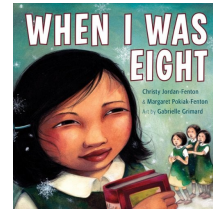


## WHEN I WAS 8

### POWERFUL RESPONSE EXAMPLE (EXTENDING QUALITY)

- Based on the revised success criteria/rubric



Cultural genocide, loss of land, deaths, residential schools. You may be wondering what all these words have in common? If you thought about the first nation's people of Canada and the atrocities that the Canadian government has put on them, then you are correct.

When I was 8 is a story that resonates with all Canadians and people around the world. It is about a girl who experienced horrible things at residential schools.

In my opinion, the big idea of the story is about teaching people about what happened in our country's checkered past so history never repeats itself.

In the story, Oleuman wanted so badly to attend the residential schools. For example, her sister had attended and come back for a visit. She saw her sister was able to read and she assumed it was a regular school, although her father knew better, he let her go to the residential school. An inference I made from the images and words in the story was that the father had experienced being a student in a residential school and knew what would happen to her from his first-hand experience.

One gift of words/phrases that had a profound impact on me when I was reading was, "...when my braids hit the floor...". It brought a tear to my eye because I made a connection using my background knowledge. I once read a story that explained the importance and meaning of hair in many cultures. I understand that hair can represent who a person is, the culture they represent, and is a big part of who they are.

One thing that changed what I thought about the story was when Trevor mentioned that he thought there were 2 big ideas in the story and that one was unrelated to First nation's culture and more about persevering and never giving up in challenging and difficult times. To illustrate this, he mentioned that when Oleuman was sent into the cellar, she stayed strong by repeating her name and trying to be. "As sharp as the Ulu that cuts...".

This picture book had a profound effect on me as a Canadian. It made me really understand and realize how horrible things were for the First Nation's people when the Canadian government created residential schools and forced children to be torn away from their families. Hopefully this story will help us learn from our mistakes so this will never happen again.