

THE HOCKEY JERSEY

Teachers & Educators



Dina Kakish
Teacher

"*The Hockey Jersey* is an immensely valued staple in our elementary school classrooms. Growing up as the only daughter of an immigrant family, hockey meant something very different to me than it did to most of the boys in my classroom. During my childhood, hockey gave me the opportunity to be included in a sport that allowed me to be part of a team, where people worked towards a common goal, and it created an opportunity for me to have fun and be competitive.

Now, this book contributes to the inclusive space I strive to create as an educator. Being a passionate and devoted hockey fan, I love how Kareema's example makes hockey more relatable to female students. The art and literacy activities we facilitated in connection with *The Hockey Jersey* allowed us to incorporate important discussions and observations on Indigenous culture in Canada. The benefits this book brings to the classroom are unmeasurable. A book each teacher should have in their classroom library!"



Donna Indrakumaran
Contributor of *The Hockey Jersey Education Guide*

"With her book *The Hockey Jersey*, Jael Richardson acknowledges that children are brilliant and full of experience. Richardson tells the story of a child who is thinking about when she feels most like herself and when she belongs, which is while playing hockey with her team on the ice. *The Hockey Jersey* is a great book to encourage children to connect their own ideas and experiences. Educators can easily use this text with learners of all ages, asking big questions such as 'What does it mean to belong?' and listening to the responses students have to offer.

Jael Richardson's messages of belonging offer encouragement for children to find a place where they can be themselves while doing something they love. For Kareema in the story, that place is at the hockey rink with her teammates, and being cheered on by family and friends. Using various materials, and encouraging children to draw and talk about their thoughts, educators can invite children into the many possibilities for dialogue and conversation that will pop up from reading this book with them."



Christopher Gomes
Teacher

"The beautiful illustrations in *The Hockey Jersey* inspire me as a teacher to showcase the book to my multicultural classroom because representation matters! *The Hockey Jersey* teaches about the growing pains of trying to fit in and illustrates great values about life.

My passion for hockey bursts with joy while reading and sharing this with my students, as it emphasizes inclusion and diversity; something that really defines us as Canadians. I want to motivate next generations of Canadians to connect the experiences in the book with their own. What unites us most is feeling like we are part of something bigger, being on a team, and putting on a jersey that makes us feel like we belong!"



Kelsey Dang
Teacher

"*The Hockey Jersey* is a great read-aloud story for the classroom because it talks about diversity and building a community. Teachers can have great discussions with their students about trying new things and building confidence, and how everyone on a team or in the classroom can contribute positive qualities towards a shared goal in a safe environment."



Stephanie Lamb
Former Teacher

"*The Hockey Jersey* is a story for all readers, no matter their age. The bold illustrations by Chelsea Charles will draw readers in and the theme will resonate regardless of a reader's interest in hockey.

For Canadians, hockey is a familiar subject for this story, but the themes of inclusion and diversity apply to all sports. *The Hockey Jersey* is a necessary story to remind all readers that there is a place for them, as they are, in the sport they love. It's a book that readers need in their homes and schools to foster conversations about teamwork, inclusion, and fair play."

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