

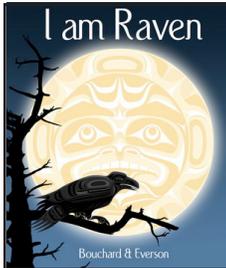


CRUCHLEY'S COLLECTION

Diana Cruchley is an award-winning educator and author, who has taught at elementary and secondary levels. Her workshops are practical, include detailed handouts, and are always enthusiastically received.

H. Diana Cruchley©2013. dianacruchley.com

I AM RAVEN



David Bouchard &
Andy Everson, MTW
Publisher, ©2007,
978-0-9784327-0-6

A great chief of the Pacific Northwest finds his totem. Each of animal presents a quality that the chief might have that would lend itself to creating his totem. Each tries to persuade him to include them.

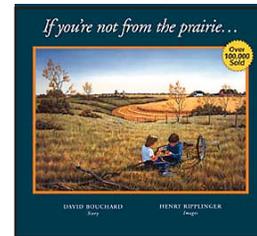
DAVID BOUCHARD

David Bouchard once was a principal in North Vancouver, BC. Since becoming an author and discovering his roots as an aboriginal, he has become one of the most evocative writers in the field. Author of over 50 books, he is a recipient of the Order of Canada.

My favourite is book is *If You're Not From the Prairie...* which is a lyrical praise of growing up in the prairies:

*The sun is our friend from when we are young
If you're not from the prairies, you don't know the sun.*

A good assignment might be for students to write an “*If You're Not from BC...*” book.



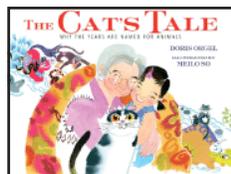
BUILD YOUR OWN TOTEM

The entire book is built around the premise of finding the totem that symbolizes you. First, read the book to the students. At a second reading, as a listening skill, students can listen for those qualities each of the animals presents to the chief. The attached page includes a blackline master for listening. After the discussion, ask students to use the little sketches to create a totem with 4 qualities that they would like to have.

The back of the book has a double-page spread with additional possible qualities including: hummingbird, duck, dragonfly, Canada goose, swan, loon, kingfisher, beetle, moon, and sun. Students might want to think about these qualities as well...although it makes the project even more complicated.

OTHER STORIES INVOLVING AN ANIMAL SYMBOL OF HUMAN QUALITIES

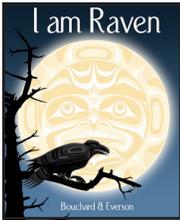
A famous book is *The Golden Compass* by Phillip Pullman in which the characters have an animal companion which exemplifies qualities of their character. If students have not read the book, they are in for a treat as they read one of the beautifully written fantasy books. A further look at animal symbolism could be through the book, *The Cat's Tale* by Doris Orgel, which is the story of the origin of the Chinese horoscope, in which your qualities are determined by the year in which you are born. Of course the horoscope is quite a different approach than the choosing of a totem symbol for yourself.



JOURNAL TOPICS

Picture books often lend themselves well to a journal response. Here are three possibilities:

- A story about a grandparent, or a story a grandparent told you.
- The story of a nightmare or a dream you remember.
- Any encounter with a wild animal.



I AM RAVEN, CONT.

Qualities



beaver



bear



wolf



owl



eagle



frog



killer
whale



otter



thunder



raven

My Totem