

Rationale

This Accident of Being Lost written by Leanne Betasamosake Simpson is a collection of poems, songs, and stories. The collection of readings has a variety of tones including anger, sadness, humor, love, and healing. The book is written for Anishinaabe peoples and has readings that relate to traditional practices and ceremonies, traditional stories, hurt, traumas and everyday situations experienced by Indigenous peoples in Canada. This book is a reclamation of culture and identity from a place of hurt, anger, and empowerment.

The images used for the three posters were photographed in Elk Island, outside of Edmonton, using a lens that divides and distorts the image. The photographed images are blurry, and broken into separate parts and are a reflection of being lost and disoriented. The photographs have muted/minimal colour and progressively get lighter throughout the three posters. It represents the stages of healing and supports the quotes used for each of the posters. The posters have nature as the subject as it is crucial for Indigenous peoples to be connected to the land to heal from the trauma experienced from colonization.

The typography on the poster is small and requires the viewer to come up close to the poster and interact with the images and text.

The three posters together symbolize reflection and the healing process. The first poster is a reflective quote. It expresses a numb feeling towards self-worth and feeling love. The quote is communicating that it is worth it to open up to love whether it is from someone or yourself and the reflection that the writer is loved, but has a hard time feeling it. It symbolizes the importance of worth and the beginning of healing.

The second poster represents the connection to the land and sacred plants. The poster reinforces the importance of Indigenous people to return to traditional/sacred practices that were taken away and not recognized after they were colonized. Sweet grass is a sacred plant associated with healing and spirituality. The poster is representing the importance of connecting to their culture and embracing their identity and healing with the use of sweet grass and traditional practices such as smudging.

The last poster is connecting all the posters. Recognizing individual worth, healing with traditional practices, and reinforcing the importance of healing because that is what their Ancestors would want. The use of traditional practices, connecting to the land and back to their cultural identity will help to heal from the pain experienced from colonization and intergenerational trauma. The photograph is blurry besides the circular portion in the center. It is representing bringing back clarity and not being lost anymore.