**Reading and Social Studies (and Life!)  
Richard Wagamese’s *One Story, One Song***

Greetings, Insightful Thinkers. Over the next few weeks, we will explore Richard Wagamese’s beautiful collection of personal essays, *One Story, One Song*. Our work here is two-fold: analyzing and forming connections to and within the book using reading strategies, and making connections to our First Nations studies unit (and our year-long exploration of listening and mindset) (and *A Wizard of Earthsea*).

You have each been given two chapters of the first part of this book (“East”) to read. In one week, we will meet to teach each other what we learned from our individual chapters. Think *Cosmos*; think great minds building upon the work of others, taking their ideas and transforming them, going further and deeper in understanding than one person could possibly do alone.

There are three steps to this work, followed by repeats of those three steps, during which we will look at the three other sections of the book (“South, “West,” and “North”). We will conclude with a variation on the process, where we will review the book as a whole. At the same time, we will be looking at Bev Sellars’s book *Price Paid*, which looks at the history of indigenous peoples in Canada, and we will be making connections between these two works.

Each of these steps will involve taking notes in exploration of some of the Big Questions at play in this unit:

* Why does this matter?
* Why is it of value for non-indigenous Canadians to have a thorough understanding of the history of our country’s First Peoples?
* What can we, as non-indigenous students, learn from developing an understanding and appreciation of traditional knowledge and traditional ways of being?

As you take your notes, I highly recommend that you keep those outcomes in mind and allow them to shape your note-taking process.

You are encouraged to take your notes *on* the reading pages, and then to take a little time to organize your thinking about what you will share to the class in your comp book or a typed document.

**STEP ONE**

Read your chapters, taking notes on the following as you go:

* What vocabulary and/or concepts don’t you understand? Look them up and/or talk with your partner. Write down what you learned.
* How does your chapter relate to the section of the Medicine Wheel that it is ordered under, as described by Wagamese? For example, chapters from Part One relate to the Big Idea of “Humility.” You might want to reread his explanation of that Big Idea before and after you read your chapter(s).
* How does your chapter relate to our work in listening, mindset, and/or the Tao?
* How does your chapter help us understand *A Wizard of Earthsea* better?
* How does your chapter connect to *Price Paid* (once we get that going)?
* What is the role of *place* in the story? How does the physical environment affect the story and/or the people in it?
* What are the Important Details of each story?
* Does your chapter relate to any other of the Depth and Complexity icons?

You will then meet with the other person who also read your chapter and prepare for Step Two.

**STEP TWO**

We will meet in one big Circle as a class, where you will be responsible for sharing the following:

* A brief summary of the chapter – five sentences maximum.
* A favorite quote – share the quote and explain why you chose it.
* Important things that you discovered during Step One – you won’t have time to share all of your work; instead, think, “What is essential? What is this chapter about? What did I learn? What do I share that can help illuminate and illustrate those ideas?”
* Why does it matter?

Your sharing, as a partnership, needs to be about 4-5 minutes, so thoughtful editing of ideas is key.

If you take a passenger seat in one of your partnerships, you need to take the driver’s seat in the other, in terms of sharing ideas with the class. This may require some coordination with others.

**STEP THREE**

When we are in Circle, you will take notes on what you are hearing and learning, to increase your understanding of Wagamese’s message and to prepare for future learning. You will also record any questions you have, both to clarify your understanding and to help initiate rich discussion.

After the Circle discussion, you will choose one more chapter from that section of the book to read—this could be because you are interested in what you heard, or because you didn’t get it at all and want to have a look yourself, or just because something in you goes, “Go there.”

We will then repeat the circle process one week later with the next three parts of the book, followed by another circle discussing your self-selected chapters.

If time allows, we will have one last Circle focusing on questions and discussion.

Our aim is to deeper and deeper in each spiral layer of our exploration.

***CRITERIA***

* A thorough and thoughtful approach to the work (this means taking time)
* Insight into the material (digging deep, actively using the D & C icons)
* Connections to Social Studies learning, connections between chapters, connections to listening and mindset, connections to Le Guin, connections to the Tao
* Asking rich questions
* Clarity of communication
* Active notetaking (in whatever format works for you)
* Establishing personal relevance (why does it matter?)