

Shin-chi's Canoe Nicola I. Campbell • Kim LaFave GROUNDWOOD

# Shin-chi's Canoe

Nicola I. Campbell

PICTURES BY  
Kim LaFave



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310KIDS BC/CDN PICTURE11/14/08  
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The system of Indian residential schools was one of the great injustices perpetrated against the First Nations in Canada and the United States. This moving sequel to award-winning *Shi-shi-etko* is the haunting and beautifully written story of two children's experience at residential school. Shi-shi-etko is about to return for her second year, but this time she is not alone — her six-year-old brother, Shin-chi, is going, too. As they begin their journey in the back of a cattle truck, Shi-shi-etko tells her little brother about all the things he must remember. Shin-chi won't see his family again until the salmon return in the summertime.

When they arrive at school, Shi-shi-etko reminds Shin-chi that they must only use their English names, and that they are not allowed to speak to each other. Then she gives him a tiny cedar canoe, a symbolic gift from their father representing everything Shin-chi must keep hidden.

The months at school — filled with lessons and hard work as well as going to mass — are long and lonely, and Shin-chi is always hungry. He finds some solace down by the river, tightly holding his little canoe. Then, finally, the sock-eye salmon swim up the river...

In telling this story Nicola I. Campbell has drawn on interviews with her family and elders who are survivors of Indian residential schools. Written in lyrical free verse and poignantly illustrated by Kim LaFave, *Shin-chi's Canoe* is an important contribution to children's literature about the First Nations' devastating experience in the government-sponsored, church-run residential schools.

# Home to Medicine Mountain



Written by CHIORI SANTIAGO    Illustrated by JUDITH LOWRY

This book is based on a true story. My people have lived in the mountains of northern California for many centuries. They belong to the Mountain Maidu and the Hamawi Pit-River tribes. In the old days, they hunted deer and gathered roots, vegetables and acorns in the beautiful baskets they made. Everything they needed to make a good life was around them.

The lives of my people changed in many ways after the European settlers came. One change was that Indian children were taken to boarding schools to live apart from their families for the entire school year. These schools were created especially for Indian children with the idea that they needed to unlearn their Indian ways and live as the settler did.

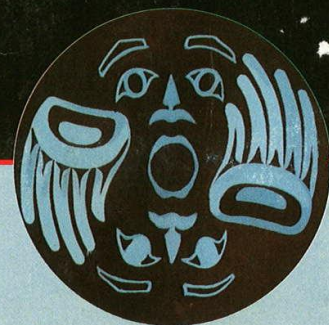
My grandparents went to these schools and so did their children, including my uncle Stanley and my dad who was called "Benny Len." Their school in Riverside was hundreds of miles from their home in Susanville near To-Tim Tamne (Medicine Mountain). Although the school paid for children to take the train to get there, it did not always pay to send them home for summer vacation. This is the story of how my dad and uncle found their way home one summer in the 1930s, when they were very young.

Judith Lowrey

# FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL

The First People of the Pacific Northwest Coast

Pages 70-71



by Diane Silvey  
illustrated by Joe Silvey



Story by Maddie Harper  
Illustrations by Carlos Freire

# “Mush-hole”

## Memories of a Residential School

