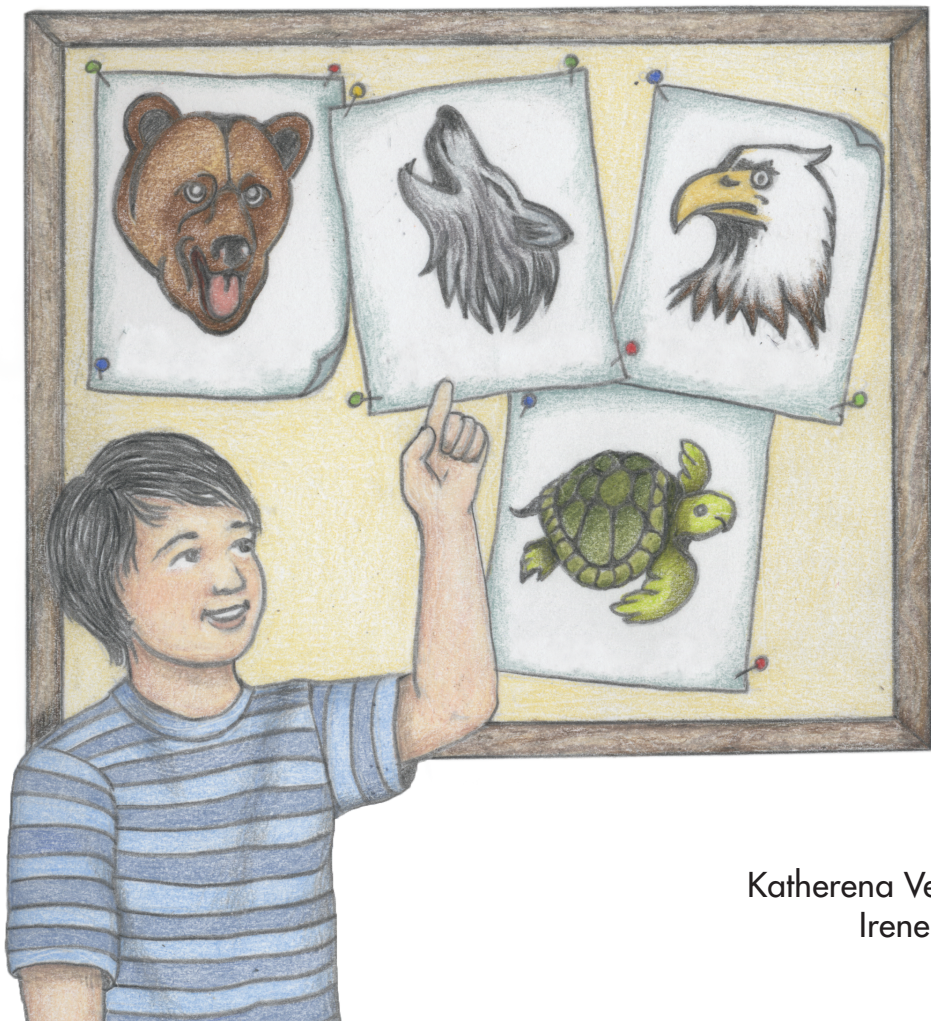


Amik Loves School

A Story of Wisdom



Katherena Vermette
Irene Kuziw

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Amik Loves School

A Story of Wisdom

the **Seven**
Teachings Stories

Katherena Vermette
Illustrated by Irene Kuziwi


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Amik loves school.

