Bringing Métis Children's Literature to Life—Who are the Métis?
(To be done after reading the three Fiddle Dancer books)

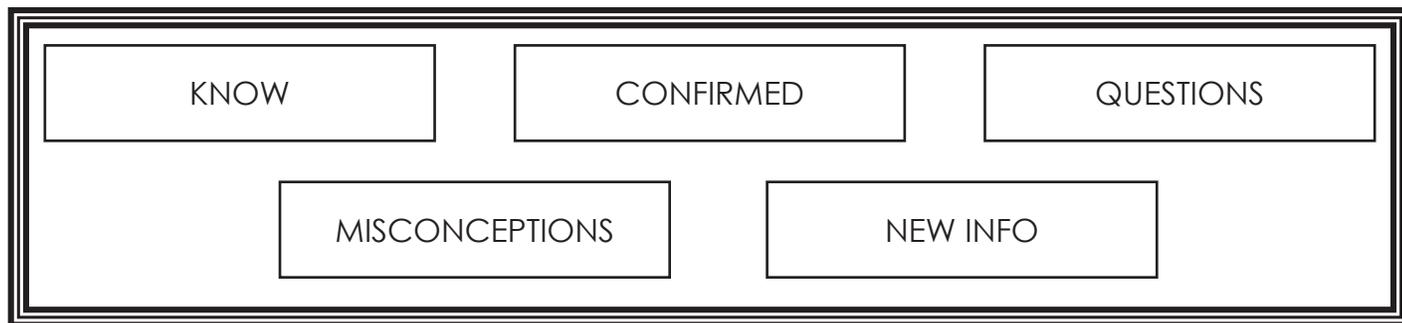**Project 1: Who Are the Métis? (Using the RAN process*)**
Part I: Using the RAN format (similar to KWL) begin with students (think/pair/share recording in words or pictures they'd use to describe the Métis based on their background knowledge. After a few minutes have each person pair up with another and combine their lists, retaining about five of their best ideas. Have each pair team up with another pair, combine their lists and choose eight of their best. Have them print their ideas, one per card, onto large sticky notes. Bring the whole class together. Start asking teams to share a couple ideas at a time and post them for all to see. Once all the cards are posted, you can sort them by theme. Once they are all sorted, title each theme.

Part II: Pass each pair or team a book on the topic. In this case pass out *The Flower Beadwork People*. Have each group skim and scan a different section of the text. Once again, create cards with new information learned from the text. While reading, the team can synthesize and code the text like this: a) something known and already on the cards, b) something new but didn't know (write on a new card) or a question of something they want to know more about or don't quite understand.

Part III: Gather everyone into large group and add the new cards. This time if it is something they read that confirms one of the ideas on the cards, relocate that card to /Confirmed/. If it is new information, place card /New info/ and if it is something that isn't true place in /misconception/ area. This will create a lot of discussion. Only place the card in a new area if it can be proven in the text.

Part IV: Create big questions from the information gleaned. Post the questions and then have "teams" go off and find more information about it. This is the beginning of a good inquiry unit. Projects can be developed from this, and individuals or groups can then go off and do more research or create artifacts.

Cards for the RAN activity:

KNOW	CONFIRMED	QUESTIONS
	MISCONCEPTIONS	NEW INFO	

*RAN process created by Tony Stead. *Reality Checks: Teaching Comprehension with Nonfiction*. Portland, ME: Stenhouse Publishers, 2006.

Project 2: Readers' Theatre

All three of the *Fiddle Dancer* books are conducive to Readers' Theatre. The purpose of Readers' Theatre is on interpreting the script, reading it expressively and improving fluency.

1. Give groups photocopies of the book along with highlighters (number of colours will vary on group size and characters in the book). Have students determine parts and then highlight the parts being read by each character and the narrator.
2. Readers' Theatre is a perfect forum for readers to practice fluency. Have students rehearse and perfect their expression.
3. Allow students to add minimal props, sound effects, and gestures that would enhance the performance of the reading.
4. Have students present the reading to an audience (classmates or others)

Project 3: Finger Weaving

(Sashes are usually made for someone else). After a brief lesson on the sash and its uses from the "Before Reading" section of *Call of the Fiddle* lesson plan, have the students create their own mini sash. The process of finger weaving is an age-old technique. It is not difficult for students in grade three and up to create small sashes on their own after some initial instruction.

1. Choose six strands—a combination of different coloured yarn.
2. Tie knot at top or wrap yarn around pencil.
3. Tape the knot or pencil to a table and lay out the yarn straight
4. Starting with the left outside yarn move to the right over and under each of the remaining five pieces of yarn. The first yarn piece will now be the last yarn piece.
5. Continue this procedure with each piece of yarn on the left side, passing it over and under to the right side.
6. When complete, tie a knot in the end, leaving a bit of a fringe.
7. Gift the mini sash to someone.

Links: Background information on the sash: *http://www.metismuseum.ca/resource.php/00741.*
How-To website on basic techniques: http://www.metismuseum.ca/fingerweaving/
Video of advanced techniques: *http://www.metismuseum.ca/browse/index.php?id=211.*