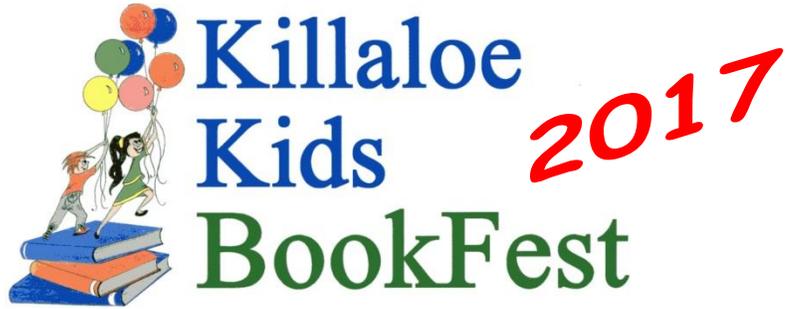


Melanie Florence
www.melanieflorence.com



Proud Cree and full-time writer living in Toronto. All of her books, whether fiction or non-fiction portray issues at the heart of Aboriginal communities.

***Missing Nimama* (2015)**

Told in alternating voices, *Missing Nimama* is a story of love, loss, and acceptance, showing the human side of a national tragedy – missing Aboriginal women. Illustrated by François Thisdale

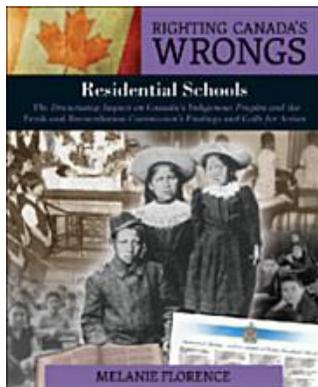
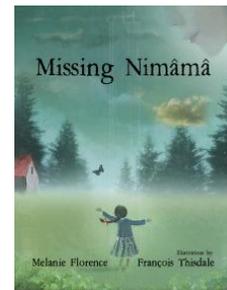
Finalist, 2016 TD Canadian Children’s Literature Award

An afterword by the author provides a simple, age-appropriate context to introduce young readers to a very sensitive topic.

Note: Of the cases where this information is known, the vast majority of women in NWAC’s database (88%) were mothers. NWAC estimates that more than 440 children have been impacted by the disappearance or murder of their mother.

Very little is known about what happens to these children following the loss of their mother. (*Fact Sheet Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls*, Native Women Association of Canada, 2010)

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls – Commissioners named in August 2016. www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1448633299414/1448633350146



***Righting Canada's Wrongs: Residential Schools* (2015)**

This book documents this subject in a format that will give all young people access to this painful part of Canadian history. Between 1880 and 1996, about 150,000 First Nations and Inuit children aged seven to fifteen years old were taken from their families, sometimes by force, and sent to 130 residential schools across Canada where they were made to abandon their culture. The Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, the largest class-action settlement in Canadian history included the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which, since 2009 has since worked to document this experience and work toward reconciliation and healing.

A brief history courtesy of CBC
www.cbc.ca/news/canada/a-history-of-residential-schools-in-canada-1.702280

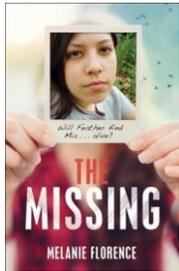
National Truth and Reconciliation Centre – For Educators; includes additional links to Exhibitions and Reports <http://nctr.ca/educators.php>

For middle school readers

Zero Future (January 2017)

This novel portrays elements of a serious issue.

Set in a situation of suicide contagion among young people in Aboriginal communities, this fictional story follows one teenager's determined efforts to help his friends and his community find solutions



The Missing (2016)

Using as its background the ongoing circumstance of unsolved cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women, this fictional thriller set in Winnipeg explores one teenager's response to a system that has long denied and misrepresented the problem. See *Missing Nimama*, above.

CCBC Best Books for Kids & Teens



One Night (2015)

Luna is a serious Aboriginal student who goes to a party with her sister, where she meets a Jon, a sophisticated good-looking young man who drugs then rapes her. Ridden with guilt and shame, Luna tells nobody of the incident, but when she discovers that she is pregnant, she must make very quick consequential decisions.

CCBC Best Books for Kids & Teens

Jordin Tootoo – The Highs and Lows in the Journey of the First Inuit to Play in the NHL (2010)

This biography portrays the struggles and accomplishments of the most recognized role model for young Aboriginal and Inuit people today, having overcome discrimination, culture shock, and social problems after leaving Rankin Inlet until playing in the NHL in 2003.

Winner, American Indian Youth Literature Award (2016)

