

FIRST NATIONS POETRY CONTEST WINNERS 2021



Volume 5

A collection of our Aboriginal Poetry Contest Winning Poems for the year: 2021

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A total of 534 Poems were received in our 2021 contest.

Poems were sorted into categories depending on numbers received

These are the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Place winners and those with Hon. Mention in each Category.

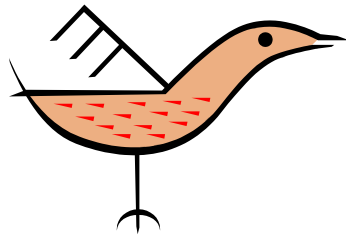
Winners from 2021

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Chapter One

Kindergarten Category 2021



1st Place Winner, Kindergarten Category 2021
Shayla Gregg
Tatla Lake Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teacher: Clare Gordon

Deer

Brown fur

Short tails

Shed antlers

Eat trees

Hoofed feet



2nd Place Winner, Kindergarten Category 2021
Jayce Dollman,
Chilcotin Road Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Hutchinson

Polar Ses

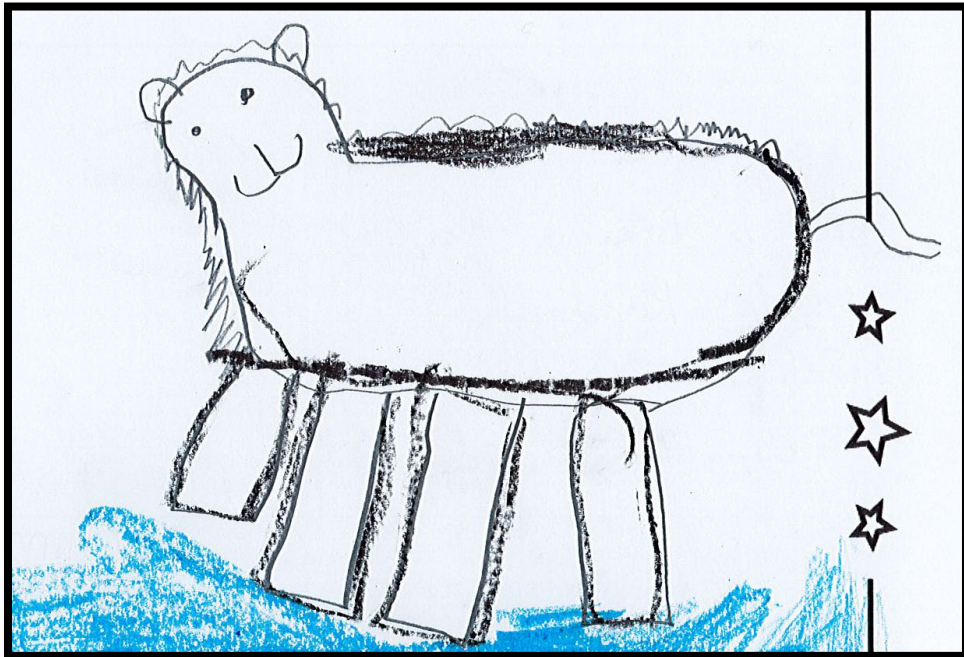
White

Fur

Big, sharp claws

Arctic

Black Skin



3rd Place Winner, Kindergarten Category 2021
Breanna Bayliffe,
Tatla Lake Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teacher: Clare Gordon

Wolves

Howl at the moon

White, Black, Gray

Take your sheep

Sharp teeth

Dog



4th Place Winner, Kindergarten Category 2021
Addison Steward,
Chilcotin Road Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Hutchinson

Polar Ses

White
Fur
42 Teeth
Arctic
Eat Seals



Chapter Two

Grade 1-2 Category 2021



1st Place Winner, Grade 1-2 Category 2021
Chace Purdy,
Cataline Elementary School
Teacher: Ms. Bob

The Wind

The Wind makes me really calm.

The wind makes me relaxed.

The wind makes me like a spirit.

The wind makes me feel a certain way and I stay like that all day.



2nd Place Winner, Grade 1-2 Category 2021
Layla Green,
Cataline Elementary School
Teacher: Ms. Bob

The Animals

Wolves howl, and the wind blows by.

The birds fly higher.

The wise old owl hoots loud.

The trees blow in the breeze.



3rd Place Winner, Grade 1-2 Category 2021
Sage Beckman,
Cataline Elementary School
Teachers: Mrs. Hansen/Mrs. Sache

Owl

I hear who, who, who

Who is a sound of an owl

The owl is hungry

And the owl was on the tree

The owl was on the branch

Look out mouse



4th Place Winner, Grade 1-2 Category 2021
Selena Ball,
Horse Lake Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Hopson

Great Spirit helps the dog
Raven eats fish
Eagle is a showoff
A nice man
Tall Great Spirit

Sky you see him.
People are nice.
I like Raven
Really big.
I don't like lies
The wise spirit



Honorable Mention, Grade 1-2 Category 2021
Brooklyn Jameson, Grade 1
Cataline Elementary School
Teachers: Miss Vaid, and Mrs. Christoffersen

The Eagle

The eagle means love.

Brooklyn shows love
When she gives her Mom and Dad a hug.

The eagle shows love when it's with the babies.



Honorable Mention, Grade 1-2 Category 2021
Alethia Turner, Grade 2
Tatla Lake Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teacher: Clare Gordon

Horses

Horse runs fast

Beautiful!

They are big

You can ride them

My special animal



Honorable Mention, Grade 1-2 Category 2021
Marcus Anderson, Grade 1
Marie Sharpe Elementary School
Teacher: Ms. C. Harry

Dipnetting

I went dipnetting with my family.
We caught a bunch of fish from the river.
The water is splashing on the rocks.
It is hard to catch the fish.
The river is violent.
My dad put a rope on me.

Then we cleaned the insides of the fish.
My dad ate the heart.
We smoked the fish.
We ate the fish after smoking it.
It tasted good.



