

Bull Trout's Gift

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Nature, Responsibility, American Indian Culture

Book Brief: Follow along as a group of fifth graders learn the importance of protecting every part of our environment.

Author: The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Illustrator:

Sashay
Camel

**Content
Connections:**

Science, Social Studies



TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Have students predict what the book will be about based on the title and cover illustration. What's a bull trout? What

different elements do students notice in the picture? What's unusual about the author of this book?

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk. How many different settings and time periods can students identify from the pictures?

Prior Knowledge: This book is set on Flathead

Reservation in Montana. Find the reservation on a map. To learn more about the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, visit their website: www.cskt.org. Bull trout are a threatened species. What does it mean when a species is threatened or endangered? Before reading, brainstorm with the class about other threatened or endangered animals and different reasons an animal might become endangered.

Vocabulary: bull trout, channel, floodplain, groundwater, riparian, culvert

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, listen for how the authors tell two different stories in one. Pay attention to the *themes* in each of the two stories and think about how they are related."

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What four C's does the biologist say are important for healthy rivers?
- ◆ Why is the river so unhealthy now?

- ◆ What causes the change in the environment?
- ◆ What is the bull trout's gift?
- ◆ What does Johnny Arlee say we should give the bull trout in return?
- ◆ How are the Tribes restoring the river?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: Ask students to identify the themes found in the two different stories. Have them explain their answers using evidence from the text. Why did the authors include the story within a story? How were the two stories related?

Extending Our Thinking: The authors call this book a Salish story about the value of reciprocity. What is reciprocity? What does reciprocity mean when it comes to interacting with nature? What does reciprocity mean in everyday life? Can you think of any other relationships that need reciprocity to be healthy?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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