

# Representation in Media



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## The Power of Story with T'áncháy Redvers

This workshop is created for grades 8+

**T'áncháy Redvers [they/them] is a Dene & Métis two-spirit writer, creator, speaker and multidisciplinary performer belonging to Deninu K'ue First Nation in Treaty 8 territory. With a background in international and community development, youth empowerment, mental health advocacy, and creative facilitation, they have been nationally and internationally recognized for their work and advocacy. At the age of 21, T'áncháy and their brother, Kelvin, founded We Matter - a national Indigenous-led campaign and non-profit dedicated to Indigenous youth hope and life promotion. We Matter has become an international model for Indigenous youth life promotion efforts, garnering the Redvers siblings the Lawson Foundation's Emerging Leaders Award and a Governor General's Meritorious Service Medal. Join them as they discuss Indigenous representation in media and why it is so important to see yourself in stories.**

**This workshop is prerecorded and available to be used at your convenience. The lesson plan will dive into topics of storytelling and the importance of diverse stories. This workshop is recommended for grades 5+, however, we encourage you to preview it first to see if it is a good fit for your class. Within this workshop there are other topics sprinkled in such as mental health struggles and feelings of hopelessness, however, the core focus is on storytelling and the power of stories.**



# The Power of Story with T'áncháy Redvers

Within T'áncháy's workshop they speak about storytelling being a way that they connected with other parts of the country and the world. They also speak to how they never saw themselves represented, which brought them feelings of hopelessness and made them feel as if they didn't exist or matter. Here are some discussion questions to use as a class to begin the conversation around representation in film.

- What is your favourite television series?
  - Does the series have diversity?
  - What cultures are found within the series?
  - Are the people accurately represented?
- Do all television shows or films need to have diversity?
  - What does diversity in film mean? Is it that the show focuses on one culture or that a show has many different cultures?
- What are some cultural stereotypes that you have seen in films?
- Why do you think representation matters?
- What does authentic representation look like?
- Do you see yourself represented in film and tv often?
  - When you see yourself represented - is it done in a good way?
- What types of diversity have you seen in film and tv? What about LGBTQ2+ characters? What about people with disabilities?

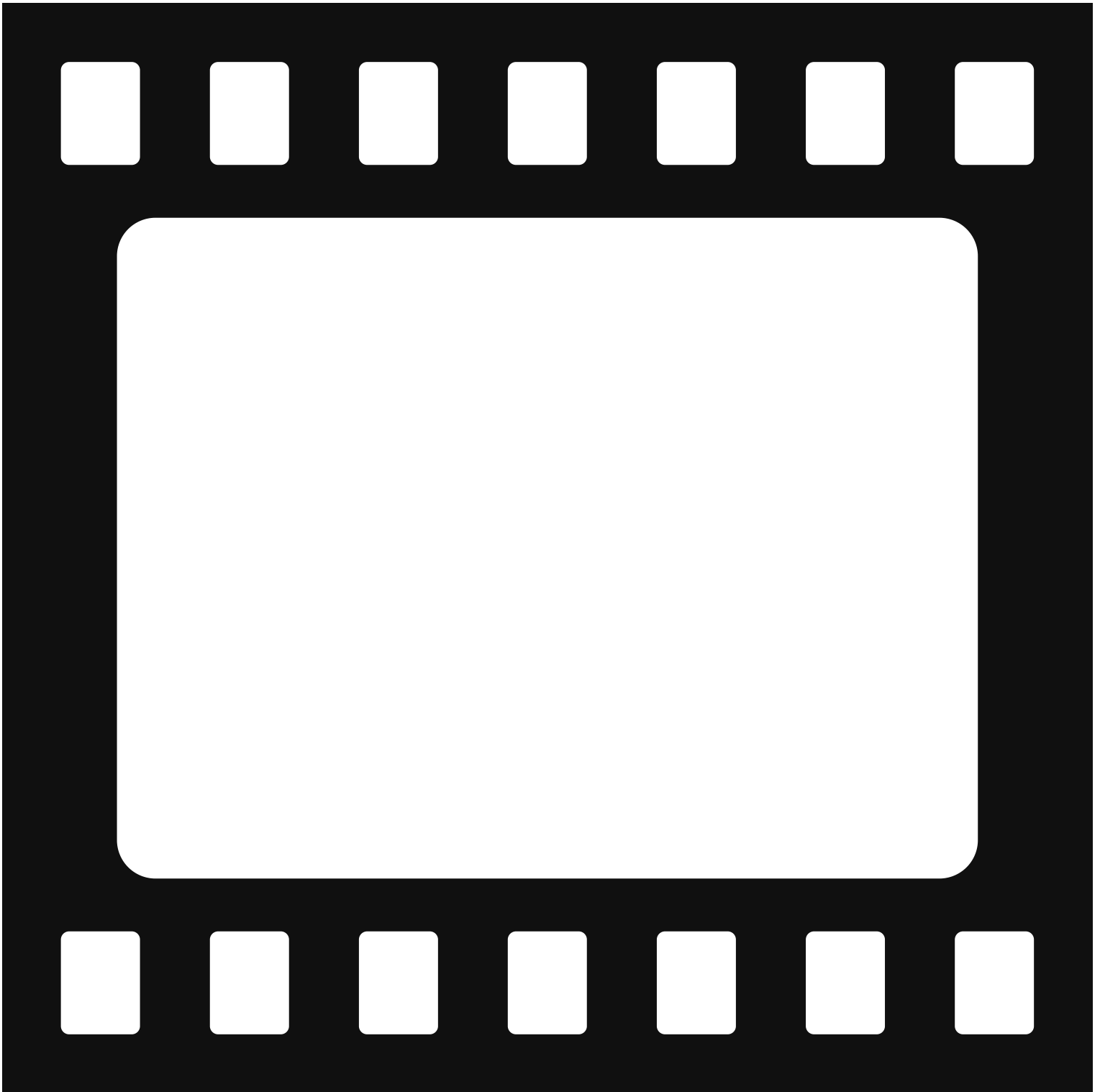
In writing we often hear reference to 'writing to create windows' or 'writing to create mirrors.' When you write to create a window you are writing to give the reader an experience that they do not have in their day to day life. For example, if I write a tv show about Australia it gives Canadians a window into life in Australia. This window can showcase culture, foods, songs, dance, language, and so many other experiences that people have. When we write to create a mirror it means we are writing so that the person reading it can see themselves within the story. For example, when T'áncháy writes authentic Indigenous stories they are creating mirrors for other Indigenous people to see themselves represented.

On the following pages, you will find a template of a film reel. Within each block you will create your own television frame. This frame will include at least one character, a setting (place), and an activity they are partaking in. In the first film reel you will create a scene that mirrors your own experiences, who you are as a person, and a look into your life. On the second frame you will work with a partner. Using the following questions you will get a glimpse into their daily life and you'll use this information to create a window into their experience. You might find that their experiences are similar to yours, or you might find that they have very different experiences to offer and share with you.

- How do you identify?
- Do you feel parts of your identity impact how you are treated?
- Does your family have any signature dishes or family recipes?
- Does your family have any traditions?
- Do you feel a connection to your heritage or ancestral roots?
- What does the average day look like for you?
- Do you have any clothing items that you feel represent your identity or the things important to you?



# A mirror into my experiences



# A window into other's experiences

