutally assaulted and her 14-year-old son, Aiden, is critically injured during a burglary. The young Ojibway-Sioux man, the black single mother and her mulatto son find their lives irrevocably changed. Joe Willie, a rodeo cowboy since he was a child, smolders in angry silence over a deformed left arm and a limp that make it impossible for him to compete. Claire, a victim of numerous bad relationships, withdraws from men and swears a bitter celibacy. Aiden gains notoriety among his criminal peers and slips into a self-destructive spiral of drugs and violence. Eager to find a place for her son to channel his explosive energies, Claire brings Aiden to a rodeo camp run by the Wolfchild family, where he is drawn to bull riding and proves to be a stunning natural. But Joe Willie refuses to have anything to do with the camp, remaining aloof, mysterious presence to Claire and the boy. Birch Wolfchild, Joe Willie's father, sees the potential for Aiden to become a champion and for his son to heal himself, if they can move beyond anger to forge a partnership. Claire's and Joe Willie's wounds bring them together in a surprising romance, and beneath it all is Birch Wolfchild's tale of the changing of the life of the Indian cowboy. *Dream Wheels* is a story about change. Moving from the Wild West Shows of the late 1880s to the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas to a lush valley in the mountains, it tells the story of a people's journey, a family's vision, a man's reawakening, a woman's recovery, and a boy's emergence to manhood.

### FOR JOSHUA

Richard Wagamese

School price \$17.96

Richard Wagamese stares the modern world in the eye and takes careful note of its snares and perils. He sees people coveting without knowing why, people looking for roots without understanding what might constitute rootedness, people looking for acceptance without offering reciprocal respect, and people longing for love without knowing how to offer it. And underneath all lurks the seductive oblivion of substance abuse. These are the pitfalls of his own life, dangers he hopes his estranged son, Joshua, will be able to navigate with the guidance afforded by this heartfelt memoir.

### GOOD FOR NOTHING

Michel Noel

School price \$11.66

The year is 1959, and 15-year-old Nipishish is kicked out of residential school, told by the principal that he's a good-for-nothing who, like all Indians, can look forward to a life of drunkenness, prison, and despair. Nipishish returns to the M tis reserve in northern Quebec where he was born, but feels even more isolated. His parents are dead and he is faced with the hopelessness of life on the reserve. He hopes for a fresh start when reserve officials give him the chance to live with a white family in an unfamiliar town. Despite a few bright spots, the adjustment and indignities in the city are too much to bear. Just when it seems that he will fulfill the predictions of the residential school principal, a girl named Pinamen and friends help bring him back to the reserve. Adolescents will find inspiration in Nipishish's courage to reclaim his identity and claim his rightful place on the reserve. The book also provides great insight into the roots of many ongoing native issues.

### LESSER BLESSED

Richard Van Camp

School price \$16.20

The Lesser Blessed is a powerful coming-of-age story - edgy, stark, and at times, darkly funny that centers around Larry, a Native teenager trying to cope with a painful past and find his place in a confusing and stressful modern world. Skinny as spaghetti, nervy, and self-deprecating, the 16-year-old is an appealing mixture of bravado and vulnerability. His life has held many terrors: an abusive father, blackouts from sniffing gasoline, and an accident that killed several cousins. He has a quick tongue, hallucinations, an appreciation for Iron Maiden, and hot fantasies about Juliet Hope, the school tramp. Eventually, through his friendship with Johnny Beck, a Native from another Nation, Larry develops an expanded world consciousness and a stability that helps him face his dark memories - and create a brighter future.

### LOVE MEDICINE

Louise Erdrich

School price \$17.06

Award-winning author presents, *Love Medicine* tells the story of two families -- the Kashpaws and the Lamartines. Written in Erdrich's uniquely poetic, powerful style, it is a multigenerational portrait of strong men and women caught in an unforgettable drama of anger, desire, and the healing power that is love medicine. This novel has won the National Book Critics Circle Award.

### MOCCASIN THUNDER

All Aboriginal authors, including Richard Van Camp

School price \$19.79

Ten stories that make up this collection are raw, original, and fresh. Although they are all about American Indians, they are as different from one another as they are from anything you've read before. A supermarket checkout line, a rowboat on a freezing lake at dawn, a drunken dance in the gym, an ice hockey game on public-access TV. These are some of the backgrounds against which ten outstanding authors have created their memorable characters. Their work -- both poignant and funny, sarcastic and serious -- reminds us that the American Indian story is far from over -- it's being written every day.