Honorable Mention, Grade 1-2 Category 2021

Honorable Mention, Grade 1-2 Category 2021
Kaelynn Cote, Grade 2
Cataline Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Hansen/Mrs. Sache

Nature

The breeze is so nice.
The trees are in position.
All the animals are in their habitats.
Nature is beautiful,
just like you.



Honorable Mention, Grade 1-2 Category 2021
Emaline McAllister, Grade 2
Horse Lake Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Hopson

Raven Tales Poem

SEA WOLF CATCHES FISH

EATS FISH

A RAVEN TALES CHARACTER

WATER IS WHERE HE LIVES

OUTSIDE ADVENTURES

LIKES TO CATCH FISH

FROM THE WATER



Honorable Mention, Grade 1-2 Category 2021
Myah Marklinger, Grade 1
Cataliine Elementary School
Teachers: Miss Vaid/Mrs. Christoffersen

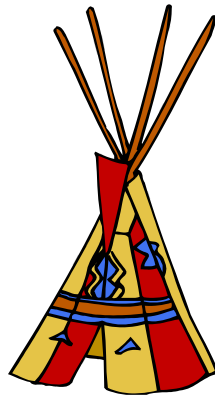
The Eagle

The Eagle stands for Love.
My Mom loves me.
She makes my favorite foods.
She takes my dogs for a walk.
My Dad loves me.
My Dad feeds me crab.
He takes me camping.
I love going fishing.
I can catch fish and eat them.



Chapter Three

Grade 3 Category 2021



1st Place Winner, Grade 3 Category 2021
Micki Sawyer-Ned
100 Mile Elementary School
Submitted by: Penny Reid

BANNOCK

We have bannock at Pow Wows

We can smell it cooking in the air

It tastes yummy

It is fluffy

Sometimes people put jam on it

I love bannock!!



2nd Place Winner, Grade 3 Category 2021
Anna Kirchof
100 Mile Elementary School
Submitted by: Penny Reid

TALKING STICK

Use talking sticks

When trouble happens

The person who has the stick

Can talk

And then they pass it on

They all figure out

How to solve the problem



3rd Place Winner, Grade 3 Category 2021
Molly Sheppard
Tatla Lake Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teacher: Clare Gordon

Salmon

Beautiful colors

Big fish

Great swimmers

Great meals

They're native



4th Place Winner, Grade 3 Category 2021
Derek Harris
Chilcotin Road Elementary School
Teacher: Patsy McLean

Food

Delicious Berries

Eating Finding Fishing

Indigenous people eat berries.

Energy



Honorable Mention, Grade 3 Category 2021
Connor Grier
Alexis Creek Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teacher: Diana Kershaw

Grasshopper

Grasshopper, grasshopper

Hopping in the grass.

Grasshopper, grasshopper

Going very fast.

Grasshopper, grasshopper

Flying all around.

Grasshopper, grasshopper

Safe and sound.



Honorable Mention, Grade 3 Category 2021
Leah Viscount
100 Mile Elementary School
Submitted by: Penny Reid

Moccasins

Moose hide

Or deer hide

Cozy

Cool designs with beads

And fox fur

Shoes

I wonder how they make them

Never cold

Soft



Honorable Mention, Grade 3 Category 2021
Chloe Cadsand
100 Mile Elementary School
Submitted by: Penny Reid

WHAT CAN YOU MAKE?

Whale bones for building

Wood carved for weapons

Deer skin for clothes

Rabbit for mittens

Bones can make soup

BELIEVE IN SPIRITS



Honorable Mention, Grade 3 Category 2021
Claire Auguston
Marie Sharpe Elementary School

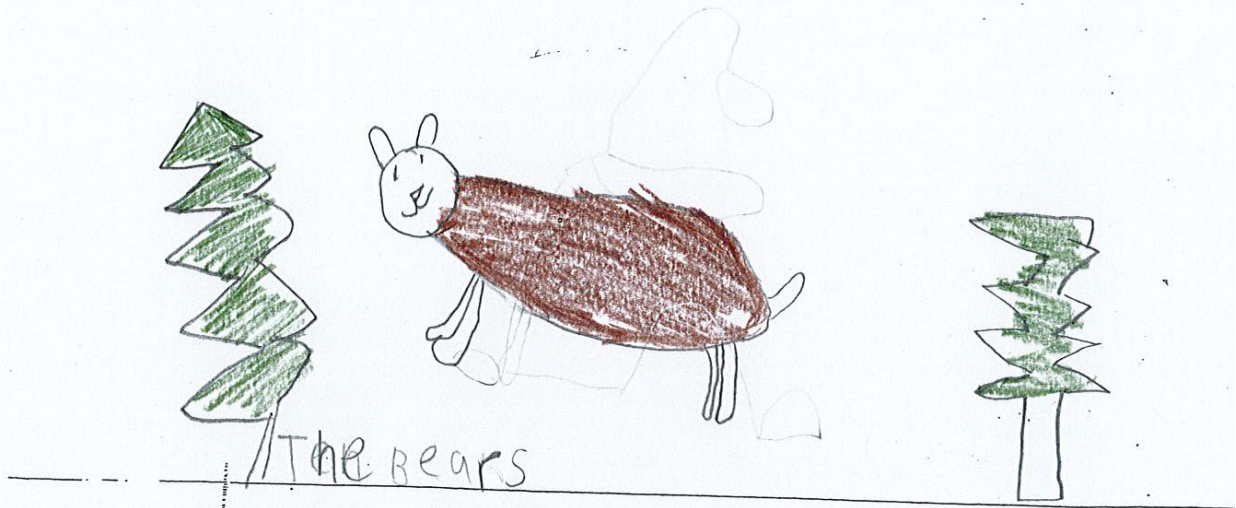
The Bears

Bears are good hunters

They catch salmon with their paws.
Bear heads are good luck.

Bears sleep in winter.

They have babies in springtime.
They love eating fish.



