

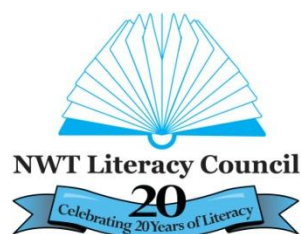
# Short Film Study

110



## Journey of the Healer

Developed by



## Overview

*Journey of the Healer* is a short film about a young woman, Rosa, whose grandmother is very ill. Her grandmother tells her a traditional story about the healers in her family. Her grandmother tells Rosa that she too has the gift of healing. It's a story about healing, hope and strength. The story was written and produced by Steven Keewatin Sanderson.

## About the Story

Fill in each blank with the correct answer from the list of words given.



1. Grannie has a \_\_\_\_\_ attack.
2. Rosa takes Grannie to the \_\_\_\_\_ Centre.
3. Grannie is very \_\_\_\_\_, she won't live long.
4. Grannie says, "I've lived a long \_\_\_\_\_ Rosa"
5. Grannie tells Rosa she has three gifts: patience, compassion and \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Grannie tells Rosa that her Grandfather was a \_\_\_\_\_ man.
7. There are many \_\_\_\_\_ in Rosa's family.
8. After Grannie tells Rosa the traditional story she tells Rosa that she too has the \_\_\_\_\_ of healing.
9. At the funeral Rosa is not \_\_\_\_\_ because she knew that Grannie had lived a long life.
10. Rosa decides to go to \_\_\_\_\_ school.

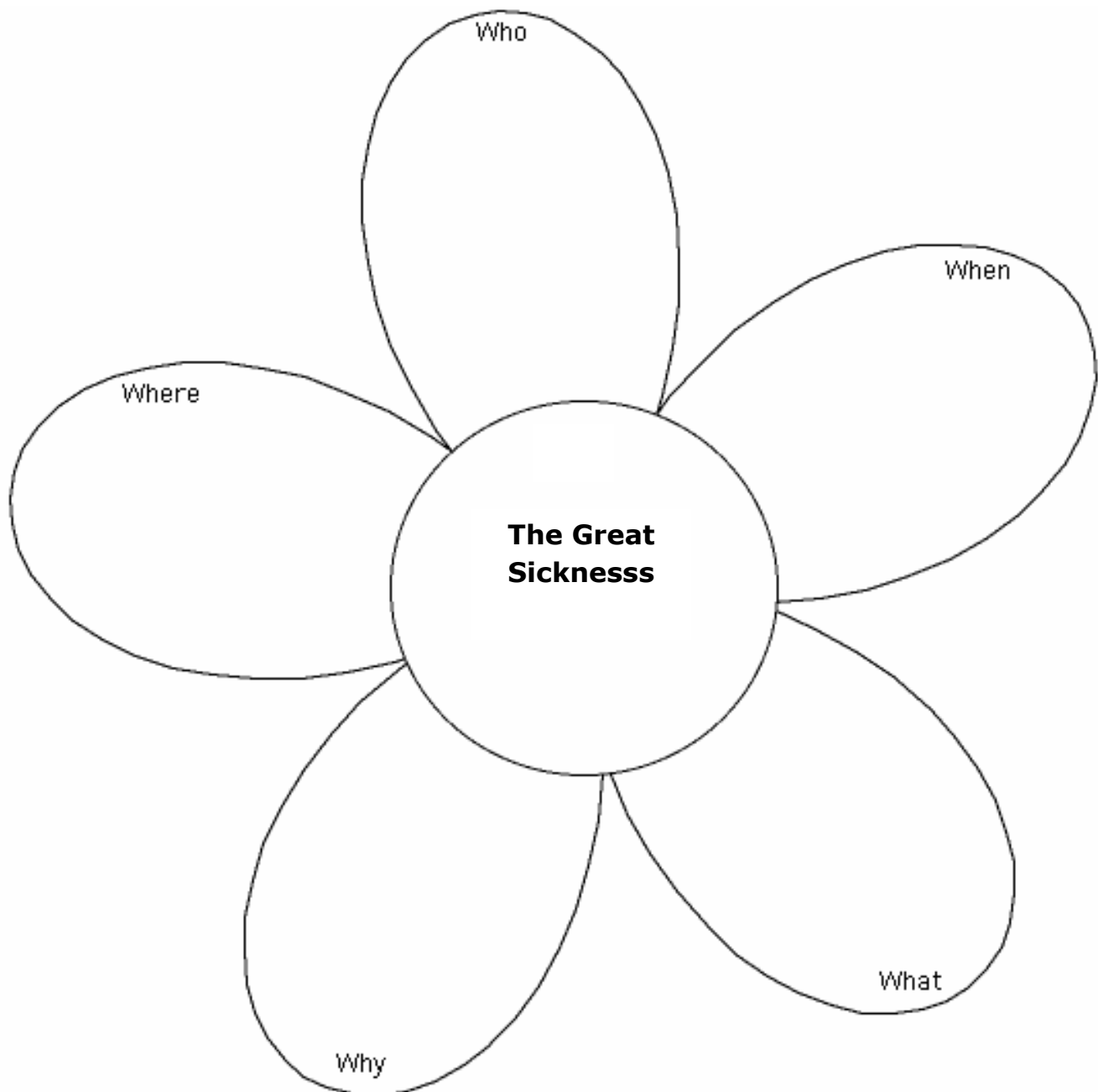
sad	medicine	Health	heart	strength
nursing	healers	life	fragile	gift



