

# Common Elements in Mi'kmaq Literature

## Nature

- Lots of things in nature are personified (embodiment/representation/characterization)
- Nature is alive with a soul (spiritual connection)
- Important part of everyday living
- Often mysterious
- Nature heals emotional and physical pain
- Close connection between humans and nature
- Love of nature

## Emotions

- A range of emotions, but often sadness is dominant
- Sadness often combined with anger
- Reaffirmation of identity
- Confusion and uncertainty from the struggle to be part of two worlds
- Hope and pride in culture

## Past

- Looking to the past with a yearning to return to old ways
- Mourning the loss of old traditions
- Sadness that the close connections between humans and nature are broken
- Loss of harmony in nature

## Family

- Kinship and family ties are important, even to things in nature
- Lots of personification (e.g., the tree is my mother, the world is my brother)
- Extended families and kinship to fellow humans are frequent themes