

## **My Box of Letters**

(December 23, 1959)

I was only six when they forced me to take  
the box of beastly letters.

We were not friends from the start  
We resented each other.

They tripped over each other in crazy  
Senseless and ridiculous patterns.

They jumped around me defiantly  
Higgledy-piggledy and round.

They go me into trouble, these mischievous  
little rascals.

They hated me. They said it was because  
I didn't understand them.

This didn't work, they fought hard.  
There were 26 of them and I was only one.

With diligence and persistence  
I befriended them

I cajoled them, persuaded them for years  
To make them behave.

*Lee Maracle*  
*Coast Salish & Metis*  
*(9 Years Old)*