## About the Story

Grannie tells Rosa a traditional story about her family many years ago. Fill in the chart below about the traditional story "The Great Sickness." Answer these questions:

1. Who is the story about?
2. Where did the story take place?
3. When did the story take place?
4. What is this story about?
5. Why is this story important?





## About the Story

Here is a list of words from the story. Write the words in the correct list. The first one is done for you. Cross out the words as you go.

cave

strong

influenza

miserable

mucky

sad

fear

swamp

heart attack

T.B. (tuberculosis)

loneliness

Mackenzie Mountains

kind

happy

generous

health centre

brave

disgusted

### Feelings

### Descriptive Words

### Illnesses

### Places

cave



## About the Story

Put a number by each sentence to show the order of events in the story. You might have to watch the film again before you do this activity. The first one is done for you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Grannie tells Rosa the traditional story about the “Great Sickness.”

\_\_\_\_\_ Ori leaves to find medicine.

\_\_\_\_\_ The wolf carries Ori back to her people.

\_\_\_\_\_ The doctor tells Grannie that she had a heart attack.

\_\_\_\_\_ Ori meets the old woman and is given the first medicine.

\_\_\_\_\_ Rosa drops tobacco at her grandparents’ graves.

\_\_\_\_\_ Ori faces the monster in the swamp.

\_\_\_\_\_ Ori faces the final spirit.

\_\_\_\_\_ Rosa goes to Grannie’s funeral.

\_\_\_\_\_ Ori gives the medicine to her people.

\_\_\_\_\_ Rosa decides to go to nursing school.

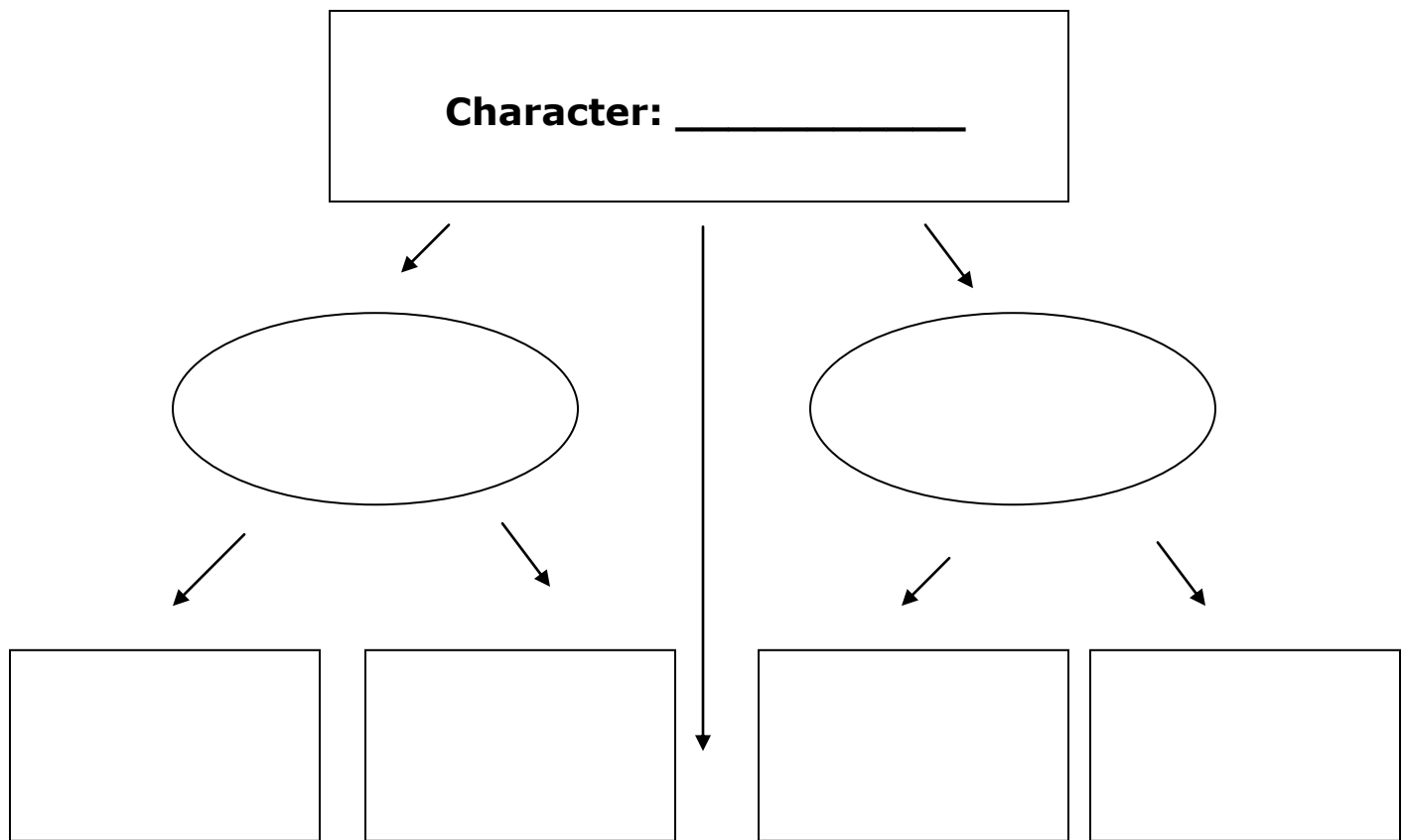
  1   Grannie wakes Rosa up in the night.

