

# Grade 6 English Language Arts

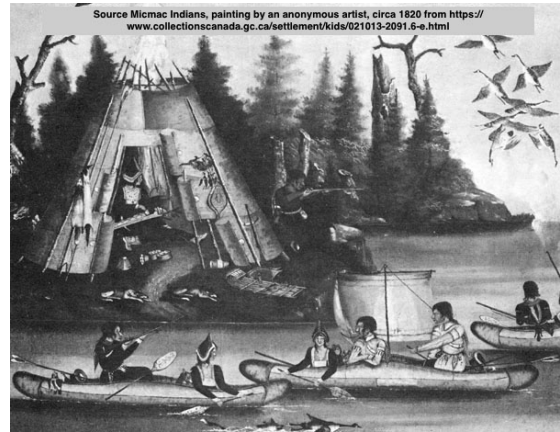
## Week of February 1 – February 5

### Lesson 1: The Wendigo

## Oral Traditions

Today, you will read two poems about a Wendigo (also spelled Windigo). What is a Wendigo?

Among First Peoples, culture has been transmitted over generations through oral traditions - storytelling, songs, dance, carvings, and masks. Often, symbols or characters are designed to teach lessons. Sometimes, stories are told to help people to behave. The Wendigo is from oral traditions for the Algonquin peoples in Canada.



## Before Reading

**Connect:** If possible, talk about the questions with your home facilitator:

- What stories do you know of that have been told to little kids to encourage them to behave?
- What "monster" or "spirit" fears do some little kids have? Did you think of the "bogeyman" or "the monster under the bed"?
- What is a Wendigo:

The Wendigo is an evil monster or spirit in some First Nation stories, known to appear as a monster with some characteristics of a human. Algonquin people who became overpowered with greed could turn into a Wendigo as punishment.

### **First reading:**

Try to get the "gist" of the poem. This poem has a great rhythm so it is fun to read! Here are some words to refer to that may be unfamiliar and hard to define using context clues. Read these words before reading the poem:

- indigo - dark blue
- lurked - remain hidden so as to wait in ambush for someone or something
- loll / lolling- sit, lie, or stand in a lazy, relaxed way.
- lollop - move in an ungainly way in a series of clumsy paces or bounds (like a bear going along an uneven pathway)

Read the poem:

### The Wendigo - By Ogden Nash

The Wendigo,  
The Wendigo!  
Its eyes are ice and indigo!  
Its blood is rank and yellowish!  
Its voice is hoarse and bellowish!  
Its tentacles are slithery,  
And scummy,  
Slimy,  
Leathery!  
Its lips are hungry blubbery,  
And smacky,  
Sucky,  
Rubbery!

The Wendigo,  
The Wendigo!  
I saw it just a friend ago!  
Last night it lurked in Canada;  
Tonight, on your veranada!  
As you are lolling hammockwise  
It contemplates you stomachwise.  
You loll,  
It contemplates,  
It lollops.  
The rest is merely gulps and gollops.

(Source: Nash, O. (1983). The Wendigo. In *The Random House Book of Poetry for Children* (p. 207). New York, NY: The Random House Book of Poetry for Children.)

## **Second Reading:**

Read it through a few times, trying to improve on:

- Expression and volume - Can you adjust your volume and tone of voice to show emotion and/or mood?
- Clarity and Enunciation - Can you speak (articulate) clearly, with good pronunciation so each word can be understood?
- Pace / Fluency – Can you speak smoothly and fluently, with few hesitations?

When you are feeling confident, read it aloud to your home facilitator. Talk together about what you did well and what you could improve upon.

Can you picture this creature? As you lay in your hammock it lollops (or ambushes) you! Not a happy ending!

In your Learning Guide, rewrite or add to some of the lines using similes and/or metaphors. Use your imagination; try to visualize what this creature MAY be like, and be creative!

## The Wendigo - Second Reading

Rewrite or add to some of the lines of *The Wendigo* using similes and/or metaphors. Use your imagination and be creative!

Examples:

Its eyes are ice and indigo like a determined husky pulling a sled uphill in a storm. (simile)

OR

Its eyes are pure ice and indigo evil threatening to consume the greedy ones. (metaphor)

## The Wendigo - By Ogden Nash

The Wendigo, The Wendigo! Its eyes are ice and indigo \*\*\*

Its blood is rank and yellowish \*\*\*!

Its voice is hoarse and bellowish! \*\*\*

Its tentacles are slithery \*\*\*

And scummy Slimy, Leathery \*\*\*!

Its lips are hungry blubbery \*\*\*,

And smacky, Sucky, Rubbery \*\*\*!

The Wendigo, The Wendigo! I saw it just a friend ago! Last night it lurked \*\*\* in Canada; Tonight, on your veranada! As you are lolling hammockwise It contemplates you stomachwise. You loll \*\*\*,

It contemplates \*\*\*,

It lollops \*\*\*.

The rest is merely gulps and gollops.

(Source: Nash, O. (1983). The Wendigo. In *The Random House Book of Poetry for Children* (p. 207). New York, NY: The Random House Book of Poetry for Children.)