Honorable Mention, Grade 3 Category 2021
Deklyn Pruden
Cataline Elementary School
Teacher: Ms. Bob

Dance to the Drum

Dance to the drum little First Nation
Please, your Elders are watching
Kay, we hope you are dancing little one
Live and wish and pray with your tears
You will be remembered, don't forget
No, no don't cry little one
Please don't worry



Honorable Mention, Grade 3 Category 2021
Sabine Wittgruber & Celeste Rocheleau
Mountview Elementary School
Teacher: Mr. Horsley

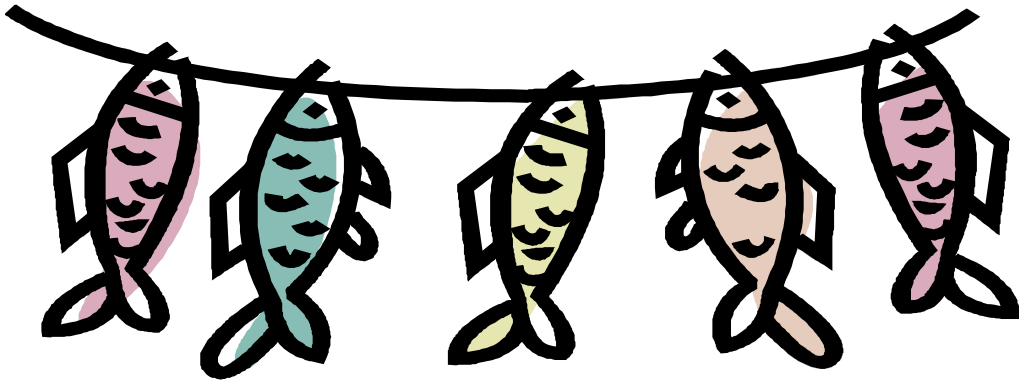
We like Each other

We like our hazel eyes,
We like our fluffy hair
We see each other everyday
We love that we are different in many, many ways
We are gentle
We are kind
We are helpful
We are respectful
We are grateful.
We like each other
We like each other's smiles
And we like to draw
We like to play all day outside
We are the same and we are different
And both of our hearts are full of joy
We like to play in the snow all day long
We like each other



Chapter Four

Grade 4-5 Category 2021



1st Place Winner, Grade 4-5 Category 2021
Georgia Gent, Grade 5
100 Mile Elementary School
Teacher: Mme. Odegard

FIRST NATIONS MATTER TOO

Prologue: I am Métis. Métis is a band of First Nations. This culture is important to me. But let's talk about First Nations in general.

A long time ago, First Nations were put in residential schools.
It was not cool.
They were put into them to learn white culture
And to get rid of their First Nations culture,
as if they were turning them white!
But why were they so impolite?
Anytime that they spoke their own language, they got abusive punishments.
That's not an accomplishment.
It was wrong,
They should have never taken the culture out of them.
I believe this more than ever, being a First Nation myself.
Thinking about it, I hurt myself.
First Nations have beliefs.
A big one is protecting Mother Nature's trees, flowers, and leaves.
And their traditions, in their opinion, should never leave.
Another one of their big beliefs is equity and equality. They also believe in world-wide harmony.
I truly believe in this information.
That is the definition of First Nation.

Family is first
Incredible things can be done
Remembers to be kind
Smiling is their remedy
Trustworthy

Never gives up
Actually, they do matter
Thankful
Improvises
Onward, to fight for rights
Never give up

2nd Place Winner, Grade 4-5 Category 2021
Rhya DiMarco, Grade 5
100 Mile Elementary School
Teacher: Mr. Shaw

Totem Pole

In the deep dark distance, I can see
A Totem pole staring back at me,
Perched on top the pole, an eagle lies,
Looking at me with it's soleless eyes,
My gaze it has stolen, and then I see
What looks to be, a tuft of hair,
Belonging to a grizzly bear,
I feel his spirit roaming there,
Without a care,
On the base, I see a crow,
A trickster you know,
Totem pole,
Oh, so sleek and bright,
Disappears into the night.



3rd Place Winner, Grade 4-5 Category 2021
Rowan Saul, Grade 5
Marie Sharpe Elementary School
Teachers: Mr. Davidson/Mr. Dick

My Prayer

Father sky
Mother earth
All four directions
South, east, west, and north creators
I pray for all animals that live
Upon mother earth.
I would like to give thanks to father sky for
The air we breathe and the water we have.
With the pandemic we are all struggling today.
I'll light my smudge and say this prayer.
All my relations.



4th Place Winner, Grade 4-5 Category 2021
Bronwyn Frick, Grade 5
Rosie Seymour Elementary School
Teacher: Janice C. Agulay

Our Ancestors

Being a First Nation means the world to me.
It means my family and how they're there for me, whenever I need them to be.
We're born into this world to protect Mother Nature, so she can do the same.
We grow, we learn, we pass what we know so others can make a change.
We leave our mark; we had our lives and then we will move on.
We hope you learn just like our ancestors have done.
We made mistakes, we fixed them the best we knew how.
The ancestors watched over us from the clouds.
Our people had settled and established trade routes across land.
We have our culture that we love.
You show us your culture that you cherish and now we must settle.
We believe the stars in the sky are our ancestors.
We follow what they say they guide us to the right path.
You get to discover the whole culture and realize that it is awesome being part of the First Nations.
Most of the time you hear stories of the past.
Most of the time you can hear our ancestors passing by checking on everyone
Making sure that they are safe.
The stories I hear most is about how when you come into the world and you get to decide what
family you're a part of.
Then you realize how amazing it is to be a part of the First Nation,
How grateful you are to have a family who is always there for you,
And how grateful that you chose that family to be a part of for the rest of your life.

