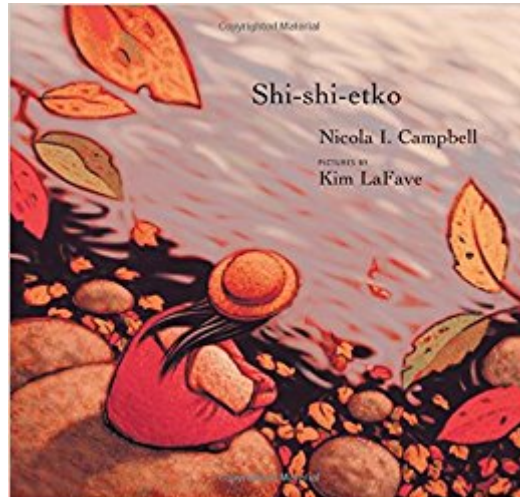


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# Shi-shi-etko



## Synopsis

Shi-shi-etko just has four days until she will have to leave her family and everything she knows to attend residential school. She spends her last precious days at home treasuring and appreciating the beauty of her world—the dancing sunlight, the tall grass, each shiny rock, the tadpoles in the creek, her grandfather's paddle song. Her mother, father, and grandmother, each in turn, share valuable teachings that they want her to remember. Shi-shi-etko carefully gathers her memories for safekeeping. LaFave's richly hued illustrations complement Campbell's gently moving and poetic account of a child who finds solace around her, even though she is on the verge of great loss—a loss that native people have endured for generations because of Canada's residential schools system.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 860 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Groundwood Books (August 9, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0888996594

ISBN-13: 978-0888996596

Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 0.4 x 8.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #267,772 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Canada #715 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences #1305 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

Grade 2-6 "This is a moving story set in Canada about the practice of removing Native children from their villages and sending them to residential schools to learn the English language and culture. An introduction explains that governments believed Native people were ignorant and made laws to educate their children. Shi-shi-etko counts down her last four days before going away. She tries to memorize everything about her home—tall grass swaying to the rhythm of the breeze,

determined mosquitoes, working bumblebees. There is a family party to say good-bye. Her father takes her out in a canoe and implores her to remember the trees, the water, and the mountains, and her grandmother gives her a small bag made of deer hide in which to keep her memories. The vivid, digital illustrations rely on a red palette, evoking not only the land but also the sorrow of the situation and the hope upon which the story ultimately ends. This contemplative narrative will help children see how Native people have been treated in both Canada and the United States. A good choice to enhance units on Native North American cultures.â “Linda M. Kenton, San Rafael Public Library, CA  
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Gr. 2-4. Using gentle rounded shapes and rich autumnal colors, LaFave captures the events that take place during the three days before a young Canadian girl must leave her home. Author Campbell's foreword explains the harsh government policies that, until 1984, separated Native American children as young as four from their parents, though her story conveys only that Shi-shi-etko, whose name means "she loves to play in the water," is going away to school. Before she leaves, the girl visits the creek with her mother, goes canoeing with her father, and collects sprigs from trees with her grandmother. The loving adults urge her to treasure these memories, and the girl looks and listens carefully. Without dwelling on the impending separation, the lyrical text is, nevertheless, poignant, as is the last picture of children in the back of a pickup truck driving away. Although Shi-shi-etko appears to be about five or six, the audience for her story will be slightly older children, who can grasp the implications of her fate and understand that the story takes place in the past. Kathleen Odean  
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Terrific book! Should be mandatory reading for everyone!

Grandees like this book - over and over!

Talk about a picture book to tear at my heart strings and boil my blood. This story is so heart wrenching and maddening at the same time as being so beautiful in tradition until the horrible new white man made tradition of sending Native American children off to residential schools to unlearn their native ways. My heart broke at each new day for Shi-shi-etko and her family. Written by Nicola I. Campbell, illustrated by Kim LaFave and published by Groundwood Books. #NativeAmerican #heartwrenching #grief #family #mustread

I got this book to introduce my little one to the injustices visited upon the First Nations people, but also to share some of the beauty of that culture. It is beautifully written, and completely appropriate for kids as young as six, I would say.

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