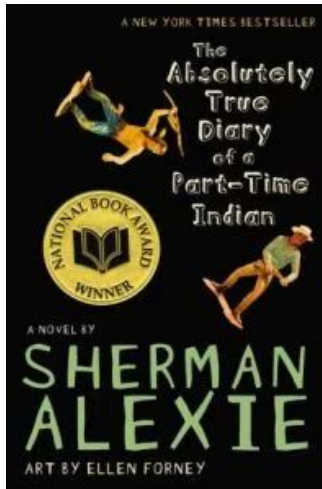
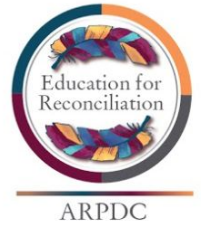


# Grades 9 - 12 Indigenous Literature for Classroom Use

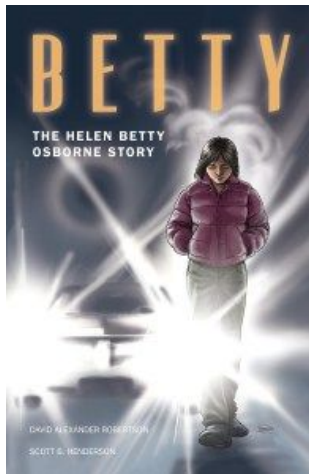


***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian*** by Sherman Alexie  
(Ages 12+)  
**Warning!: Mature Content**  
Little Brown Company, 2007



Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, which is based on the author's own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he thought he was destined to live.

Source: <http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/titles/sherman-alexie/the-absolutely-true-diary-of-a-part-time-indian/9780316013697/>



***Betty: The Helen Betty Osborne Story***

Illustrated by Scott B. Henderson  
(Grades 8 - 12)

Graphic Novel

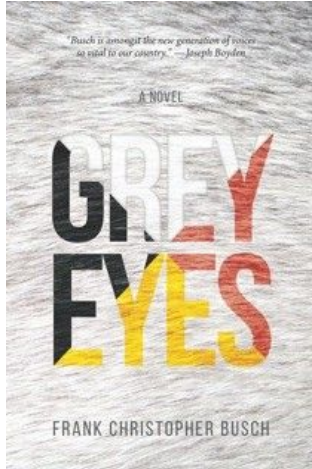
**Warning!: This book is a true account. Content may be disturbing to some readers**

High-water Press, 2015

Helen Betty Osborne, known as Betty to her closest friends and family, dreamed of becoming a teacher. She left her home to attend residential school and high school in a small town in Manitoba. On November 13, 1971, Betty was abducted and brutally murdered by four young men. Initially met with silence and indifference, her tragic murder resonates loudly today. Betty represents one of almost 1,200 Indigenous women in Canada who have been

murdered or gone missing.

Source: <http://www.darobertson.ca/publications/betty/>



## **Grey Eyes** by Frank Christopher Busch

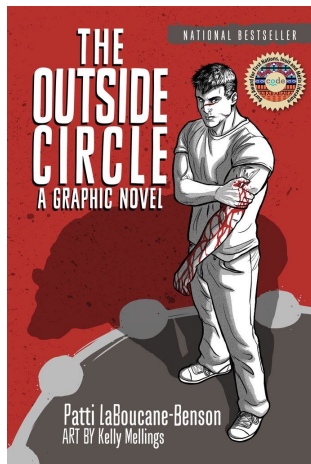
(Grades 8 - 12)

**Caution: Contains considerable graphic violence including injury and death. Magic plays a considerable role in the plot as does the portrayal of traditional Aboriginal teachings and practices.**

Fernwood Publishing 2014

In a world without time and steeped in ceremony and magic, walks a chosen few who hold an ancient power: the Grey Eyes. True stewards of the land, the Grey Eyes use their magic to maintain harmony and keep evil at bay. With only one elderly Grey-Eye left in the village of the Nehiyawak, the birth of a new Grey-Eyed boy promises a renewed line of defence against their only foe: the menacing Red-Eyes, whose name is rarely spoken but whose presence is ever felt. While the birth of the Grey-Eyed boy offers the clan much-needed protection, it also initiates a struggle for power that threatens to rip the clan apart, leaving them defenceless against their sworn enemy. The responsibility of restoring balance and harmony, the only way to keep the Nehiyawak safe, is thrust upon a boy's slender shoulders. What powers will he have, and can he protect the clan from the evil of the Red Eyes?

Source: <https://fernwoodpublishing.ca/book/grey-eyes>



## **The Outside Circle** by Patti LaBoucane-Benson, illustrated by Kelly Melings

(Grades 10 - 12)

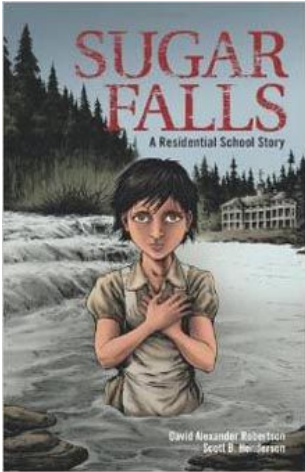
**Caution: Graphic images and content may be disturbing to some readers.**

House of Anansi 2015

In this graphic novel, two Aboriginal brothers surrounded by poverty, drug abuse, and gang violence, try to overcome centuries of historic trauma in very different ways to bring about positive change in their lives.

Pete, a young Aboriginal man wrapped up in gang violence, lives with his younger brother, Joey, and his mother who is a heroin addict. One night, Pete and his mother's boyfriend, Dennis, get into a big fight, which sends Dennis to the morgue and Pete to jail. Pete begins a process of rehabilitation that includes traditional Aboriginal healing circles and ceremonies. Powerful, courageous, and deeply moving, *The Outside Circle* is drawn from the author's twenty years of work and research on healing and reconciliation of gang-affiliated or incarcerated Aboriginal men.