Honorable Mention, Grade 4-5 Category 2021
Asher Drift, Grade 5
Distance Education, SD27
Teacher: Lacey Tomlinson

Drums

*Beats connect us all.
In my heart a drum beats,
It has a rhythm.
Drums vibrate throughout nature.
Spreads harmony to us all.*



Honorable Mention, Grade 4-5 Category 2021
Jeremy Stowell, Grade 5
Chilcotin Road Elementary School
Teacher: Ms. Haines

JEREMY

Jingle dresses

Eagles sore free in the sky

Rumbles of the drums

Elegant, so graceful

Moccasins on my feet

Yummy treats



Honorable Mention, Grade 4-5 Category 2021
Deklan Fraser, Grade 4
Mountview Elementary School
Teacher: Ms. Mader

Secwepemc Drums

Secwepemc people had drums that go
Thump, thump, thump, thump
They sang to the beat.
They sang by a fire.
They sang about the land.



Honorable Mention, Grade 4-5 Category 2021
Rayim Johnny, Grade 5
Marie Sharpe Elementary School
Teachers: Mr. Davidson & Mr. Dick

Hunt with Dad

Early morning hunt with dad
It was successful and not bad
We got a moose and said a prayer
We packed him out and left some to share
My sister rewarded us with some homemade soup
And I wanted more than one scoop



Honorable Mention, Grade 4-5 Category 2021
Maddox Cullum, Treyson Brereton, Tucker Mitchell all Grade 5
Mountview Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Grant

FIRST NATIONS

Fishing
Indigenous
Respect
Salmon
Tipi

Nature
Aboriginal
Training
Intelligence
Original
Nations
Shuswap



Chapter Five

Grade 6 Category 2021



1st Place Winner, Grade 6 Category 2021
Vega Lee
Marie Sharpe Elementary School
Teacher: Mr. Parkin

First Nations Poetry

*War bonnets peacefully rest on their heads.
Individual strands of feather, like threads
Spiritual beliefs live throughout
They lived in harmony without a doubt
The pride was embedded ahead ...*



2nd Place Winner, Grade 6 Category 2021
Harmony Smith,
Chilcotin Road Elementary School
Teacher: Ms. Haines

Harmony

Healing can be a process of different experiences

Animals help us stay alive, they provide food for us

Rivers flow free with salmon

Memories of my childhood

Open fields for pow-wows

Never forget my traditions

Young Indigenous girl



3rd Place Winner, Grade 6 Category 2021
Brooklyn Gosgnach,
Marie Sharpe Elementary School
Teacher: Mr. Parkin

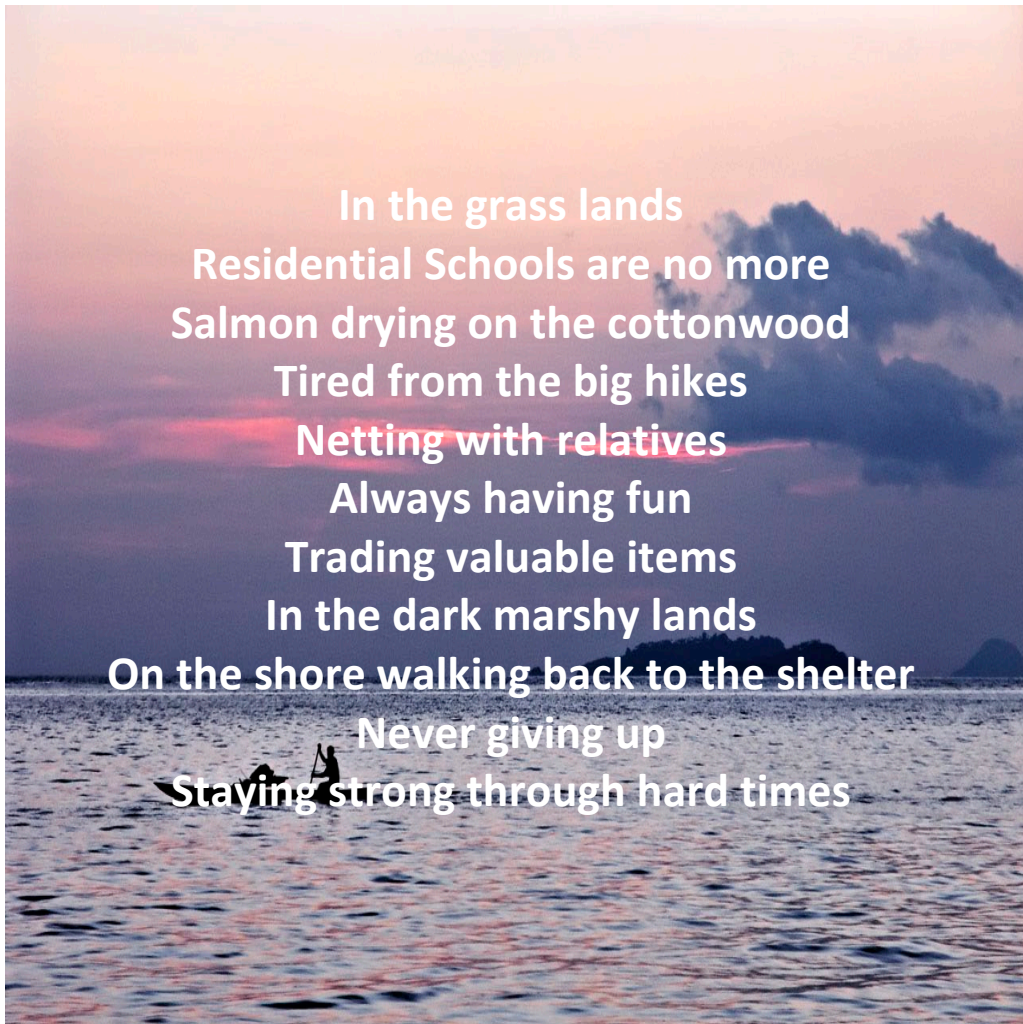
Dream Catcher

The main idea of a dream catcher
Is that it disposes of the bad dreams
It's shaped like a circle
Which represents
The moon at night and sun at day
The hawk feathers that hang below
Show the strength within it, you
And the spider like web in the middle
Is what catches the bad dreams altogether
But still, we must always remember
That a dream catcher
Disposes of the bad dreams



4th Place Winner, Grade 6 Category 2021
Jesse Wilson Taylor,
Nesika Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Bos

Fishing by the lake



In the grass lands
Residential Schools are no more
Salmon drying on the cottonwood
Tired from the big hikes
Netting with relatives
Always having fun
Trading valuable items
In the dark marshy lands
On the shore walking back to the shelter
Never giving up
Staying strong through hard times

Honorable Mention, Grade 6 Category 2021
Arianna Olsen & Avery McDonald
Chilcotin Road Elementary School
Teacher: Ms. Haines

Our Poem

A amazing Tsilhqot'in people we are.

