

Michael Lyons

Graphic Artist

1. Learning Objectives

Students learn about

- Art is created from personal history
- Art tells a story through pictures and words
- Art created with intention
- The characteristics of art
- Personal interpretation and reaction to visual art

2. Key Concepts

- Ojibwe culture influences (Anishinaabe)
- Individual view of art, artist and viewer
- Characteristics of visual art; color, line, shape, value, form, texture and space
- Principles of visual art; repetition, pattern, emphasis, contrast and balance
- Tools and techniques used to create graphic stories/ comics
- Process of creating his art

3. Teachers Quick Reference

Places

Bemidji, MN

Leech Lake Tribal College

Mixed Blood, a term used to describe people born to a white parent and an Indian parent

Boarding Schools: schools established by the federal government to educate and assimilate the American Indian

Michael Lyons creates comics and graphic books.

He has seven books for sale. Comic, children's books, and an Ojibwe coloring book.

Dog and Mi'lingan was completed with the help of an elder who helped teach Michael Ojibwe. This inspired Michael to write a children's book teaching animal names and counting to ten in Ojibwemowin. The seasons change as this is culturally significant.

Amix Blood is an allegory about being mixed blood, race. It is based on Michaels' family who were mixed blood and attended boarding school.

Michael keeps sketch books. These books include diaries and dialog with sketch's.

He begins with pencil then ink over it. He then scans the image, makes a print and colors it in. After another scan of the image, he adds the words.

Amix Blood dabbles in the concepts of dominate and subordinate culture concepts. It lays the ground work for art creating a safe place to discuss high emotional load concepts, assimilation constructs and boarding schools.

Little Cutie is a story about a teddy bear living on reservation with his person, Aubrey. He is faced with a challenged with having to let Aubrey go. Little Cutie is about learning about who you are. This book and Michaels art bring a sense of belonging and feel proud Ojibwe Children when he shares this story in schools.

Native Issues come up in his art by accident.

4. Content Review

- What type of art is this?
- What materials are used?
- What culture influence do you notice in Michael's art?
- Name three Ojibwe cultural references that are included in the stories and illustrations created by Michael Lyons.
- Explain the story this piece tells.
- What is the intention of his art?
- List seven characteristics of art that are included in Michael's books and comics.
- Explain the process Michael uses starting with the sketch book.
- Identify the tools and techniques used by Michael Lyons.
- What contributions from American Indian tribes and communities effect his art and stories?
- How does Michael use technology for the creation of his media art?

5. Discussion Questions

- What thoughts are taken into consideration when creating his books?
- How did Mother Nature welcome the sculpture?
- The media art created by Michael Lyons is influenced by his past. What history of his past is reflected?
- List the Characteristics and principles of visual art; color, line, shape, value, form, texture and space, repetition, pattern, emphasis, contrast and balance
- Create an analysis of his art based on the artists intention, cultural symbols, characteristics and principles.

6. References

Boarding Schools

http://www.mndigital.org/ed_assets/footintwoworlds/

[http://discovery.mnhs.org/MN150/index.php?title=Indian Boarding Schools](http://discovery.mnhs.org/MN150/index.php?title=Indian_Boarding_Schools)

Where the Spirit Lives

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Os5KqErc7XY>