

I am Not a Number

[Link to Teaching Books](#)

I am Not a Number

Author

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Illustrator

Gillian Newland

Year

2016

Genre

Biography

Suggested Grade Level

3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th

Cultural Experience

American Indian

"I am not a number. I am Irene Couchie, daughter of Ernest and Mary Ann Couchie. I will never forget who I am."

Content Area Connections:

Language Arts: Determine central message and key details in a biographical narrative, explain how dialogue and illustrations develop character and events, analyze how perspective shapes the story, and write reflective or explanatory responses using evidence.

Social Studies: Residential schools, Indigenous histories, the impact of colonization on language and culture, family

Social Emotional Learning (SEL): Social awareness (empathy, recognizing injustice), identity and cultural pride, resilience, courage, perspective-taking

Art: Analyze how color, facial expression, and composition convey mood and emotion; interpret visual symbolism related to identity and belonging.

Primary Source Connection:

- [Interactive map showing locations of residential schools. Provides information on each school.](#)
- [Library of Congress primary source set on Residential Schools.](#)
- [Digital Public Library of America primary source set on residential schools.](#)

Other Books:

- [My Powerful Hair](#) (PK-2)
- [Stolen Words](#) (1-4)
- [All Around Us](#) (PK-2)