

Be Creative! Handout

Does that single physical action you've identified remind you of a memory of a moment from your own life? Perhaps it was something from your family's history, or something you once heard about, read, or witnessed as a bystander. In collaboration with your partner(s) your task is to create a short poem, a brief story, a single performed image, a few lyrics of a song, or a simple movement, that incorporates **that very same physical action** in the context of your own experience. Borrow the power of that physical action itself (and the reaction it prompted in you) as the central element in your new creative work. Resist the temptation to re-enact the events in the passage you read because these stories are not our stories to tell. Ground it in your own experience.

Take ten to fifteen minutes to develop and practice your piece. When everyone is ready, we will reconvene to share with each other what we've created. We'll take a few minutes after each group's turn to reflect on what the rest of us heard and saw, and then each group will be invited to tell the others their thoughts on the links between their new work and the story told in the passage they read. After everyone has offered their creative work, we'll hear our invited elders to share their thoughts.

This room is a Perfection-free Zone! Your presentation does not have to be a polished performance. This activity is intended as a laboratory experiment—a work in progress—to try out the idea of how we might experience empathy for the lived experience of Indigenous peoples through creative engagement with readings by these writers.