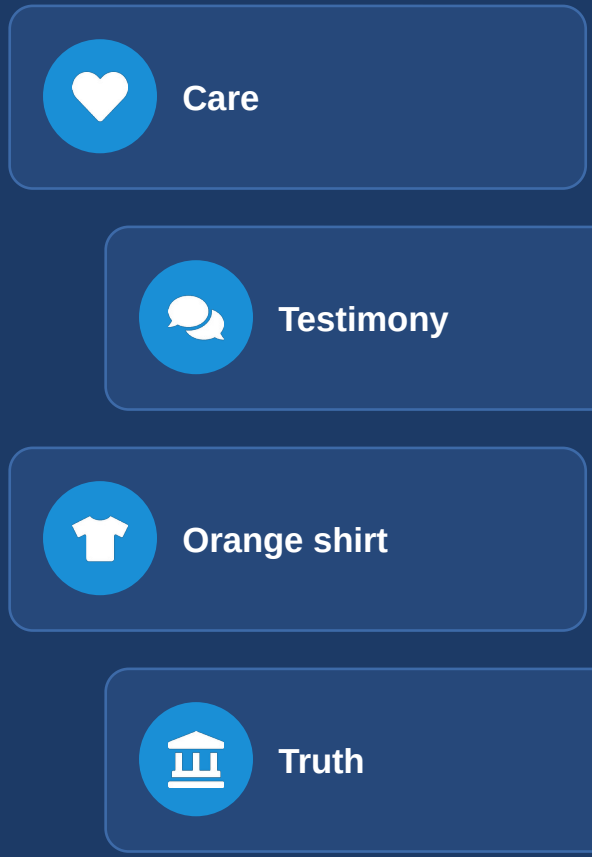
NBE3U Where We Stand, Lesson 10

The Truth We Carry

Residential schools and the texts that hold the truth



Today's goals

We are learning…

- The truth about residential schools.
- How to listen to testimony with purpose and respect.

I can…

- Describe the purpose and effects of residential schools.
- Name text forms that carry this truth.
- Set a respectful purpose for listening to testimony.
- Listen actively and respond with care.

Today's plan

Time	What we're doing	You will…
0–8 min	**Care**	Listen
8–22 min	**The history**	Note
22–35 min	**Texts that carry truth**	Sort
35–55 min	**Testimony**	Listen
55–75 min	**Reflect**	Write

Before we begin

This history is personal

For many families in Canada, it is not the past.

Take care of yourself

You may step out, pause or pass at any time.

Support is available

Hope for Wellness: 1-855-242-3310. Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868.

Listen to understand

Testimony is a gift. We don't judge or debate it.



Big idea

The truth about residential schools has been carried in many kinds of texts: survivors' testimony, a commission's report, poems, a child's orange shirt, a national day. Listening to those texts is part of how truth comes before reconciliation.

Residential schools



For more than a century, government- and church-run schools took First Nations, Métis and Inuit children from their families to separate them from their languages and cultures.

More than 150,000 children attended. Many faced neglect and abuse, and thousands died. The last federally run school closed in 1996.

Names and numbers

Children were often given English names, and in some schools were known by numbers. Many were punished for speaking their own languages.

Think back to Lesson 8: names carry identity. What does it mean to take a child's name?

Texts that carry the truth

Text	Form
Survivors' testimony to the TRC (2008–2015)	Oral testimony, recorded
The TRC's final report and 94 Calls to Action (2015)	Report
Poems and memoirs by survivors	Literature
The orange shirt (since 2013)	Symbol and story
September 30 (since 2021)	National day

Texts that carry truth

On page 1, in pairs:

1. For each text, name its form.
2. Who made it?
3. What truth does it carry?
4. Why do we need more than one kind?

Set your purpose

On page 2, before we listen:

1. Write your purpose: to understand what the speaker wants us to know.
2. Phones away; eyes up or eyes closed.
3. No notes while the speaker talks.
4. Silence afterward is part of listening.

Survivor testimony



Teacher-chosen testimony

For example, from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

nctr.ca

While you watch: Listen for what the speaker wants us to understand. Afterward, note words or ideas that stayed with you.

After listening



What do you think the speaker wanted listeners to understand?

Sentence starters

“The speaker wanted us to know…”

“A word that stayed with me was…”

“I'm still thinking about…”

How it works

- Sharing is optional.
- Silence is fine.

A poem by a survivor

Optional: your teacher may read a poem by a survivor, such as Rita Joe (Mi'kmaw) or Louise Bernice Halfe – Sky Dancer (Cree).

Halfe, a survivor of Blue Quills Residential School, was Canada's Parliamentary Poet Laureate for 2021–2022.

Listening reflection

On page 2:

1. Words or ideas that stayed with you.
2. What the speaker wanted us to understand.
3. What you will do with what you heard.
4. Write only what you're comfortable sharing.

Taking care



If today raised anything for you, talk to me, the school counsellor or a trusted adult.

Hope for Wellness: 1-855-242-3310 (24/7). Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868 or text 686868. Call or text 988. Residential School Crisis Line: 1-866-925-4419.

Exit ticket

1. One fact about residential schools you'll remember.

2. One text form that carries this truth.

3. What respectful listening looked like today.

Next class: Building the Brief.

Teacher reveal

The truth: key points

Purpose: Government- and church-run schools aimed to assimilate Indigenous children by separating them from their families, languages and cultures.

Scale: Over 150,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit children attended; the last federally run school closed in 1996.

Effects: Many children faced neglect and abuse, and thousands died; effects on families, languages and communities continue across generations.

Texts that carry truth: Testimony, the TRC's final report and 94 Calls to Action, survivors' poems and memoirs, the orange shirt, and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Listening to testimony: Listen to understand, not to judge; let silence happen; take care of yourself and others.