

Name

Date

Finding Your Own *Secret Path*: Storytelling and Self-Expression

Secret Path is a multimedia project that intends to share the life and experiences of Chanie Wenjack with a wide audience across Turtle Island and the world.

Secret Path tells this story using three different forms: an album of songs by Gord Downie, a graphic novel by Downie and Jeff Lemire, and an animated movie that brings the story to life.

In *The Truth About Stories*, Thomas King wrote “***The truth about stories is that that’s all we are.***” In this activity, you will choose a story that is important to who **you** are. You will then tell that story using three different forms of storytelling.

Instructions:

1. Do a personal brainstorming activity to think about a story that connects to an idea, emotion, or event that you have seen in the different forms of *Secret Path*. For example, you can choose a story about:
 - Looking for something that is lost
 - Coming home after being away
 - Being scared or alone
 - Finding peace

The story can come from your own life, from the life of someone you know, or it can be a creative work of fiction.

2. Choose **three** different forms of storytelling that you can use to share your story.

You can choose any combination of forms that can help you express yourself and your story, such as:

- Poetry
- Music
- Dance
- Film
- Painting
- Spoken word
- Photo collage
- Puppet show
- Stop-motion animation
- Short text

3. Using each form of storytelling that you chose, create a project that tells the story from your brainstorming activity. Each project should tell the same story - but like in *Secret Path*, each one can tell the story in a different way.

For example: you can create a film to show the events that happened in the story, and you can create a painting to show the feelings that the characters experienced.

4. Write an “Artist’s Explanation” for your collection of projects. Your Artist’s Explanation must summarize the story that you chose and answer the following questions:

- What is the purpose and intended audience for your projects?
- How does each project use its form to tell your story?
- What do you want your audience to learn about you?
- How does your story connect to Chanie Wenjack’s story in *Secret Path*?

5. Submit your projects to your teacher.

If your projects include a performance (eg. dance, puppet show), then you can film the performance and submit it as a video.

6. Your teacher will organize an exhibition for your class to share your projects with one another. Together, you will plan the best way to show your work and your Artist's Explanation.

Visitors from your school or community can also be invited to come look at the work that your class has done.

7. After the exhibition, write a final reflection piece that answers these questions:
 - What are three things that you did well?
 - What are three things that you can improve?
 - Which of your classmates' projects did you appreciate the most? Explain why?