

Summative Assessment Stereotype Unit

Dear Librarian,

You have been asked to help evaluate the books in your school library. Please look very carefully at the book you have chosen. Decide if it contains stereotypes. Decide if this book is a good one to keep on the shelves. Be able to state why this is a good book or why it is not a good book.

Use the following check list to help you:

A. Look at the illustrations:

- a. Do they show all Native people looking alike?
- b. Are animals used to represent people?
- c. Do they show Native people threatening non-Native people?
- d. Do they show Native people in a variety of occupations?
- e. How are the non-Native people reacting toward the Native people?
Afraid? Friendly?
- f. Are the clothing styles, homes, tools, activities accurate for the specific tribe portrayed?
- g. If there is dancing or a ceremony, is it explained?

B. Look at the vocabulary:

- a. Does it suggest the Native people have ceased to exist?
- b. Is the time the story takes place clear?
- c. Does it include words like “papoose” “brave” “squaw” “savage”?
- d. Does it include words like “sneaking” “lurking” “uncivilized”?
- e. How is “massacre” or “battle” used?

C. Look at the story:

- a. Are Native people portrayed with dignity?
- b. Are Native people portrayed as communicating well verbally, not in grunts or poor English?
- c. Are Native people associated mostly with violence? Does the story perpetuate the imagery of Indians as being warlike, savagery or scalpers?
- d. Does it describe any conflicts and give reasons for it?
- e. How are the characters developed? Are Native American people less developed than non-Native people?
- f. Does it show that “playing Indian” is a way to learn more about Native people?
- g. Are Native women shown as having no important part in life?
- h. Does it confuse the past (traditional) and present (contemporary)?
- i. Are those who kill or hurt Native people portrayed as heroes?
- j. Does it make you think the European – explorers or settlers – had a right to North America when they arrived?
- k. Do they recognize that the Native people were already living here?
- l.

Are there any other comments about this book?

Should this book be used by your students? Why or why not?

(Can you think of ANY way it COULD be used by students or teachers??)