

STORIES FROM THE LAND

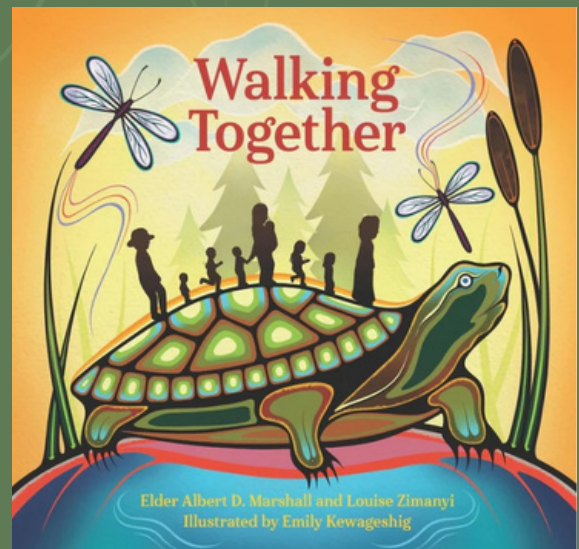
Literacy and the land

The strongest stories are the ones that ask us to walk alongside them.

Featuring *StoryWalk®* and the “Walking Together” book by Elder Dr. Albert Marshall and Louise Zimanyi

Stories are alive everywhere we look; sometimes on library shelves but also in the birds calling, wolves howling, and in the rings that live inside the tallest cedars. The strongest stories are the ones that ask us to walk alongside them.

In communities and schools across Turtle Island, educators are beginning to reimagine what literacy can look like. Reading does not have to happen sitting still at a desk beneath fluorescent lights. Stories can move. They can breathe. They can follow a trail through the trees or stretch alongside a shoreline. They can live outdoors, where the land itself becomes part of the learning and part of the story.



That is the spirit behind Walking Together, a powerful book rooted in the teachings of Etuaptmumk, the gift of multiple perspectives in Mi'kmaw, also known as Two-Eyed Seeing and the importance of bringing different ways of knowing together. Developed into a story walk, the book invites readers to move through the story physically—page by page, step by step, outdoors and in relationship with the world around them.

“The story invites you to move slowly, look closely, and feel more connected to the Land and Water (in whatever form – rain, puddles, the water you carry with you and inside you), the trees, the birds, the wind, insects, and the stories they hold. Literacy education and the Land are deeply connected because the Land is a source of knowledge, stories, and learning. Instead of viewing literacy as only reading and writing words, Land literacies help you to “read” the world around us through observation, relationships, storytelling, and experience. The Land is a teacher, offering lessons about history, culture, language, seasons, and responsibility. By learning with and from the Land through activities like storytelling, outdoor exploration, and place-based learning, we can develop communication, critical thinking, and a deeper connection to community and environment. We are connected and inter-dependent, we are part of the story.” – Elder Dr. Albert D. Marshall & Louise Zimanyi, the authors of “Walking Together.”





A StoryWalk® is exactly what it sounds like: a story placed along a walking path, where readers travel between pages while moving through nature. But it becomes something much bigger than reading alone. It becomes movement. Curiosity. Connection. A chance to pause beside a tree and think about the words differently because now you are part of the story.

For some youth, story walks are the bridge that brings literacy outside. Kids who feel most alive climbing rocks, running trails, or exploring forests suddenly find books meeting them where they already shine. For others—the quiet readers, the students who feel safest curled beside a bookshelf—it becomes an invitation to step outdoors, to discover that stories do not end at the classroom door.

“The Story Walk is so important because it makes literacy feel open, welcoming, and connected to everyday life. By bringing stories outdoors, it reminds us that learning does not only happen inside classrooms or through expensive resources — the Land herself is accessible to people from all backgrounds. Anyone can walk, observe, listen, and connect with a story in a shared outdoor space. In the same way that the Land belongs to everyone, literacy is inclusive and available to all.” – Elder Dr. Albert D. Marshall & Louise Zimanyi, the authors of “Walking Together.”

The land changes the way we learn. Walking while reading engages the body and mind together. It slows people down. Encourages observation. Opens conversation. It reminds us that literacy is not separate from the world around us, but deeply connected to it.

Story walks remind us that stories were always meant to be shared this way. Long before classrooms existed, teachings were carried across rivers, around fires, through berry patches, on traplines, and along paths and trade routes. Learning happened while walking together.

That is the power of literacy and the land.

