### Orange Shirt Day



Based on Phyllis (Jack) Webstad's story

By Heather Androsoff



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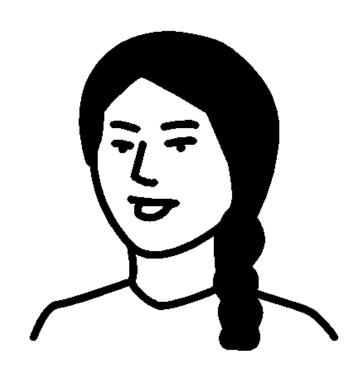
I would like to acknowledge and thank my colleague and friend, Marjean Brown (Nisga'a), who I consulted throughout the creation of this social story and who continues to support and encourage me on my learning journey.

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#### I was six years old.



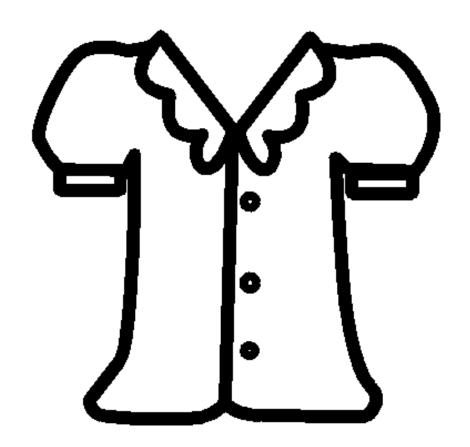
I lived with my grandmother on the Dog Creek Reserve with the other Secwpemc First Nations families.



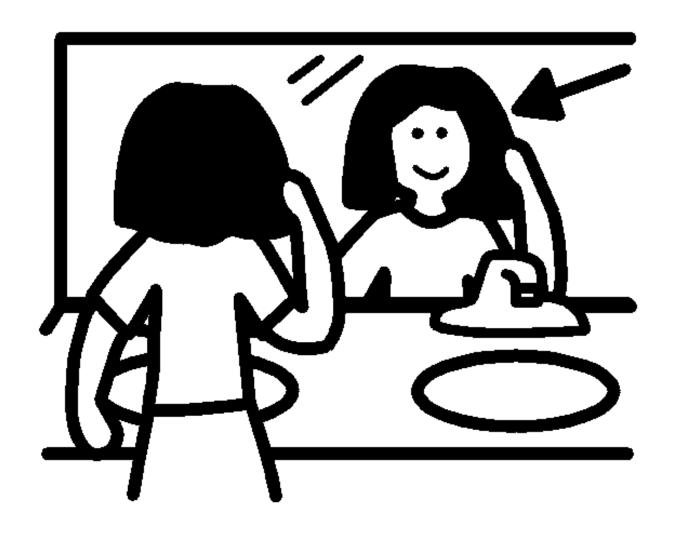
My grandmother took me shopping for my birthday to buy me some new school clothes.



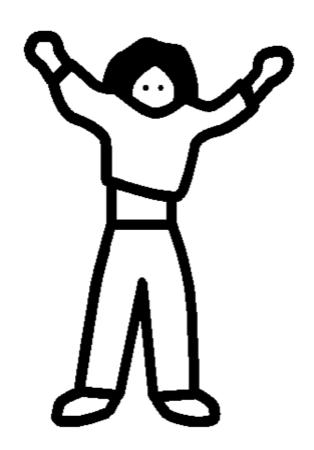
I picked out an orange shirt with a special laced collar.



## I knew I was going to look great on my first day of school!



When I got to school, the teachers made me take off all my clothes.



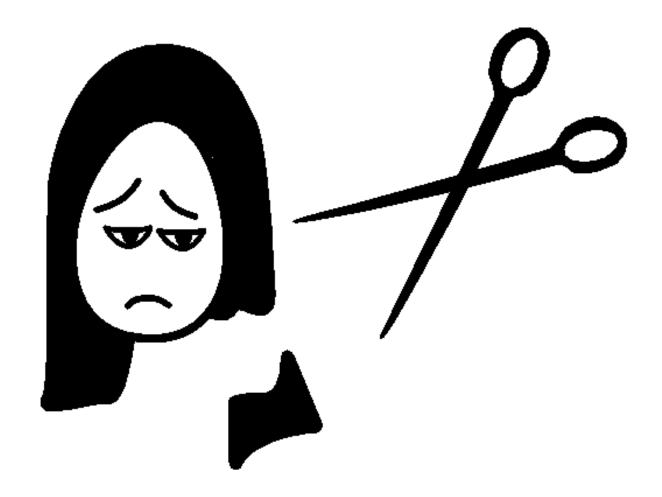
## They took my shiny orange shirt and I never saw it again.



