



The year I became a
Fisherman

Je'gopsn Metallic



Mi'gmaq Writer's Award

Back in 2008, the Chiefs and Councils of Gesgapegiag, Gespeg and Listuguj decided that there was an urgent need to uncover and reward talented Mi'gmaq writers within Gespe'gewa'gi. They noted that it is imperative for the survival of the Mi'gmaq as a people that we identify members who possess a special aptitude and a keen interest in pursuing writing as a hobby or as a career. We have been an oral story telling people for thousands of years, and a number of our ancestors were some of the greatest storytellers, keeping our culture and traditions alive. This tradition of story telling must continue; however, we must be mindful of the use of today's digital technology inherent in the written word and the benefits this can accrue to future generations of Mi'gmaq.

Prix d'auteur Mi'gmaq

Les chefs et les conseils de la nation Mi'gmaq de Listuguj, de la nation Micmac de Géspeg et des Micmacs de la bande de Gesgapegiag ont établi qu'il y a un besoin urgent de dénicher et de récompenser les auteurs Mi'gmaq talentueux. Il est impératif pour la survie des Mi'gmaq, en tant que peuple, qu'on puisse identifier les membres ayant une aptitude et un intérêt pour l'écriture, que ce soit pour le plaisir ou pour en faire carrière. La transmission orale a fait partie de notre culture depuis des millénaires. Plusieurs de nos ancêtres étaient d'excellents conteurs. Cette tradition doit continuer. Par contre, nous devons être conscients de l'usage de la technologie inhérente aux paroles écrites, et des avantages que cela procure aux générations à venir.



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We present to following selection for your reading enjoyment and hope that you become inspired to write with creative style and continue the Mi'gmaq tradition of storytelling.

Nous présentons les textes suivants en espérant que cela vous donne le goût de la création littéraire et le goût de continuer la tradition Mi'gmaq des contes.

The year I became a
Fisherman

This story is about a boy named Richard. He lives in a village called Listuguj and he loves fishing. Right now he is going to tell you the story of how he became a fisherman. He really started when he was around five but he only started going each day when he was nine because his father told him he was in training. If you were wondering he loves driving the boat.

So here's the story. It was just a normal day in June and when he got home his father was getting ready so he asked his father, "What are you doing?" and his father said, "I'm getting ready for fishing." Richard asked if he can go too and his father said, "Yes."

Richard didn't know it but this was going to be the day he became a fisherman. When they got to the docks his father put the boat in the water and they got in the boat. His father drove them but he asked if he can drive and his father said, "Sure." Richard put a little gas and it jolted forward so his father told him to start a little slower and Richard said, "I know." When they were driving his father explained where to drive and where not to go fast and all that kind of stuff. Then they set the nets and then left.

When they got home Richard was so happy that he drove the boat all by himself he called his friend John and his friend said, "Your family fishes?" Richard said, "Of course my dad fishes and grandpa, for long as I know." Eventually after finishing that subject and then talking about video games for

an hour his friend asked, "Can I come?" Richard said, "Why not." But when he told his father he said, "Fine since you already told him yes."

After when they went to check the nets at eleven, John got to sleep over so Richard was happy about that. They went to go put out the nets and when they were putting the nets in they dropped the bucket in the water. Richard was like, "I think I see it there no there no there." Then his friend was like, "I saw it sunk." Richard said, "Oh thanks that really helps." Sarcastically.

When they got home they went to bed. When Richard woke up his father told him that someone ended up finding the barrel and that they gave it back to his grandpa. Richard was really surprised that they found it so fast but he didn't say anything.

After a few weeks of fishing his father taught him how to gut the fish. After a while of fishing he was getting tired of waking up at six so he took a break for about a week but when he got off what he calls his break he was kind of happy to be fishing again because he really does like fishing.

But that's not the only thing he did at fishing for his first year. His father also had a friend called Ron and he made small movies of hunting and fishing so Ron asked Richard's dad if he can video it. So Richard's dad told him that the tide is good at ten and they would leave shore then check the nets.

Richard's dad got Richard to go with him so he can drive the boat. When they got there his father got him to get fire wood so he went to get the wood and Ron got the camera ready. Around nine thirty they got ready to leave and then a half an hour later they left.

When they were driving Richard found out that it was really hard to drive in the dark but he still liked driving the boat. So they set the nets and then they went back to shore. When they got back Ron left and it was only Richard and his dad so Richard's dad went to get some Gatorade and Richard had stay there and he was all freaked out and scared because it was dark and late so he was waiting for his dad to return and it felt like an hour but it was only about five minutes.

His grandpa also brought him fishing and his name was Thomas and he always told him that when you go fishing you should put tobacco in the water and then pray for the salmon.

Eventually his father got tired of using his dad's boat so he got his own boat and Richard really liked his dad's boat because it was a lot more clean then his grandpa's.

He really liked the time when he went fishing with his uncle and they caught maybe twenty two fish and Richard really likes gutting the fish for some reason.

Also when he was fishing his father had a university student for an intern and his name was Jack. Richard found it really

fun to hang out with him because one time they actually took clay off the anchor and they put the clay on a stone and then put it in the fire. When they took it out it was cool because it was hard like a real bowl, well like a four centimeters bowl that is two centimeters thick, but Richard really found it cool. Then Jack got a knife so Richard actually got show a someone who was older than him how to fish well gut the fish really but Richard still felt pride that he taught somebody how to fish and he found it also felt good to teach somebody something that his ancestor's did to survive. He also liked having Jack around because then he wasn't the only kid that was fishing with his dad.

But when you catch the fish you gut it and then put it in the back of the truck then when you get back you weigh them and then put the fish in a bag then you mark the weight then put it in the freezer and wait for somebody to buy it. Some of the things they do with the fish is give it to the pow wow, give it to their aunties, they give it to their uncles, they give it to the elders and they also use them when they have big suppers and parties they also give it to family. When you want to gut the fish you cut the gills off then you cut the fins then after you take the guts out there's a little bit of this black goo and you take a rock the scrap it out. But fishing is a really good skill to have because it helps us learn how our ancestors lived a long time ago and it helps us keep our culture, also you get enough food for a long time.

Since it was Richard's first year fishing he wasn't the best

driver because one time he was driving and Richard almost ran over a net so he had to turn off the boat and lift the motor. Also in the water there are piers in the water, which were used for transporting logs and Richard was driving and he hit one and there was a huge werrr and then he had to lift the motor up and after that he was always kind of nervous driving around that area especially in the dark.

From what I said fishing seems pretty easy but it's not, well not for Richard especially when they're putting their net in and he has to drive straight. But it is also hard to know where the shallow and deep water or to not drive in the channel before you put the nets and that type of stuff. But it doesn't mean Richard doesn't like it but it doesn't mean he finds it easy. To be honest Richard said it was hard.

Richard tried rod fishing, lobster, ice fishing and salmon and he said his favorite is salmon and said it also tastes good too. So, if you ever want to try fishing go salmon because it's fun, hard and it's a good adventure.

About Je'gopsn Metallic

Community: Listuguj First Nation,
Quebec

Parents: Amy Chamberlin and Fred
Metallic.

Siblings: Emma and Erika

Hobbies/Interests: Reading,
fishing salmon, partridge hunting
and also video games.



Inspiration for the article: It was interesting writing the story. I wrote about fishing because I find it fun to drive the boat and cut the fish. My grandpa and dad taught me to fish and I started fishing when I was about eight years old. More people should try fishing.

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