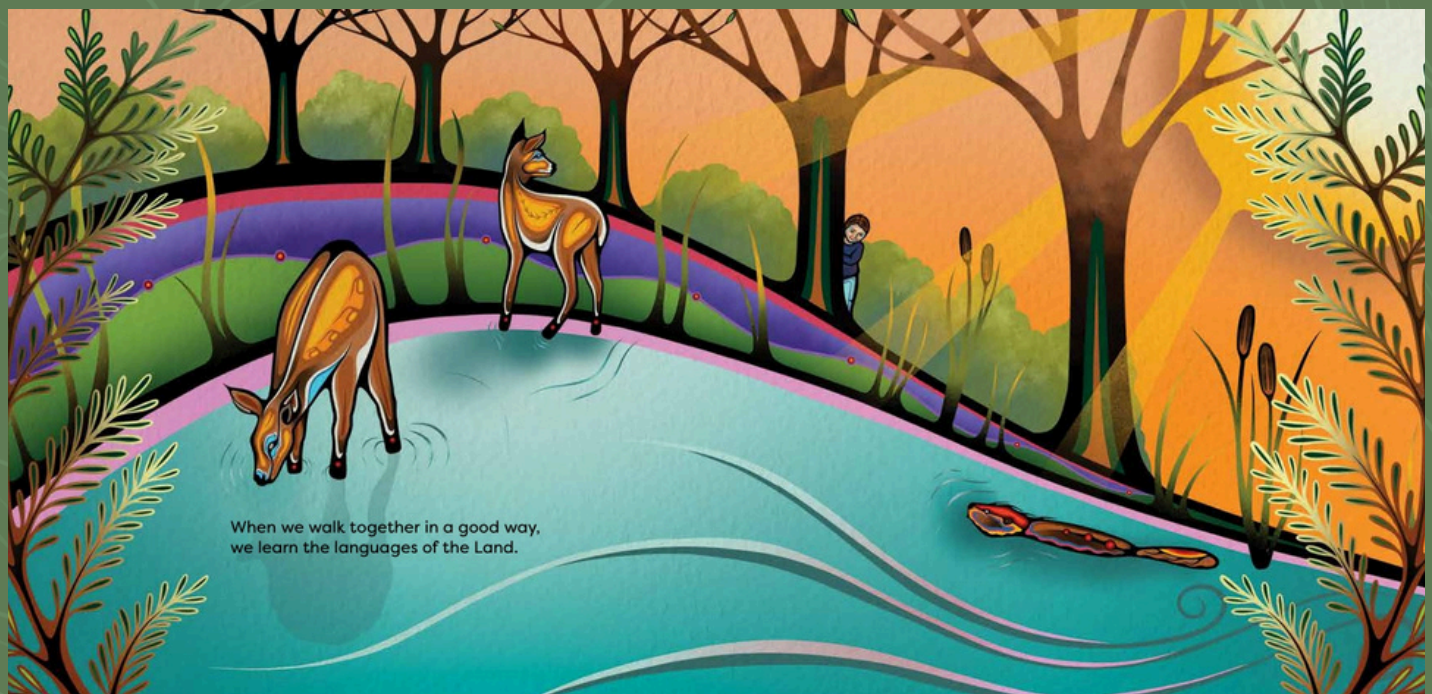
Not simply reading stories—but living within them.



This bestselling, innovative picture book introduces readers to the concept of Etuaptmumk—or Two-Eyed Seeing, the gift of multiple perspectives in the Mi'kmaw language—as we follow a group of young children connecting to nature as their teacher.

A poetic, joyful celebration of the Lands and Waters as spring unfolds: we watch for Robin's return, listen for Frog's croaking, and wonder at maple tree's gift of sap. Grounded in Etuaptmumk, also known as Two-Eyed Seeing—which braids together the strengths of Indigenous and non-Indigenous ways of knowing—and the Mi'kmaq concept of Netukulimk—meaning to protect Mother Earth for the ancestors, present, and future generations—*Walking Together* nurtures respectful, reciprocal, responsible relationships with the Land and Water, plant-life, animals and other-than-human beings for the benefit of all.

Available in English, French, and Mi'kmaw - anywhere books are sold and in most libraries.



Learn more about the “Walking Together” book at the following links:

[Find the educator guide and purchase the book here.](#)

[Follow their instagram page!](#)

Below are some resources for creating your own StoryWalk®

[Create your own StoryWalk® in the most cost effective way.](#)

[Read about the Walking Together StoryWalk® here!](#)