## About the Story



### Character Map

Develop a character map for both Rosa and Ori. Use the map below. Write one character trait in each oval. Write one supporting detail in each of the rectangles. You will need to draw your own character map on another piece of paper for the second one.



**Example of character trait:**

Ori is very **brave** on her journey to find medicine.

**Example of supporting detail:**

She shows no fear when she faces the monster in the swamp.



## Your Opinion

Tell us what you think. Answer each question in sentence form.

1. Rosa gives thanks in the cave even though she has had nothing to eat for three days and her community is dying. What do you have to give thanks for?

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2. Why do you think Grannie told Rosa this story?

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## Language Skills

### Sentence Structure

Sentences need to make sense when you read them. **For example:** Grannie is not. Is not what? Grannie is not well.

Write a ☒ beside the group of words that make a sentence.

1. \_\_\_\_ Grannie is sick.
2. \_\_\_\_ Grannie goes.
3. \_\_\_\_ Grannie sees the doctor.
4. \_\_\_\_ The doctor is.
5. \_\_\_\_ Rosa helps her Grannie.
6. \_\_\_\_ Grannie has heart.
7. \_\_\_\_ Grannie tells Rosa a short.
8. \_\_\_\_ Rosa loves her Grannie.

Rewrite the groups of words that do not make sense into a sentence. Put a capital at the beginning and a period at the end.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_



### Reading for meaning

Fill in the blanks in the paragraph below with a word that makes sense. The first letter is given to help you.

It was up to his y\_\_\_\_\_ daughter, Ori, who wasn't affected by the sickness to leave and g\_\_\_\_\_ medicine. Ori was unsure of herself but she k\_\_\_\_\_ that she was the only one in the villiage strong and healthy enough to handle the task. Her f\_\_\_\_\_ told her it was going to be a difficult and d\_\_\_\_\_ journey. He told her she would have to t\_\_\_\_\_ far to find the medicine to s\_\_\_\_\_ her people and that she had to do it alone. The medicines were protected by t\_\_\_\_\_ powerful spirits that will only give to those who were worthy.

Fill in the blanks below with verbs. Verbs are action words. The first letter of the word is given for you.

I stood outside the room and w\_\_\_\_\_ Julie, one of the nurses, ease my Grannie into her bed with the warmth of her touch. I s\_\_\_\_\_ there and thought of all the times Grannie h\_\_\_\_\_ me when I was sad and t\_\_\_\_\_ me in to bed when I was tired. She s\_\_\_\_\_ to me when I was scared. I thought of it all and all I could do was c\_\_\_\_\_.

## Writing Activities



### Response Journal

Write a journal entry about the film "Journey of the Healer." Some questions to think about when you write your response journal are:

- How did the film make you feel?
- What did you like and dislike about the film?