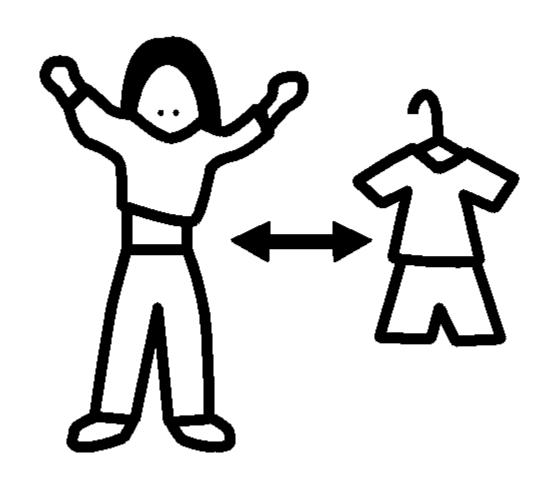
They washed me and washed me, even though I was already clean.



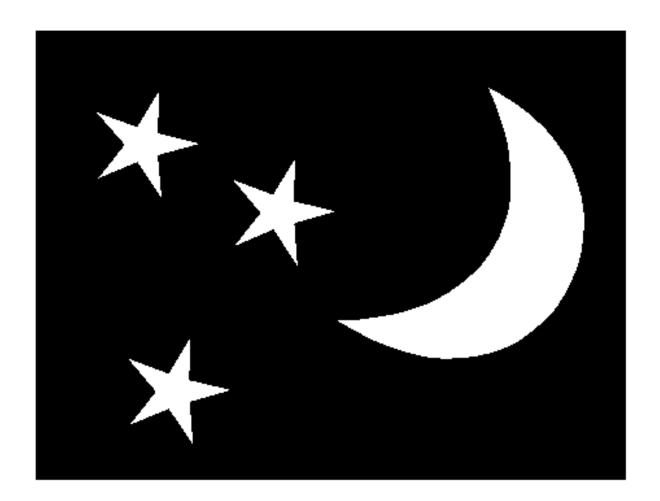
They cut my hair. I missed my long hair.



We had to wear a uniform so we all looked the same.



## I had to stay at school, even at night.



## I slept in a room with lots of other children.



















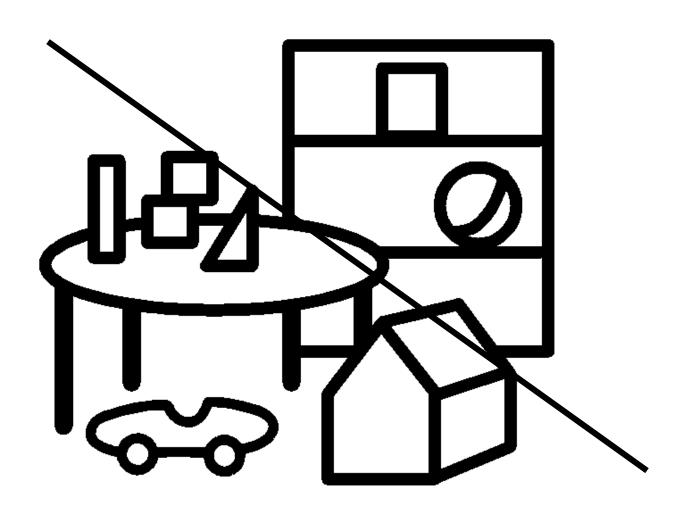
I wasn't allowed to speak my own language. I had to speak English or I would get in trouble.



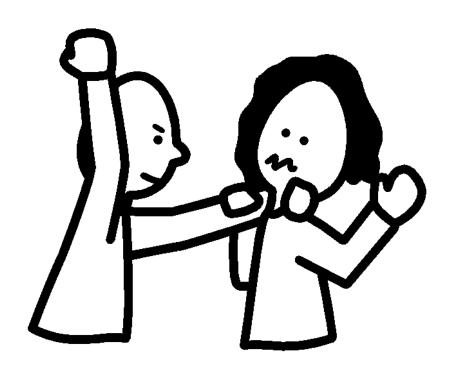
## We had to do chores every day for many hours.



