



Discover Who You Are: *Guiding Voices*



Shane Yellowbird

“Give back to others, regardless of how hard life has treated you or them.”

Who is Shane Yellowbird?

- Shane is a Cree-Canadian country music singer/ songwriter from Hobbema, Alberta.
- Shane’s parents participated in the rodeo circuit and Shane was roping and riding from a very early age.
- He did have a severe stuttering problem and a speech therapist suggested that he sing his sentences to help him speak clearly. This technique proved successful and it was so successful that he began entering and winning several singing contests.
- Shane has been able to overcome his speech disability and has become a highly respected singer.
- He was named the Aboriginal Entertainer of the Year at the Aboriginal People’s Choice Music Awards and Rising Star of the Year at the Canadian Country Music Awards.
- He was also nominated for a Juno Award for Country Recording of the Year, *Life Is Calling My Name*.
- “I’ve been really fortunate the past couple of years,” says Shane. “My fans have embraced me and my music in a way I never expected. When I think about what I’ve overcome to make it to where I am right now (referring to his speech impediment), it blows me away. I couldn’t have done it without the support of the people who are there, watching me on stage every night.”



What is he currently doing?

Currently, Shane:

- Follows the rodeo scene and continues to compose and perform for his fans.



Discover Who You Are: *Guiding Voices*



Teacher Notes - Shane Yellowbird

After viewing the video segment discuss the following:

Shane discovered that he had many passions in life, which included art, hockey, the rodeo and singing. What passions do you have in your life? How do your passions give clues about what your “life bliss” might look like?

Suggested Tasks:

The Golden Rule (Junior)

CGE A self-directed, responsible, life-long learner who demonstrates a confident and positive sense of self and respect for the dignity and welfare of others.

Oral Communication Expectation - Junior

2.2 Demonstrate an increasingly sophisticated understanding of appropriate speaking behaviour in a variety of situations, including paired sharing, dialogue and small and large group discussions.

2.4 Use appropriate words and phrases from the full range of their vocabulary including inclusive and non-discriminatory language.

Action: The teacher will mention that Shane Yellowbird was able to overcome a speech impediment to become a respected country singer. He is an inspiration to others who may be teased or excluded. Ask the students to share if they or someone they know was teased or treated differently. How did they feel? Make a list of the emotions. Introduce the students to the scripture reference, “Do to others what you would have them do to you.” Present the students with various scenarios and ask them to develop skits in small groups. Each scenario will show a peaceful solution.

Overcoming Obstacles Makes Us Stronger (Intermediate)

CGE A self-directed, responsible, life-long learner who demonstrates a confident and positive sense of self and respect for the dignity and welfare of others.

Oral Communication Expectation - Intermediate

2.3 Communicate orally in a clear, coherent manner, using structure and style appropriate to both topic and the intended audience.

Writing Expectation - Intermediate

2.5 Identify their point of view and other possible points of view, evaluate other points of view and find ways to acknowledge other points of view if appropriate.

Action: Before viewing the video clip, present the students with some classic optical illusions (the vase or two faces). Discuss what they see and why people may see different things. What influences us? People or things are not always what they seem. Students watch the video segment. Shane was able to take what is normally considered a disability and change it, not only into an ability, but also a way of helping people and giving back. Students think about an obstacle in their lives that they have had to overcome and write a journal entry describing how it helped them grow and made them stronger.