

# Teacher Reflections, Jim Settee: The Way Home, 2009 - 2019

## Three words describing the presentation:

Powerful, informative, inspiring, interesting, memorable, thoughtful, touching, spiritual, welcoming, thoughtful, deep, educational, masterful storyteller, respectful, engaging, thought provoking, excellent, connection, peaceful, inspiring, past, Elder, emotional, calming, hope, heritage, nature, serenity and connectedness, loving, mentorship, example of kindness, mindful

## Best or most helpful thing about the presentation for you or your class?

The Métis/First Nation content

They began to understand more about Métis life.

Info on the Métis culture. Importance of kindness. Information on an amazing man – unknown to them. Connecting to nature. Importance of understanding that everyone is different and unique.

Learning about Métis or First Nation culture. Sask history. A motivational story.

Learning about a specific elder and putting a face to the name.

The storytelling and emotion, the sharing.

The personal connection to curricular ‘ideas’ – an elder’s teachings as a symbol for younger generation. Connections to moral education – kindness, respect, empathy.

The story about the lost boy was very relevant to my class....their age...feelings they would have about being lost. Learning about finding your way in life....good discussion about life and who you want to be.

We had been studying Martin Luther King Jr. Prior to watching the movie. The students recognized that both were ministers. We talked about how they both protected people’s rights. It was a powerful discussion.

It was an excellent jump off point to discuss treaties and why we are all treaty people.

The phrases and quotes captures meaningful pieces of Indigenous teachings.

Thought provoking – it made me think of what is important in my life.

Video was engaging (great pics, use of sound, use of different voices, interviews,etc.)

Film, the matchbox! Highlights: How Jim Settee lived his life, an example to us all. The matchbox and ideas of what would go in each individual's matchbox.

I enjoyed the various quotes, from different spiritual leaders with the same message. The children enjoyed the personal touches, like the matchbox, and discussing what they would put inside it.

The emphasis on it being natural and normal to be unique and different in your own way.

I like the way you had the younger ones stretch like poplar trees, and eagles (the connection to Jim Settee and the First Nation and Metis people and to nature). Also the fact that we are all one big family of people, no matter how old, or what colour of skin you have. We all belong, and from one community. Also to appreciate the uniqueness of every individual.

It made them think of their "uniqueness". I like that they thought about this perhaps for the first time in their lives. They heard of a remarkable person and how he was a hero to so many. He wasn't a celebrity, but he had impact on so many lives.

### **Were the Metis themes apparent and effective?**

Very much so. Both the themes and ideas of the Metis and Cree cultures, and also the idea that all people are one community were very clear to me.

Yes, and interesting to hear about spiritual heritage, in that, you may not be related to Jim but you could be spiritually.

### **Can you comment on the impact for you and your students in general or your Metis and First Nation students in particular?**

As a Métis woman in education, it is so nice to have my student's knowledge and teachings reinforced. Everything I have been teaching has now been reinforced! So AWESOME! I loved listening to the teaching that she received from Mr. Settee.... his ways of knowing. This is what I have been trying to get my students to understand. - Christine Quennelle, teacher, St Gabriel School, Biggar

It was very important for students from Star City to see a worldview that is much different than theirs. I have been teaching my history 30 class that the connection to the land shapes our worldview and our cultural commodity. The video was spiritual and moving at the same time. I know that I felt reconnected to who I am as a Métis person. The message in the video is timeless and is for all peoples and cultures. "love your neighbor" means that we look at life through other people's eyes and appreciate others. - Darren LaRose, Principal, Star City School, North West School Division

## What are you taking home with you?

A powerful story about a very inspirational person.

Who am I to reject anyone else? Who benefits from exclusion? No one. Who is victimized by exclusion? Everyone.

Treating everyone as if they were special.

I think Jim Settee is a model to live by. Thanks for telling me about him.

Love each other unconditionally. (Heart) There are many paths....choose the one that takes you home. Everyone is unique and special in their own way. When you are quiet, you will find your way (home).

The importance to love unconditionally. Everyone is different and unique. Find the wise person inside yourself. Listen – take the time.

We should remember to ‘walk with our ancestors’. All are connected ‘wahkotowin’. We are all unique and special and should be treated as such. When someone is in our presence, we must let them know they are special to us. There will be people in our life (like Mr. Settee) who will teach us something important and that it is important to reflect on these teachings. The matchbox is a great project – a great way to story remembrances.

I am taking home the fact that one should be a bit more like Jim Settee....kind, respectful of all people and nature. We should all remember where we came from and hold those treasures in our matchbox close to our hearts and learn from them. We should open our match box when we feel a little lost or lonely, or need strength to help others.

The inner voice inside you should be your guide, and you need to be still and quiet to hear it.

The quiet is where the *wise* person is. – Jim Settee

I would like to live my life as Jim Settee. How he always found the positive in people and individuals’ uniqueness. How through much hardship he remained positive and an amazing role model.

Make everyone feel special. Put yourself in other’s shoes.

The ability to care. Try to engage every student by showing them I care.

Calmness – there is beauty in the world.

The idea of ‘home’. Thinking about what really makes you happy, and perhaps re-budgeting for more of that time.

A new idea regarding community, place, and the importance of kindness to all people.

The idea of making everyone feel special.

Remember to be kind, honest, loving with all people, animals, nature, or as Jim said, “Love Unconditionally.”

Really think about our individual uniqueness and what is truly important to us when we begin to stray.

“There are many roads, but I know the way home.” The quote stood out and gave meaning to the film for me.

All people are different, but we are still one community. Recognizing this and practicing unconditional love will help you find your path, literally and metaphorically.