### MORNINGSTAR: A WARRIOR'S SPIRIT

Morningstar Mercredi

School price \$17.96

A powerful and moving story of one woman's victory over abuse, poverty, and discrimination to recover her life, her self-esteem and the love of her son. Morningstar Mercredi was born and lived in the north - Fort Chipewyan and Fort McMurray in Alberta, Uranium City in Saskatchewan, and a number of small communities. Sexually abused from an early age, by family members and the boyfriends she turned to for consolation, she was promiscuous, alcoholic and a drug user by the time she was thirteen. She married when she was sixteen and had a son two years later. Everything was a struggle. Days and weeks of sobriety were followed by weeks and months of drinking and self-abuse. Then, when her son was four, things began to change. Morningstar found support, from the community, from her son, and from within herself, to be a good mother, find employment, keep relationships and reconnect with her family. Today, she is a strong and creative member of her community, and eager to tell her story of defeat and ultimate triumph. Sadly, the first part of this story is all too common, while the second is all too rare. But Morningstar is a shining example that it can be done. She is honest and self-critical in her descriptions of many attempts and repeated failures. She gives enormous credit to her son, for his constant love, his determination to be honest with her, and his unflinching confidence in her ability to succeed.

### RAVENSONG

Lee Maracle

School price \$ OOP

Set in an urban Native community on the Pacific Northwest coast in the early 1950s, *Ravensong* is by turns damning, humorous, inspirational, and prophetic.

### That Tongued Belonging

Marilyn Dumont

School price \$13.50

*that tongued belonging*, the newest book from award-winning Metis poet Marilyn Dumont, is a collection of poems which search for acceptance in language, culture, love and geographical landscapes. These poems celebrate the humour and tenacity of Aboriginal women, lament the death of a mother, deride the political correctness of those ignorant of Aboriginal issues, and chide the writer against the seduction of pop stardom, while challenging accepted ideas of love, age and femininity

### WAY OF THORN AND THUNDER: KYNSHIP

Daniel Heath Justice

School price \$11.66

The Everland. home of the tree-born Kyn since time immemorial, a deep green world of ancient mystery...and danger. As the eyes of Men turn once more to the Everland

and its rich bounty, the leaders of the Folk gather in Sheynadwiin, the Kyn capital, hoping to find a way to survive the growing storm. She is Tarsa'deshae—the Spearbreaker—a fearless Kyn warrior trained in the Redthorn ways of battle and blood. She knows her place in the Everland's cycle of life and death, and that knowledge gives her strength and purpose. For all who call the Everland home, there can be no middle path.

**WAY OF THORN AND THUNDER: DREYD Daniel Heath Justice School price \$11.66**

The Eternity Tree has fallen, and with it falls Sheynadwiin. The forces of Eromar ravage the Everland, and the skies are filled with the smoke and ashes of the burning forests. Those Folk who do not escape into the far mountains and hidden valleys are driven into the broken westlands of Humanity, where Dreydmaster Vald reveals the full vision of his grand ambition, one that will annihilate even the memory of the Kyn and their kind. Yet not all the Folk walk down the Darkening Road. As the Redthorn Wielder, Tarsadeshae, and her group of freedom fighters travel west to free their people, a young Tetawa Dolltender and her Strangling compatriot head to the East, to plead their case to the Reachwarden in great Chalimor, the shining capital of the Reach of Men. Unexpected allies stand at their side, even as deadly enemies rise up to surround them. Yet surrender is not an option, for the Folk stand at the edge of oblivion. Never since the Melding have they faced such danger. Will their roots hold fast, or will they be lost upon the storm?

**WAY OF THORN AND THUNDER: WYRWOOD Daniel Heath Justice School price \$11.66**

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<b>Love Medicine</b>		<b>\$17.06</b>	
<b>Moccasin Thunder</b>		<b>\$19.79</b>	
<b>Morningstar: A Warrior's Spirit</b>		<b>\$17.96</b>	
<b>Ravensong - Out of Print</b>		<b>OOP</b>	
<b>That Tongued Belonging</b>		<b>\$13.50</b>	
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