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### Word Poems

Write a word poem. You can choose a word from the list below or choose your own word that is related to the film. Look at the example.

healers      medicine      story      sickness      journey

#### Example of Word Poem

**M**y culture lost  
**I**nstitution  
**S**cared  
**S**o lonely  
**I** feel  
**O**bliterate  
**N**ever again

#### Your Word Poem



## Writing Activities

**Choose one of the following to write about.**

1. Both Rosa and the heroine Ori go through a hard time. Write about a time that was hard for you. How did you handle the situation? What would you do differently?
2. Rosa loved her Grannie and spent a lot of time with her. Think about your grandparents. Write a story about one of your grandparents. It could be something you remember as a child or something they told you about.
3. Rosa's grandmother told her that she was gifted with patience, passion and strength. What are your gifts? Write about them and how you use them in your daily life.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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## About Aboriginal Health

Read the following statistics with your class about Aboriginal people's health and then answer the true or false questions below.

**The information below compares the Aboriginal population to the general Canadian population.<sup>1</sup>**

- Aboriginal people live on average seven years less.
- Aboriginal infants die two to four times more.
- The rate of diabetes for Aboriginal people is triple.
- AIDS/HIV deaths for Aboriginal people are double.
- For Aboriginal people alcohol related deaths range between four and nine times higher, and drug-induced deaths are two to four times higher.
- The rate of tuberculosis for Aboriginal people is 10 times higher.
- The rate of suicide for Aboriginal people is much higher.

1. Aboriginal people live longer than non-Aboriginal people?

True

False

2. You are more likely to get diabetes if you are Aboriginal.

True

False

3. You are more likely to get AIDS/HIV if you are non-Aboriginal.

True

False

4. You are more likely to die of alcohol related problems if you are Aboriginal.

True

False

5. You are more likely to commit suicide if you are non-Aboriginal.

True

False

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<sup>1</sup> <http://aboriginalhealth.vch.ca/facts.htm>



1. Why do you think Aboriginal people have poor health compared to the rest of the Canadian population?
2. Were you surprised to see an Aboriginal doctor in *Journey of the Healer*? Sadly, there are only about 200 Aboriginal doctors in Canada. There should be about 1500-2000 to represent the Aboriginal population. Why do you think there are not many Aboriginal doctors in Canada?
3. Often using the health care system can be very hard for people and especially for Elders whose first language is not English. Rosa's Grannie was lucky to have Rosa help her with her medicine and help her at the health centre. Look at the comic strip below and discuss it together as a class.
  - a. What does the comic strip tell us?
  - b. Have you ever had to help someone at the health centre? Explain.
  - c. Have you ever had trouble understanding the nurse or doctor? Explain.





## Extended Learning Activities

### Traditional Stories

The storyline in this short film is from a traditional story. Traditional stories are about ancestors, animals or the land. We tell them to:

- Teach important lessons.
- Pass stories on from generation to generation.
- Keep traditions alive.

Here are some ideas for exploring storytelling:

1. Ask an Elder to share some traditional stories with you. Write the stories down. Create a booklet with the stories and/or share them with others in your class or community.
2. Ask an Elder to come to your class to tell stories and teach traditional skills.
3. Organize a storytelling event for your community. Invite Elders to tell stories and invite all community members to attend.

### Pros and Cons to Traditional and Modern Day Medicine

The short film, *The Journey of the Healer*, looks at both traditional and modern day medicine. Think about the pros and cons to traditional medicine and the pros and cons to modern day medicine. Discuss with your class.

### One Minute Talks

Choose one of the topics below and talk for one minute about it. This is a free talking speech – so just get up and talk!

- Traditional stories
- Aboriginal health
- Things you are good at (your strengths)
- Your community
- Your grandparents



## Extended Learning Activities

### Nursing School

Rosa decides to go to Nursing School at Aurora College. Research the following:

- What do you need to get into the program?
- How do you apply?
- How long is the program?
- What do you need to complete the program?
- What can you do if you do not have the qualifications to get into the program?

### Evaluation of the Short Film *Journey of the Healer*

Give a short evaluation of the film *Journey of the Healer*

1. Did you enjoy this film?                      Yes                      No

2. Why or why not?

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3. What did you learn from this film?

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4. Would you recommend this short film to anyone?    Yes                      No

5. How would you rate this short film on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 as the lowest and 5 as the highest?

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

## Acknowledgements

The NWT Literacy Council is a not-for-profit organization with a mandate to support literacy development in all official languages of the Northwest Territories. You can download this resource from our website at [www.nwt.literacy.ca](http://www.nwt.literacy.ca)

For more information on this resource or any other resource please contact:



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