Riding horses and weekend rodeos.

In our beautiful BC, we ride.

Always taking care of my horse.

Now days, we have rights,

No longer fighting.

Always be proud of our culture.



Honorable Mention, Grade 6 Category 2021
Mia Todorovic
Forest Grove Elementary School
Teacher: Mr. Kass

Natives and Their Culture

Red, yellow, blue, green, brown...these are the colors they wear.

Their culture is beautiful. Their clothes have things on them like beads, feathers and maybe bells...the deep sound of the drums fill everyone with joy.

The amazing sound of their singing warms hearts...and they start dancing.

Their dancing is so unique and beautiful.

The warm delicious scent of smoked salmon takes away from any other scent that fills the air.

It makes it even better that the salmon is fresh.

Their art is a big part of everything to...they make things like dream catchers, drums, drawings of animals and more.

Their culture is beautiful



Aboriginal

Aboriginal peoples are strong

Brave people. They are

Outstanding at using their surroundings. They are

Respectful, generous,

Interesting, and fascinating. They pass down ideas from

Generation to generation. They all have great

Ideas like snowshoes, canoes, and the longhouse they use

Natural resources for example the food around them,

Animals and their hides and bark. I really

Liked learning about them and always will.



*F*eathers are symbolic

*I*ce fishing is traditional

*R*ivers are spiritual

*S*pears help them hunt and fish

*T*eepees were common shelters

*N*ature is medicine

*A*cknowledge their ancestors

*T*rapping and trading furs

*I*ndigenous Peoples

*O*n the lake and rivers fishing

*N*etting on the riverbank



Honorable Mention, Grade 6 Category 2021
Seianna Harry
Mountview Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Grant

Pow Wow

Dancing at a Pow Wow with my favorite jingle dress

Aboriginal People

No negativity while braiding hair.

Creative dancing

Eagle feather and shell

Smudging before dancing



Honorable Mention, Grade 6 Category 2021
Chandler Campbell
Forest Grove Elementary School
Teacher: Mr. Kass

Way up River

Way up river the salmon swim
The water depth is very slim
Going up stream fish try to make it home
Fighting of currents
They'll make it home.

The Bear

The Bears are no longer in their den
They have awoken and are hungry again
Through the forest they ran for food
Because they're in a grumpy mood



Chapter Six

Grade 7-9 Category 2021



1st Place Winner, Grade 7-9 Category 2021
Lauren Cahoose, Grade 7
Lake City Secondary School (Columnetza Campus)
Teacher: Ms. Watkinson

They will never...

They will never...
Forget their stolen sisters.

They will never...
Lower their voices

They will never...
Get kicked off their land again.

They will never...
Be ashamed of their culture.

This is because they are...
Strong, independent, First Nations



2nd Place Winner, Grade 7-9 Category 2021
Kiauna Pigeon, Grade 9
Alexis Creek (Virtual Secondary)
Teacher: Ms. Rerie

Four Perfect Flows

*I can feel the wind stroking my hair
The beats of drums that still tremble the ground beneath my feet
And echoes throughout the land
This land...
OUR land...
The land that we are so honored to have
And to have bestowed upon us by our one true creator
To wake up to each different colorful ray gifted from the sky
As a complement to our land
So, as I walk towards the river, I see salmon jumping up and dancing
In the water
As they flow along with the river
I dance too, with all of them
I become one with the wind
Dancing with the water
But with a fire that is still enlightened in my soul
And all above the ground of our mother earth
Oh, what a perfect balance
As I soar up into the sky
I part ways with myself
To chase the four directions in which I born myself into.*



3rd Place Winner, Grade 7-9 Category 2021
Alora Lea Fraser, Grade 7
Lake City Secondary School (Columnneetza Campus)
Teacher: Ms. Watkinson

First Nation Poem

My heritage is unknown to me, why?

Eons ago my ancestors walked,
Who were they?

The earth is connected to me,
How?

It is my quest to find my heritage.

Surely, I will know, eventually...



4th Place Winner, Grade 7-9 Category 2021
Neen Suapa, Grade 7
Lake City Secondary School (Columneetza Campus)
Teacher: Mr. O'Keefe

Escape

Smile so fake
Scared of what they might take
Shut my culture up
I have absolutely no luck

Wanting to go home
Felt so alone
I escaped
I just couldn't wait

My body turning so grey
I ran out of breath
It's because I froze to death



Honorable Mention, Grade 7-9 Category 2021
Piper Kosolofski, Grade 7
Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School

Praise to the Inuit

Praise to the Inuit, for living in icy igloos in the Freezing
weather of the wintertime
Praise to the Inuit, for living in tupiq, tents made of animal
skins and wood,
Praise to the Inuit, for living in harsh environmental
changes and unpredictable weather,
Praise to the Inuit, for eating the food they found,
Praise to the Inuit, for believing in the presence of nature,
and that every living thing should be respected,
Praise to the Inuit, for the ability to be brave and
ambitious, then, and now.



