GRADE 11: ENGLISH

ANALYZING STORIES BY THE FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT PEOPLE

**Purpose:** To develop students’ reading, writing, critical and creative thinking skills as they learn about First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures. Students will analyze legends and connect them to cultural elements.

**Estimated time:** Two 60-minute class periods

**Resources required:**
- Computer and internet
- Resources for research (e.g.: book, encyclopedias, etc.)

**Activity:**

1. Explain to students that in First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture, the oral tradition of storytelling is valued as a means to pass on accounts of history and spirituality, as well as lessons on morals, values and even life skills to future generations. Explain that these stories connect Aboriginal Peoples with their past and future.

2. Tell students that they will be doing an analysis of a story from First Nations, Métis or Inuit culture.

3. Explain that this activity will consist of two parts:
   - Story analysis
   - Cultural analysis making connections between the story and the culture

4. Provide students with the following links and allow them to choose their story:
   - First Nations - [www.ucalgary.ca/applied_history/tutor/firstnations/myths.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/applied_history/tutor/firstnations/myths.html)

5. Tell students that they must create a story analysis, organized in a graphic organizer. In this analysis, they must identify the following:
   - Literary elements used, such as: theme, characterization, setting, point of view, plot and timeline.
   - Literary devices used, such as: simile, symbolism, metaphors, imagery, paradox, irony and foreshadowing.
   - Conflict or problem in the story.
   - Moral of the story.

6. Once students have completed their story analysis, explain that they must now connect their story to the culture from which it came. Students must perform research and write an analysis in paragraph form, explaining how the story relates to the following:
   - Cultural symbols
   - Historical context
   - Lifestyle practices
   - Traditions
   - Values and beliefs

7. Completed graphic organizer and cultural analysis will be handed in.