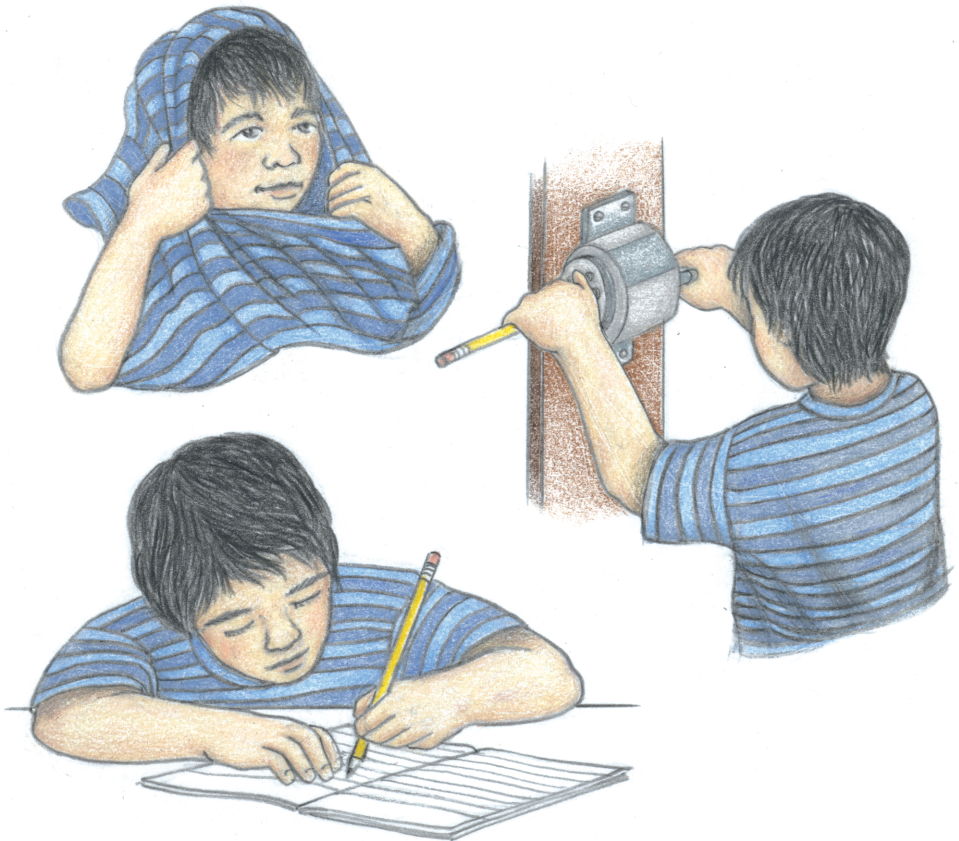




He loves getting clean clothes
on in the morning.
He loves walking to school
with his brother.

He loves sharpening his pencils
at the big sharpener on the wall.

He is learning to write big,
long words.

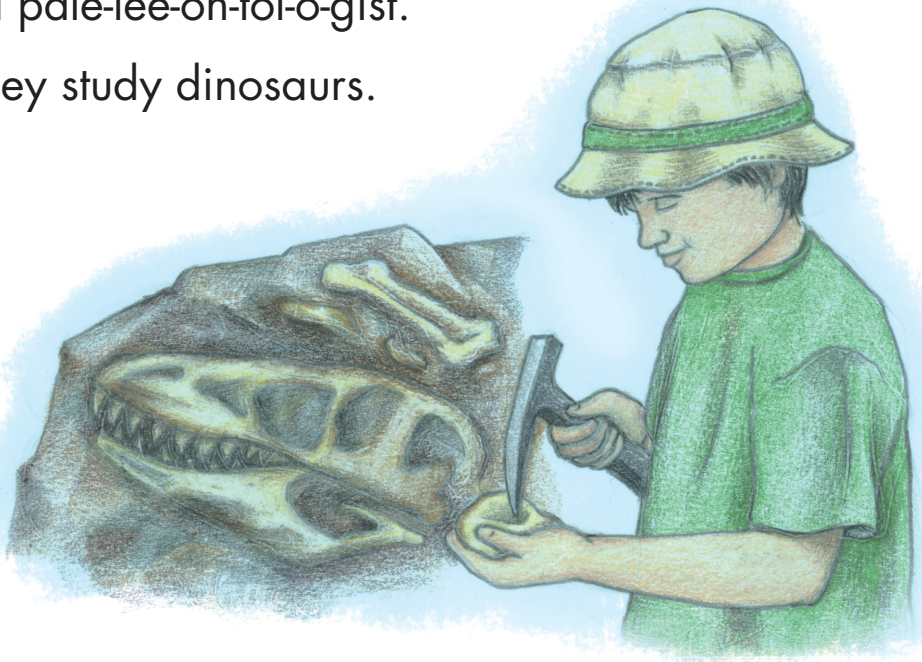


When he grows up,
Amik wants to be
a doctor,
or a veterinarian,

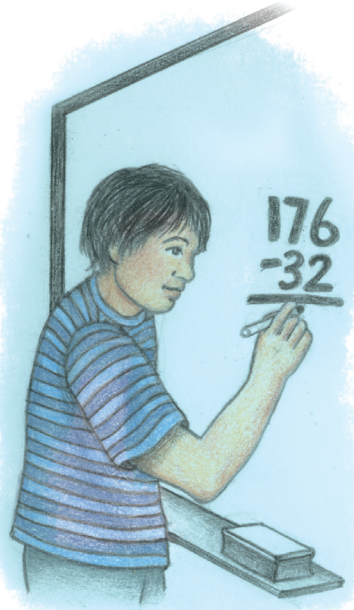




or an astronaut,
or a pale-lee-on-tol-o-gist.
They study dinosaurs.



Amik tells his Moshoom,
"I like school so much.
I like math,



and painting,
and gym,
and my teacher, Mr. Bee."



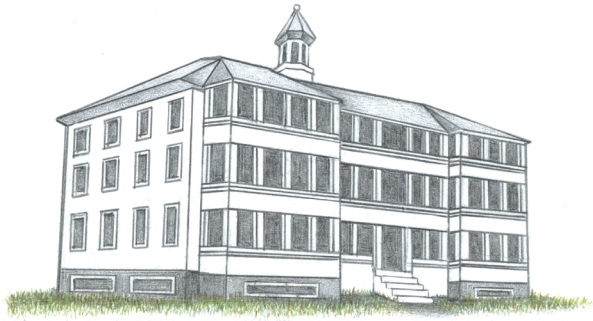
"Oh, that's very good," his Moshoom says.