### There was no playtime.



Sometimes if I made a mistake my teacher would hit me or embarrass me in front of the class.



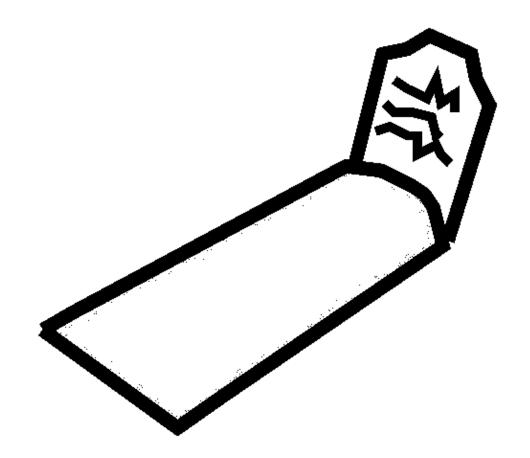
We didn't get much to eat.
I missed my favourite foods.



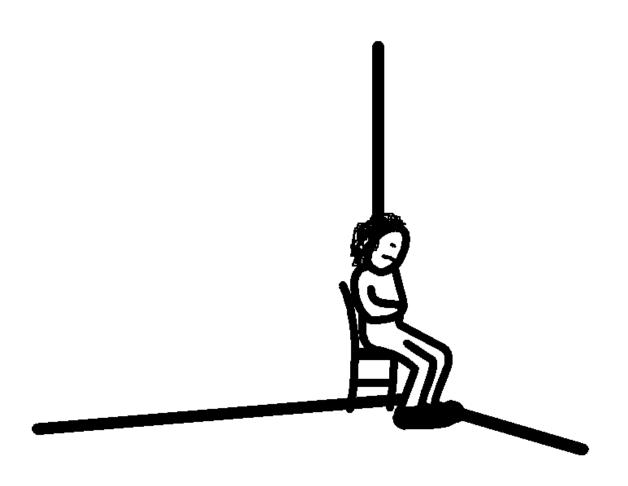
Many of my friends got sick because they were too hungry, too tired, or too sad.



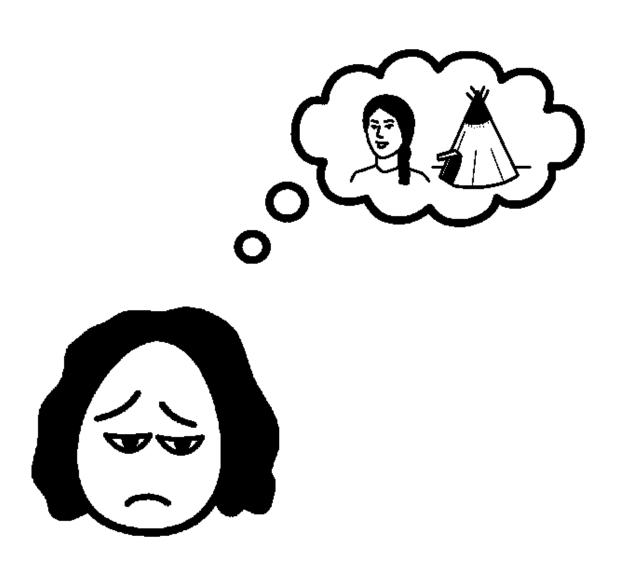
### Some of my friends died at school.



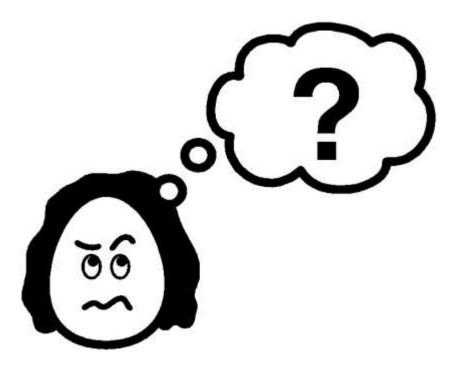
## My days at school were lonely and difficult.



