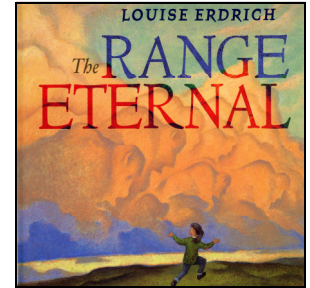




Minnesota Storytime
Reading Guide

Title: *The Range Eternal*
Author: Louise Erdrich
Illustrator: Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher
Publisher and Copyright Date: Hyperion Books for Children, 2002



Connection to Minnesota: Minnesota author, Minnesota illustrators

Summary: This is the story of a little girl growing up on the Turtle Mountain Ojibwe Reservation in North Dakota, and the warmth and comfort she finds in the Range Eternal, the family's woodstove. She imagines that it protects her against the Windigo or ice monster which she believes lives outside. After new conveniences come to the mountains, the stove is taken away. As an adult, she buys an old Range Eternal for her city home so that she can feel the "center of true warmth" and find comfort in her childhood memories.

Suggested ages: 4-6, 7-10, all ages

Tips for Reading:

- Review and practice reading this book aloud (as with all read alouds for children).
- Read the book as if you were telling your own story, as the story is written in the first person, starting as a child up to the present time as a parent.
- Show each picture and check for understanding, as the pictures in this book are integral for children to understand that the story is about a woodstove (range is not a common vocabulary word) and they may not make the connection with the Range of North Dakota. Children will like the happy, warm ending of this story though adults will be able to relate closer with the adult character in the story.

Questions before reading:

- Have you ever seen a woodburning stove? If so, please describe.
- What are some foods that your family cooks that smell really nice on the stove in your house?
- What keeps your house warm in the winter?

To Introduce this story say: We're going to read a book about how a woodburning stove with the name "The Range Eternal" provided a girl with warmth and comfort, and so much more.

**Questions
After Reading:**

- Describe what happens in the story in your own words.
- Why did the woodburning stove – the Range Eternal, mean so much to the girl?
- Is the Windigo (ice monster) real?
- Are you afraid of anything at night, like the girl in the story?
- Which scene in the book is your favorite? Why?
- What is your favorite memory from when you were younger?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Art:

- Draw a picture of Windigo, the ice monster.

Language:

- Learn about the Ojibwe language by visiting the web site of the Ojibwe Language Society of Minnesota at www.ojibwemowin.com.

**Suggestions for
English Language
Learners:**

- Preteach key vocabulary words like cold, winter, monster, woodstove, etc.
- Tell the story in your own words using the pictures as a guide.
- Have children supply words as you show the pictures.

Related Books:

- ***Bears Make Rock Soup: And Other Stories*** by Lise Erdrich, illustrated by Lisa Fifield (Children's Book Press, 2002)
- ***Roxaboxen*** by Alice McLerran, illustrated by Barbara Cooney (HarperCollins, 1991)