Honorable Mention, Grade 7-9 Category 2021
Hannah Gayowski, Grade 7
Lake City Secondary School (Columnneetza Campus)
Teacher: Mr. O'Keefe

The Parents

They took our children away
And left us all alone
Waiting and waiting
For the sorrow to go

Years and years later
They finally come home
Distanced and changed
They feel so alone

Unsure how to stay
They change in every way.



Honorable Mention, Grade 7-9 Category 2021
Paul Sabatino, Grade 7
Lake City Secondary School (Columneetza Campus)
Teacher: Ms. Watkinson

We are the First Nations

Our tribe has lived here for years.
We have faced our worst fears,
We've shed tears.

Some of us weren't so bold.
So, they never grew old.

We celebrated when the sun would glow.
While others hunted in the freezing snow.

We are the First Nations!



Honorable Mention, Grade 7-9 Category 2021
Tianna Phoebus, Grade 7
Lake City Secondary School (Columnnetza Campus)
Teacher: Ms. Watkinson

Truth lies in the dirt

Every building and skyscraper that stands on the ground, is holding in secrets from the Native Americans.

No matter how many people forget, there is always one who will bring back the original way this world used to be.

It may seem impossible and hopeless, but we belong to mother nature and we must give thanks in return, not take more from her.

The way we are living now is modern and expensive, why can't we go back to being one with mother nature?

Why must we take more than we really need?

What would mother nature do to us, to have her land which she gave to the Native Americans to live freely, taken away from them?

Why can't we go back to the original way of living in a tribe and living in harmony?

I guess this comes to me more naturally because I'm of Native American descendants, so I have this natural pull to come back to nature.



Honorable Mention, Grade 7-9 Category 2021
Lily Fraser, Grade 7
Lake City Secondary School (Columnneetza Campus)
Teacher: Ms. Watkinson

FIRST NATIONS

First, I was on my farm with my Grandma
I went to town to get something new
Running to the store for a new orange shirt
School was going to be great with my new orange shirt
Talking to me they said to sit down

Now they were cutting my hair and taking my orange shirt
At dinner I ate moldy bread with a bit of water
They were monsters, the ones in the black robes
I went to bed and I cried all night, I just wanted to go home
On the day I left I had spent ten years there
Never ever was I going back

Someday they would close the schools, but they didn't, not until 1996, that was the day that we felt a relief. That was the day we got reunited.



Chapter Seven

Grade 10-12 Category 2021



1st Place Winner, Grade 10-12 Category 2021
Alysha Buchi, Grade 12
Lake City Secondary School (WL Campus)
Teacher: Mr. Fahoum

The Red River Poem

A group of friends gather by a river
The midnight wind sends many a shiver,

Hand by hand they form into a circle
As they start their final rehearsal

The light music starts, played by just a fiddle
Any two feet can do it, even if they're little

Back 4 steps, front 4 steps, the steps repeat.
Everyone's who body is taken over by the beat

Now what is this dance everyone calls a jig
Well in case you didn't know, it's the Red River jig.



2nd Place Winner, Grade 10-12 Category 2021
Jacob Shoults, Grade 11
Lake City Secondary School (WL Campus)
Teacher: Mr. Fahoum

When the Drums Stop

When the Drums stop, a life is taken;

When the drums stop, a body falls

Into the void, ever falling

The drums stop sooner for others.

When the drums stop, the mourning starts.

When the drum stops, the crows cry

For they have lost a loved one.

When the drums stop, a new drum will start.

When the drums stop, a family is smaller

Unless you are completely along

Then when the drums stop, a family has ended.



3rd Place Winner, Grade 10-12 Category 2021
Emily Swan, Grade 12
Lake City Secondary School (WL Campus)
Teacher: Melinda MacKinnon

Inua Dreams

The North wind blows,
Cold as only they can know.
No mortal man could survive
Let alone a culture thrive.
Millennia of history
Inuksuks scattered for all to see.
The Inuit people of the far North,
Carvings in soapstone bringing forth.
Cherished – these people be,
To all Canadian,
You and me.



4th Place Winner, Grade 10-12 Category 2021
Kristian Volkmann, Grade 12
Lake City Secondary School (WL Campus)
Teacher: Melinda MacKinnon

A Shine in the Dark

A world bathed in darkness with no light anywhere.

A bird who lived since the beginning of time was full of despair.

The bird called the raven, who had enough of the dark,
decided to set off to see if he can leave a brighter mark.

Then one day he came across a man's house full of treasure.

It turned out to be all the light in the world, much to his pleasure.

He snuck into the house just as quick as a flash.

Then he clutched the chest full of light and left with a mad dash.

He brought the light with him for the whole wide world to see.

And that is how the bright universe we know now came to be.



Honorable Mention, Grade 10-12 Category 2021
Mia Williams, Grade 10/11
Skyline Alternate School
Teacher: Gord Weber

Culture/Puberty Camp

“Good morning, time to go for your morning swim”

“Put your head under water, at least once, please”

Once we got back to the smokehouse,
we got this really good breakfast; all before 7:30 am I think.
I never really understood why we had to go for these morning swims.
Just that we were cleansing ourselves.

I kind of miss it . . .

Being with my culture.



Honorable Mention, Grade 10-12 Category 2021
Faith Lowrie, Grade 12
Lake City Secondary School (WL Campus)
Teacher: Mr. Fahoum

We Can Never Understand

We can never understand Your sutured suffering
We sit as a jury on what we have no right to judge
Your stories cry for recognition and relief
We tend to ignore what isn't ours
Please don't sentence us for what we can't understand



Honorable Mention, Grade 10-12 Category 2021
Jaeden Wilson, Grade 12
Lake City Secondary School (WL Campus)
Teacher: Mr. Fahoum

Wendigo

The flesh wreathed beast
rotting and hunting with blood in its eyes
and ferocity as it's guise

The wendigo
Oh, the wendigo
Fear the dark
Watch for the Torn bark
The wendigo
Watch the wendigo

Through the wood it stalks
Over mountain it walks
Great horned beast with flesh in strips