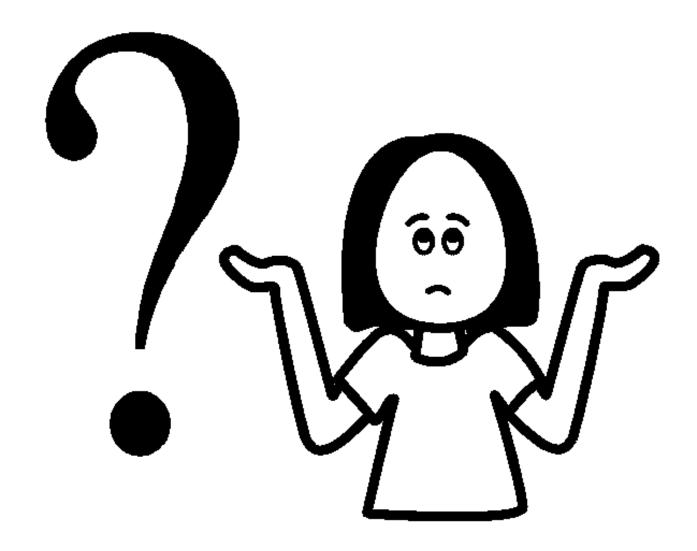
### I missed my friends and family.



When I was done school, I went back home but I couldn't remember how to speak my native language.



### I lost my identity.



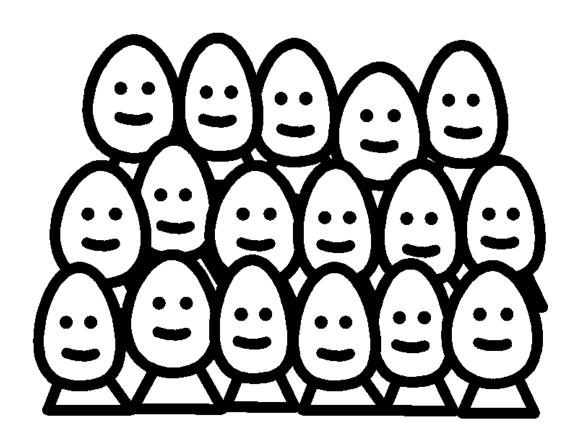
As an adult,
I sometimes
think about my
days at school.



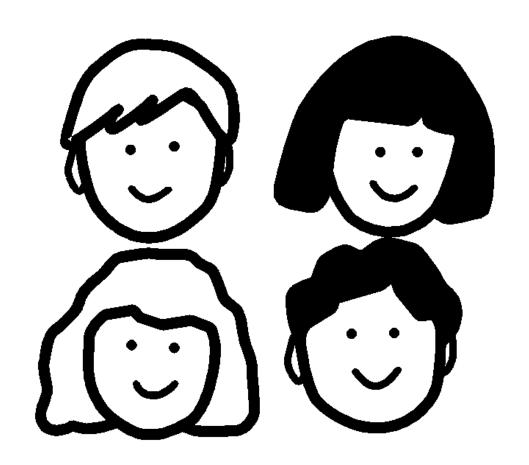
# I feel sad and hurt when I think back on my time at school.



I don't want any other children to feel like I did at school.



Every child should feel safe, special, and liked for who they are.



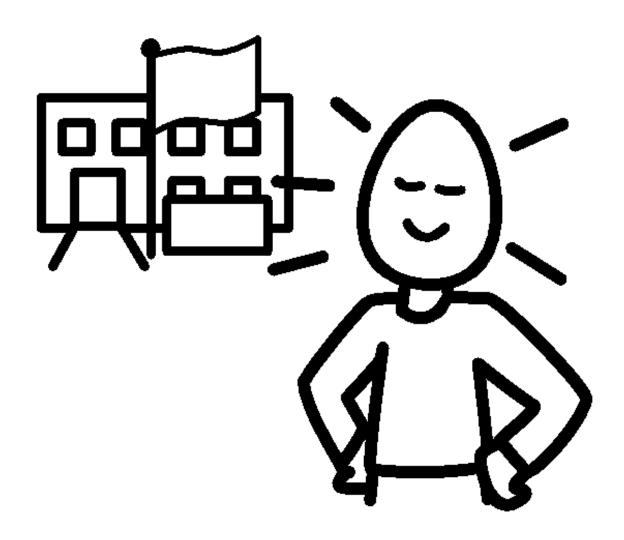
We wear orange on Orange Shirt Day to remember the children and families that were hurt by residential schools.



We wear orange to remind us of the things that make us each special.



### At school, <u>every</u> child matters!



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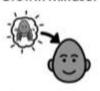
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