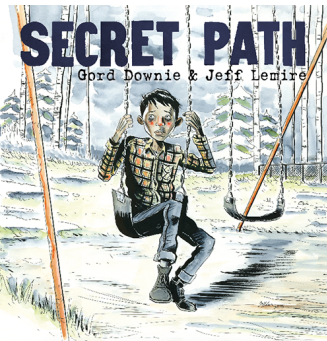
Source: <https://houseofanansi.com/products/the-outside-circle>



***Sugar Falls: A Residential School Story*** by David Alexander Robertson  
(Grades 9 - 12)  
Highwater Press 2012

*Sugar Falls* is a powerful graphic novel that recounts the horror Indigenous children experienced in residential schools. Based on the true story of Betty Ross, an elder from Cross Lake First Nation, *Sugar Falls* tells the story of Betsy who, at eight years old, was sent to residential school. While there, she is abused and suffers, but the words her father told her keeps her spirit and her hope alive.

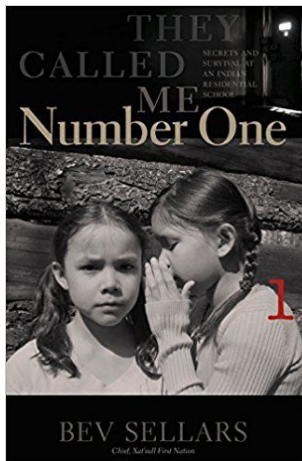
Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/books/2014/09/sugar-falls.html>



***Secret Path*** by Gord Downie  
Warning: Mature content!  
Simon & Schuster 2016

*Secret Path* is a ten song digital download album by Gord Downie with a graphic novel by illustrator Jeff Lemire that tells the story of Chanie “Charlie” Wenjack, a twelve-year-old boy who died in flight from the Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School fifty years ago.

Source: <http://www.simonandschuster.ca/books/Secret-Path/Gord-Downie/9781501155949>

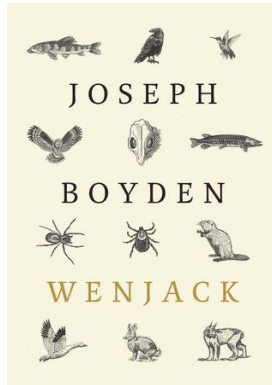


***They Called Me Number One: Secrets and Survival at an Indian Residential School*** by Bev Sellars

(Grades 10 - 12)  
Talon Books 2013

Xat'sull Chief Bev Sellars spent her childhood in a church-run residential school. In addition, beginning at the age of five, Sellars was isolated for two years at Coqualeetza Indian Tuberculosis Hospital in Sardis, British Columbia, nearly six hours' drive from home. The trauma of these experiences has reverberated throughout her life. Sellars tells of three generations of women who attended the school at Williams Lake, interweaving the personal histories of her grandmother and her mother with her own.

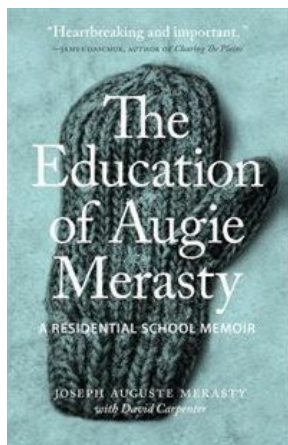
Source: <http://talonbooks.com/books/number-one>



**Wenjack** by Joseph Boyden  
Hamish Hamilton 2016

An Ojibwe boy runs away from a North Ontario Indian School, not realizing just how far away home is. Along the way he's followed by Manitou, spirits of the forest who comment on his plight, cajoling, taunting, and ultimately offering him a type of comfort on his difficult journey back to the place he was so brutally removed from.

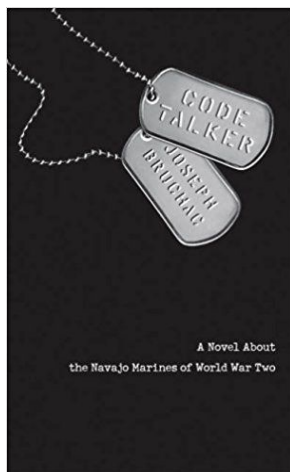
Source: <http://penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/549816/wenjack#9780735233386>



**The Education of Augie Merasty: A Residential School Memoir** by Joseph Auguste (Augie) Merasty and contributions by David Carpenter

The memoir offers a courageous and intimate chronicle of life in a residential school. Now a retired fisherman and trapper, the author was one of an estimated 150 000 First Nations, Inuit and Metis children who were taken from their families and sent to government-funded, church-run schools, where they were subjected to a policy of “aggressive assimilation.” As Augie Merasty recounts, these schools did more than attempt to mold children in the ways of white society. But even as he looks back on this painful part of his childhood, Merasty’s sense of humour and warm voice shine through.

Source: <http://www.uofrpress.ca/publications/The-Education-of-Augie-Merasty>



**Code Talker** by Joseph Bruchac  
Penguin Random House 2006

Throughout World War II, in the conflict fought against Japan, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. They braved some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and with their code, they saved countless American lives. Yet their story remained classified for more than twenty years.

But now Joseph Bruchac brings their stories to life for young adults through the riveting fictional tale of Ned Begay, a sixteen-year-old Navajo boy who becomes a code talker. His grueling journey is eye-opening and inspiring.

Source: <http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/288494/code-talker-by-joseph-bruchac/9780142405963/>