Only fire may make it away
It has blood in its eyes and ferocity as it's guise

It's the wendigo, fear the wendigo
The stalker of man
Cannibal of the forest
Yes it can and no it won't rest
The wendigo
Oh the wendigo

Stay by the flame on guard for the utterance
Of it's name
A frightful occurrence if by lurid chance
You meet a wendigo



Honorable Mention, Grade 10-12 Category 2021
Brennen William, Grade 12
Lake City Secondary School (WL Campus)
Teacher: Mr. Fahoum

Lost Native Land

Simply a soul meandering
Taken away so young
Without any permission
Drifting away alone
A native without a home

No sounds of river flowing
No scared lotus flowers
No freedom escaping the cold
Just a nation of natives without Destination

No trace of sunlight
No freedom at all
To differ from dawn from dusk
Picture a young boy
Scared without direction
Like being lost and lonely
Lost in land



Honorable Mention, Grade 10-12 Category 2021
Curtis William, Grade 10
Alexis Creek Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teacher: Annette Frank

Benen Ses ?Elhtsish (February)

Bears having their cubs is in the month of February (Chilcotin Culture)

Every Bear in interior BC sleeps through the winter season.

Never run from a bear as it is a faster runner.

Every bear loves to eat salmon

Notice when the bear is standing that it may attack.

Snowing in February means mother bears having their cubs.

Every bear – are never in a pack.

Some adult male bears will attack bear cubs to eat them.

Every bear upon being skinned has a shape like a human shape.

Listens more than can see is the bear.

Honoring the bear is very important for us.

The bear cubs learn surviving skills from their mother bear.

Some bears like to eat grass

In caves and dens are where the bears sleep for winter.

Sunny days in the month of April is when the bears wake up.

However, mother bears are very overprotective of the bear cubs.



Chapter 8

French Category



1st Place Winner, French Category 2021
Emma Boehm, Grade 7
Lake City Secondary School (Columneetza Campus)
Teacher: Mr. O'Keefe

La Hal

La chanson que j'entends dans mes oreilles
Boom Bam Boom
C'est tout pour célébrer
Boom Bam Boom

Tu joues pour gagner
Mais C'est tout pour s'amuser
Boom Bam Boom
Boom Bam Boom

Tu es choisi sit u es mystérieux
Mais le médecin droit tu choisi
C'est tout fantasy
Et ils devraientêtre curieux

La chanson repète
Et nous recommence la fête
Boom Bam Boom
Boom Bam Boom



2nd Place Winner, French Category 2021
Dawson Rowse, Grade 7
Lake City Secondary School (Columneetza Campus)
Teacher: Mr. O'Keefe

WHY ME

I pray and I pray, and I just keep praying
I read and I read, and I just keep reading
I work and I work, and I just keep working.
Oh, why oh why does it have to be me what did I do to and why I am I not free.
They took me away, away from my home
They make me pray to a god I don't even know
They teared the culture right out of me they cut my hair,
I don't know why what I did to deserve this belt mark on me
Oh why oh why can I not be free.
I see my sister, but we cannot talk
Our oatmeal is old, and our bread is stale
Once a year I see my family it is so great, we laugh, and we play
And once again they come and get me oh why of why I cannot be free.

Chaque soir
Chaque soir je regarde le lune dans le ciel avec les étoiles.
Ca toujours me fait penser de quand j'étais avec mon famille
Danser et chanter comme le lune et les etoiles dans le ciel. Chaque soir je pense de quand
je vais retourner et voir mon famille.
Chaque soir je pense de le nourriture delious et
Le language que je sais
Mon culture normal et mes amis



3rd Place Winner, French Category 2021
Ella Thiessen, Grade 7
Lake City Secondary School (Columneetza Campus)
Teacher: Mr. O'Keefe

La Musique

(Tambouriner et chante). Ce n'est pas seulement

Une tradition, c'est un tradition importante.

Les parents setsinem (chante) et c'est

Stoqueqnin emistn (la musique à mes oreilles).

Les sentime nts que les personnes ont quand ils

Frappent les tambours sont, très signiflant.

Des fois c'est triste, mais Presque

Toujours heureux, les enfants vient et les parents

Sant très chancewx. Ils pwremes.



4th Place Winner, French Category 2021
Gerard Hutton, Grade 6 French Immersion
Ecole 100 Mile House Elementary School
Teacher: Mme. Odegard

First Nations Matter

First Nations always fight for equality
From Residential Schools to protecting the Earth
No matter what has happened so far
They haven't given up.
From North, East, South, West we all matter.
And we won't give up.

Les Premières Nations comptent

Les Premières Nations se battent pour l'égalité.
Des écoles résidentielles à la protection de la Terre.
Et peu importe ce qui est arrivé jusqu'à maintenant
Ils n'ont pas abandonné la cause.
Du Nord, Est, Sud et ouest nous sommes tous importants.
Et nous n'allons pas abandonner la bataille!



Honorable Mention, French Category 2021
Neen Suapa, Grade 7ième année
Lake City Secondary School (Columnnetza Campus)
Teacher: Mr. O'Keefe

Pensionnat

J'essaie de penser à un moment
Que j' ai parlé ma langue

Mais l'anglais
Est la seule que j'entend

Ils me poussent, frappe et crie
La seule chose que j'ai est mon esprit

Je suis arrivée chez moi
Et regarder ma famille

Soudain,
Une chose sur mon visage,
Que je n'ai pas dans si longtemps
C'était un sourire
Après si beaucoup de temps



Honorable Mention, French Category 2021
Rhys Vath, Grade 7
Lake City Secondary School (Columneetza Campus)
Teacher: M. O'Keefe

Oh Nature

Oh Nature Oh Nature

Oh nature of nature

J'aime la joie que tu me donnes

J'aime la neige pendant l'hiver

J'aime la pluie pendant le printemps

J'aime nager pendant l'été

J'aime le vent pendant l'automne

Oh nature oh nature

J'aime les saisons que tu me donnes



Honorable Mention, French Category 2021
Makenna Boucher, Grade 7
Lake City Secondary School (Columneetza Campus)
Teacher: Colin O'Keefe

Aurores Boréals

Toute le mondes merveilles aux aurores boréals,
Le loup, fort, confident que sa proie n'échappe pas,
Il merveille aux aurores boréals.

