ONE GOOD BOOK AWAY FROM BECOMING A READER: FIRST NATIONS LITERATURE IN A NORTHERN CLASSROOM

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ABSTRACT

"One good book away from becoming a reader" chronicles my attempts, as a non-First Nations teacher, to invite my First Nations students to take on the school identity of reader. From 1987-1999, I taught high school English Language Arts in a small community in the Northwest Territories, and discovered that some students were able to venture into reading, through literature by writers of First Nations decent. In this paper, I draw from John Ogbu’s (1998; 2004) cultural-ecological theory of minority school performance, and summarize the novels with which I experienced most success.

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