

# ***The Reason You Walk*** by Wab Kinew Text Template

## Engaging in Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy

<b>Title of Text:</b>	<i>The Reason You Walk</i>
<b>Author:</b>	Wab Kinew
<b>Date of Publication:</b>	2015

### Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy Overview

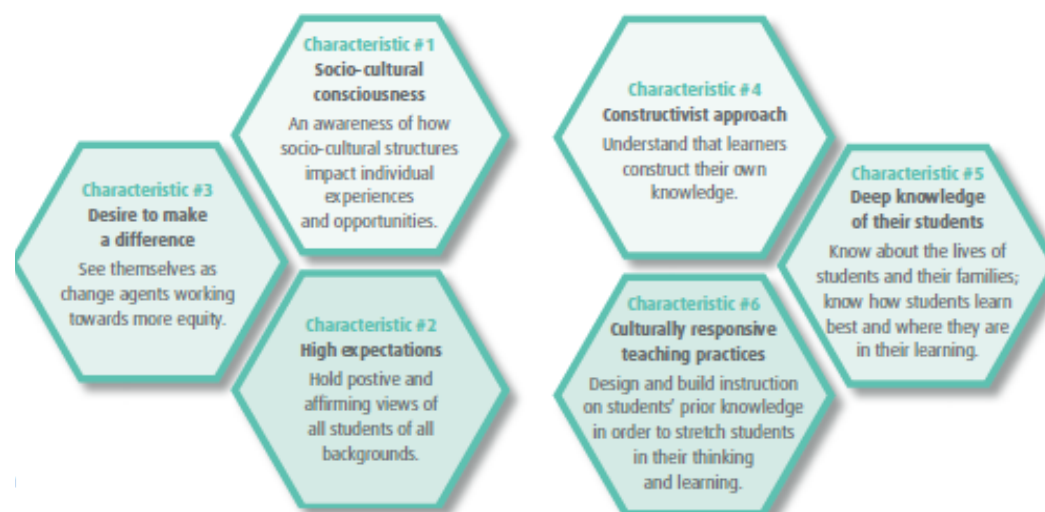
**\*\*Please ensure that you review the TVDSB CRRP Text Selection Criteria before proceeding\*\***

**\*\* We strongly encourage all teachers who are considering teaching an Indigenous text to review the following resource:**

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1USC9mtUU49V3-FVCNJUgfmZQ1ppNxTQyIAYnkn0YDag/edit?usp=sharing>

Culturally responsive and relevant educators share a mindset - a particular set of dispositions and skills that enables them to effectively support students in diverse settings (Capacity Building Series K-12). These are identified by Villegas and Lucas (2002): socio-cultural consciousness; high expectations for all students; desire to make a difference; constructivist approach; deep knowledge of students; and culturally responsive teaching practices. Culturally responsive and relevant pedagogy also includes adopting an ethic of critical care, using diverse texts, democratizing learning spaces and activities, empowering learners to confront and challenge social injustice, and adopting an asset-based, growth mindset about students' abilities. CRRP also encourages us to centre students' experiences and identities in our curriculum and instructional design. These texts and the introductory activities aim to have educators reflect intensively on classroom practices – text selection as well as instructional and assessment practices - as we seek to be more culturally responsive.

### The Mindset of Culturally Responsive Educators



-Capacity Building Series *Culturally Responsive Pedagogy*, November 2013

Reflections to Consider:	<i>What cultural contexts, interests, capabilities and lived experiences do my students bring to their learning? (Diversity of race, ethnicity, class, gender identity, sexual orientation and ability).</i>
Suggested Grade and Level (based on maturity and depth of text):	Senior grades, any level
Author Bio:	Wab Kinew was named by the <i>National Post</i> as “an Aboriginal leader seeking to engage with Canadians at large”. In 2016, he was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba. He was the associate vice-president for Indigenous Affairs at the University of Winnipeg and a correspondent with Al Jazeera English. In 2012, he hosted the acclaimed CBC-TV documentary series <i>8th Fire</i> . After successfully defending Joseph Boyden’s <i>The Orenda</i> on CBC’s <i>Canada Reads</i> literary competition, he was named the 2015 host. He is a member of the Midewin and an honorary witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. He lives in Winnipeg with his family.
Synopsis:	“This book combines Kinew’s disarming personality and his willingness to share highly personal material -- in this case, the life and death of his father, Tobasonakwut -- to demonstrate the immense power of family and forgiveness as tools of reconciliation...This is not just a memoir, it’s a meditation on the purpose of living” ~ <i>The Globe and Mail</i>
Potential Essential Questions/Topics/ Essential Ideas:	Reconciliation Forgiveness The meeting of religion and culture Life and death The grieving process
Commentary about the text:	<p>“A valuable memoir for anyone interested in First Nations studies and cultures. It not only provides readers with the broad yet intimate strokes of [Tobasonakwut]’s incredible life, but also tells his and Kinew’s story from a position that raises new and vital questions and issue about the intergenerational conflicts among First Nations people, a topic rarely explored in mainstream culture” ~ <i>Literary Review of Canada</i></p> <p>“It’s entertaining, interesting, and compelling, but it also has many important and staggering messages...Indigenous teachings about human relations are deeply part of this book, but it is written in a way that is friendly to readers. It’s not all serious -- this is a greatly readable, captivating, and relevant book.” ~<i>Vancouver Sun</i></p>
Trigger Warnings: “ <i>The purpose of trigger warnings is not to cause students to avoid</i>	<p>Novel content that may trigger students and or other staff (list topics below).</p> <p>Death of a parent Battle with cancer/illness Mentions of suicide Explanation of cultural traditions that include piercings/physical cutting of body</p>

<i>traumatic content, but to prepare them for it, and in extreme circumstances to provide alternate modes of learning.”</i> (Lockhart)	
Companion Text Sets: (including links to teacher resources, short fiction, poems, video, articles, media texts, visual texts)	
Reflection Questions:	What can we learn from Tobasonakwut’s relationship with the church? How can his experience with forgiveness, teach us/help us?
Ways to value student voice and perspective:	
Potential teaching strategies, lesson ideas etc.:	

Template adapted from PDSB’s ReThinking English: Culturally Responsive Classrooms

The above suggestions are not a complete list.

Did you come up with any new ideas or resources while using this text? Please let us know so we can add them to the template.

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