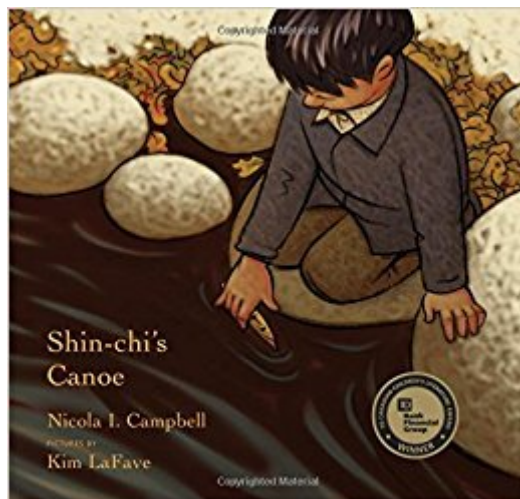


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# Shin-chi's Canoe



## Synopsis

When they arrive at school, Shi-shi-etko reminds Shinchi, her six-year-old brother, that they can only use their English names and that they can't speak to each other. For Shinchi, life becomes an endless cycle of church mass, school, and work, punctuated by skimpy meals. He finds solace at the river, clutching a tiny cedar canoe, a gift from his father, and dreaming of the day when the salmon return to the river; a sign that it's almost time to return home. This poignant story about a devastating chapter in First Nations history is told at a child's level of understanding.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 810L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Groundwood Books (December 2, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0888998570

ISBN-13: 978-0888998576

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.4 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #306,982 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Canada #1450 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

Grade 2 "5" This realistic, tender story recounts the experiences of Native siblings sent to a government-mandated, church-run boarding school such as those that were common in Canada and the United States from the late 1800s until the 1970s. Hauled away with the other reservation children in a cattle truck, six-year-old Shin-chi and his older sister, Shi-shi-etko, try to memorize life at home from the "trees, mountains, and river below." Shin-chi clutches a tiny carved canoe, a forbidden memento homemade by her father. During the school year (until the sockeye salmon return), Shin-chi and Shi-shi-etko are not allowed to speak to one another and must endure the cruel treatment and restrictions forced upon Native children as they work and go to mass and to school. Hungry and lonely, young Shin-chi tries desperately to hold on to his Native traditions,

sneaking out to sing his grandfather's prayer song and release his canoe in the river. LaFave's striking yet soft digital illustrations are appropriately somber and deftly capture the mood with subtle earth tones on each page. An author's introduction details the practice of sending Native children to residential schools. An accessible and important contribution to Native literature.â "Madeline J. Bryant, Los Angeles Public Library Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

great book for little kids & especially so for Thanksgiving time to understand that native peoples are not just (good) cowboys & (bad) indians. The protagonist is a little boy. We got it from the library last year & my son loved it. It was out this year I decided to get it for keeps. Beautiful art too.

A great children's story that enlightens young readers about the reservations and themes of resilience.

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