

STORY TIME WITH JULIE PELLISSIER-LUSH



All ages workshop



Julie Pellissier-Lush M.S.M is an actress and bestselling author of *My Mi'kmaq Mother*, Poet Laureate for PEI, recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 2013, the Meritorious Service Medal recipient in 2017, and the Senator's 150 Medal in 2019. She grew up all over eastern Canada and spent a number of years in Winnipeg, Manitoba, before coming back home to Prince Edward Island. Julie is a graduate from the University of Winnipeg with a double major in Psychology and Human Resource Management. She writes, acts, and does photography to preserve the history and culture of the Mi'kmaq for future generations.

Julie is a talented storyteller and joins us from Epekwitk (PEI) to tell us the creation story of the Mi'kmaq people. This story is open to all ages! Within this resource you will find a primary grades workshop plan and a middle grades+ workshop plan.

Workshop activities

Primary



The story of where the Mi'kmaq come from -

Discussion question:

- Julie tells us the Mi'kmaq creation story. Many different people in the world have their own creation story. Do you know any others?

Art activity

In the oval draw a scene from the story Julie shared.



Workshop activities

Middle years+

Here are a list of suggested discussion questions:

- What did you think about the video?
- What message did you take away from Julie's stories?
- Do you have any origin (or other) stories that come from your culture?
- How do stories teach us things about our history?

Activities:

- In groups of 3-4 work together to create a comic strip out of Julie's story. You can create the characters, the text, and the settings to help tell the story in a different way.
- There is power in oral tradition; for many years Indigenous people did not write down their stories but they were told from one generation to the next. These stories help us to see how things have changed over time and are beginning to be used in conjunction with science to help learn about how the environment has changed over time. Think about Julie's story. Create a drawing of the landscape that Julie describes in the story. Pay close attention to the details of the landscape and the plants that might be there.
- Write a journal entry that speaks to how stories like this can help show us the changes in the environment and how oral tradition is part of traditional ecological knowledge and Indigenous science.
- As a group discuss the different ways people can tell a story. What are the benefits of each way? What are some of the less common ways to tell stories? What is your favorite way to tell your own stories? Why is storytelling important?



Click or scan

For follow up we encourage you to check out this Ted Talk by Dan Nanamkin who tells stories from his culture and helps explain the power of oral tradition!