

Book Title: Caribou Song

Author: Tomson Highway

Introduction

Begin by asking students:

- Can you describe a caribou?
- What do you know about where caribou live?

Look at the cover of the book. What do you notice? What do you think it will be about?

Reading and Discussion

Introduce vocabulary: accordion, moccasin, antlers

Explain that this story is written in both English and Cree, the language of a Native American tribe that lives in Northern Canada regions.

Possible discussion questions:

- What is it like where Joe and Cody live?
- What happened when the boys started singing the Caribou song?
- Why do you think the boys were laughing at the end?
- How did music help the boys connect with the caribou?
- What emotions did their song express?

Activity: Create a Caribou Song

Explain that in many cultures, music is used to express feelings or tell a story. Today we will create a song and discuss how it makes us feel.

Assign small groups different sounds like those that may have been heard in the story:

- Hands clapping (hooves running)
- Soft rubbing hands together (wind blowing)
- Finger tapping on desks (snow falling)
- Humming (music in the air)

Have each group start their sound one by one, layering the sounds together like an orchestra. When all the sounds are playing, say together:

**"Caribou running, dancing free,
Music carries through the trees."**

Discuss: How did your song make you feel?
 Why do you think music is part of stories like *Caribou Song*?