"I'm glad you like school."

Amik asks him,

"What was your favourite part
about school when you were a kid?"





Moshoom looks very serious.

"I liked reading and math,
and I liked playing with my friends outside."

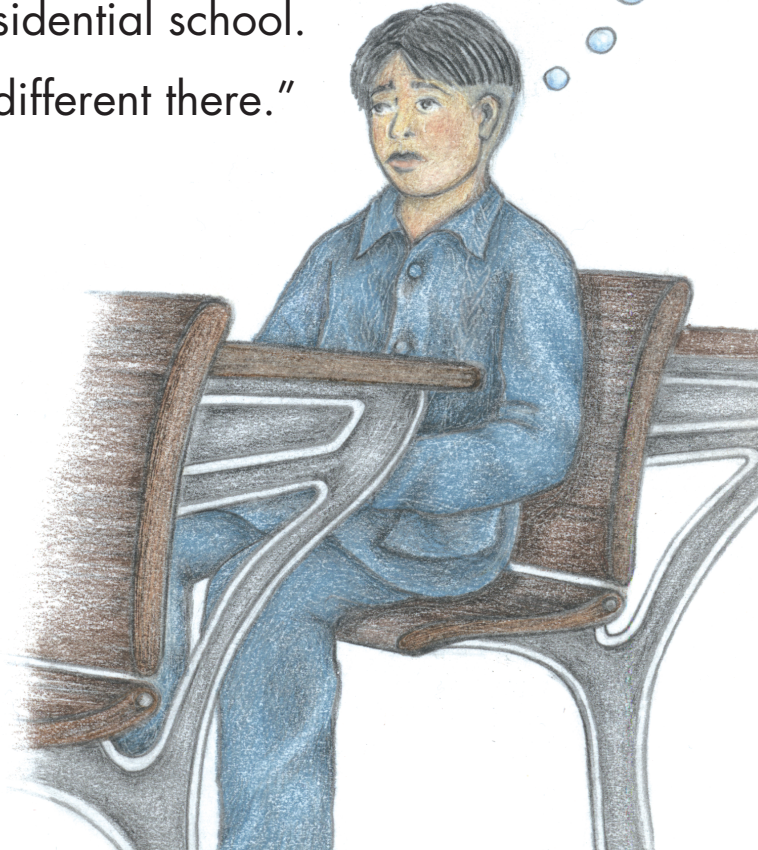
"What about your teacher?"

Amik asks him.

Moshoom sighs.

"I didn't like my teacher
very much, my boy.

I went to a residential school.
Things were different there."



Pronunciation of Anishnaabemowin words

Short Vowels: *i* as in *pit*, *o* as in *book*, *a* as in *cup*, *e* as in *bed*

Long Vowels: *ii* as in *peek*, *oo* is between *soup* and *soap*,
aa as in “open up and say *ahhhh*”

g, *b*, *j*, *d*, *h* are softer than their English equivalents; *g* sounds very much like *k* and sometimes *k*, *p*, *t* are aspirated, as if an *h* was in front of them.

m, *n*, *y*, *h*, *w* are very similar in sound to their English equivalents.

Apostrophes are used to separate vowels (with distinct sound for each).

Acknowledgments

My sincere thanks to those who helped review the content of these books: Ruth Norton, Ko'ona Cochrane, and Mary Courchene. Special thanks for all the language guidance from the incomparable Patricia Ningewance and her book *Talking Gookom's Language* (pronunciation guide, above, used with permission from that publication).

I would also like to acknowledge Little Red Spirit Aboriginal Head Start program and all my fabulous former workmates, parents, and students. Inspired by my young friends and the work I was privileged to do, these books are dedicated to my former students, as well as all my beautiful nieces and nephews.

— K.V.

I would like to thank Katherena for entrusting me with her stories. This has truly been an adventure and an experience in getting to know all the kids and helping them come to life. I would also like to thank Annalee and Cathie from HighWater Press for giving me this opportunity. I dedicate these stories to little JayJay.

— I.K.

Amik tells Moshoom about his wonderful school. Then his grandfather tells him about the residential school he went to, so different from Amik's school. So Amik has an idea....



The Seven Teachings of the Anishinaabe—love, wisdom, humility, courage, respect, honesty, and truth—are revealed in these seven stories for children. Set in an urban landscape with

Indigenous children as the central characters, these stories about home and family will look familiar to all young readers.

Katherena Vermette is a Métis writer of poetry, fiction, and children's literature. Her first book, *North End Love Songs*, won the 2013 Governor General Literary Award for Poetry. Her poetry and fiction have appeared in several literary magazines and anthologies. She holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of British Columbia, and lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Irene Kuziw has worked in galleries, museums, and schools. Her artwork has been featured in many shows. Irene now devotes her time to doing what she loves – drawing and exploring the abstraction of reality, whether it be the human face or the animal spirit. A graduate of the University of Manitoba School of Art, she lives in the Interlake region of Manitoba.