L'ours polar qui saute dans l'océan,
Elle pêche pour les poissons,
Elle merveille aux aurores boréals.



Honorable Mention, French Category 2021
Amelia Dell, Grade 7
Lake City Secondary School (Columneetza Campus)
Teacher: Colin O'Keefe

Les Pensionnats

Je marche dans le bâtiment
Les élèves pleur
Ça me rappelle la douleur
Ils prennent leur vêtement et coup leur cheveux
Je deviens nerveux
C'est finalement temps pour la recreation
Mes il y a encore beaucoup de punitions
Maintenant ses temps de rentrer
Ses temps du tous répété.



Chapter 9

Tsilhqot'in (Chilcotin) Language Poems



1ST Place Winner, Chilcotin Category 2021
Shazzarae Haines-Lebrun, Grade 3
Naghtaneqed Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teachers: June Williams & Sunny Cooper

Entry
#1

?Et'an ?lgut'in (Green)

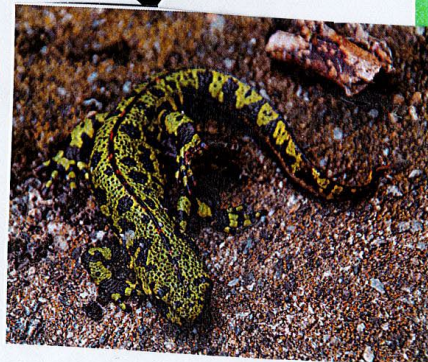
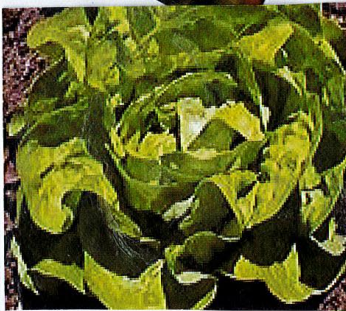
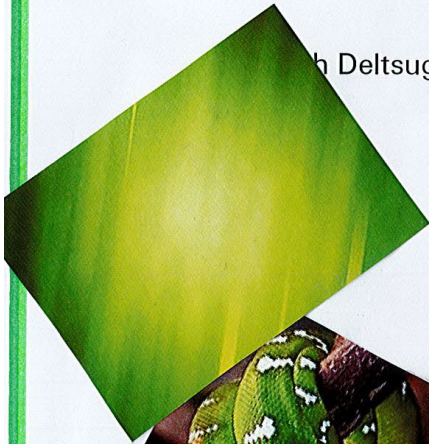
Dechen (Trees), ?Et'an (Leaves)

Ts'elh (Frogs), Tl'ughesen (Snakes), ?Astasamal (Salamanders)

h Deltsugh (Grass), ?Et'an Ts'ediyen (Lettuce)

?Et'an ?lgut'in (Green)

1st Place
Chilcotin
Category



2nd Place Winner, Chilcotin Category 2021
Jordelle Alec, Grade 5
Naghtaneqed Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teachers: June Williams & Sunny Cooper

*2nd Place
in
Chilcotin Category!*

*Entry
#3*

Deldel (Red)

?Abeleê (Apples), ?Undziny (Strawberries)

Qa (Car), Dandzex (Humpback Salmon), ?Elagi (Flower)

Texaltsel (Raspberries), Nuwîsh (Soapberries)



Deldel (Red)



3rd Place Winner, Chilcotin Category 2021
Lucian William, Grade 6
Naghtaneqed Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teachers: June Williams & Sunny Cooper

3rd Place
Chilcotin Category!

Lhet'es (Black)

Entry
#6

Ses (Bears), Busi (Cat)

Nunitsiny (Grizzly Bears), ?Elh?i-Yat'ax, (Night Sky), Qa (Truck)

Lhin (Dog), Naŝlhiny (Horse)

Lhet'es (Black)



4th Place Winner, Chilcotin Category 2021
Landen Williams, Grade 5
Naghtaneqed Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teachers: June Williams & Sunny Cooper

4th Place
Chilcotin

Dinlhdzan-(Blue)

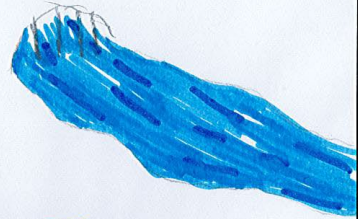
Entry
#5

Yat'ax (Sky), Tu (Water)

Nelghes (Blueberries), ?Elagi (Flowers), Dig (Saskatoon Berries)

Qa (Car), Yaqig (Ball)

Dinlhdzan (Blue)



Honorable Mention #1 Chilcotin Category 2021
Trevor Lulua-Alphonse, Grade 5
Naghtaneqed Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teachers: June Williams & Sunny Cooper

Entry
#4

Culture week

Culture week

Teljoysh-Sword, Bannock-Lhiz Sechaz

Ts'izox-Bandanas, -Beading, Survival Skills

Horse management, Traditional Fishing

Culture Week



Honorable
Mention

Honorable Mention #2 Chilcotin Category 2021
Trevor Lulua-Alphonse, Grade 5
Naghtaneqed Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teachers: June Williams & Sunny Cooper

Entry
#2

Dinlhdzan

Nelghes-Blueberry, Dıg-Saskatoon Berries

Tu-Water, Yat'ax-Sky, Yaqıg-Ball,

Chan Gha Qwe's-Rain Clouds, Dželh-Mountain

Dinlhdzan



Honorable
mention

Thank you to all the teachers and support staff who encouraged their students to participate in our annual poetry contest in 2021

Compiled by School District No. 27 First Nations Education Department