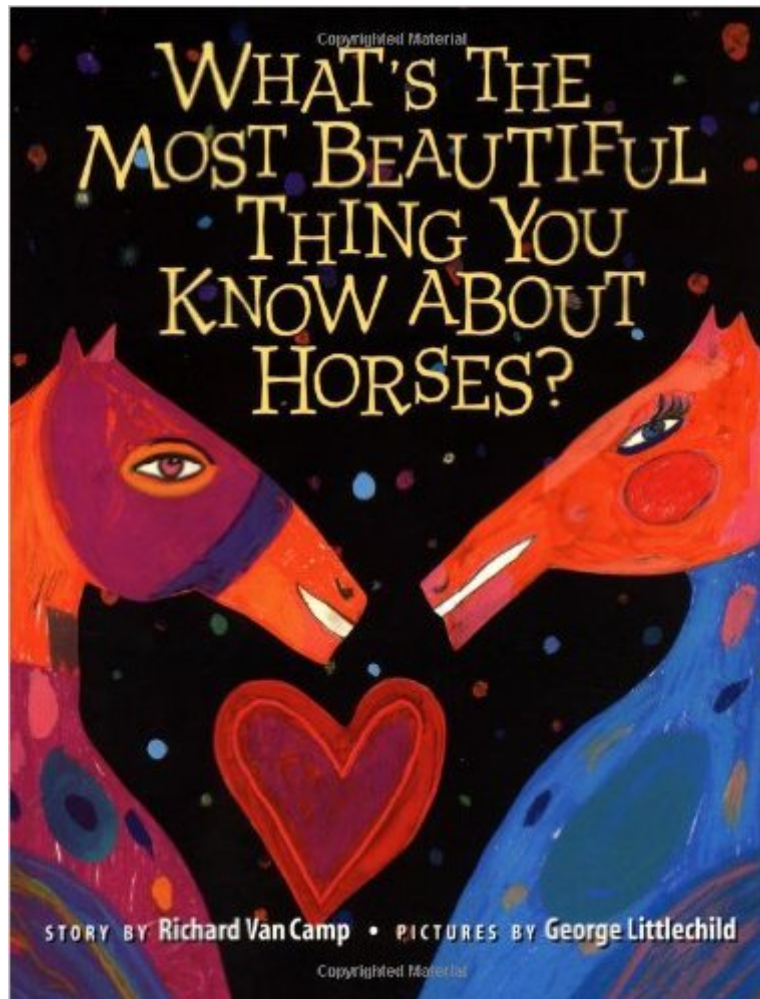


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# What's The Most Beautiful Thing You Know About Horses?



## Synopsis

"I'm a stranger to horses and horses are strangers to me," admits the author/narrator at the beginning of this delightful tale of discovery. Members of the Dogrib nation from Canada, Van Camp's people use dogs instead of horses. Yet Van Camp has always been curious about horses. So he sets off on a playful search for "the most beautiful thing about horses," talking to family, friends, and even artist George Littlechild, who is a Plains Cree and knows something about horses. The answers Van Camp gets range from zany to profound: Horses can run sideways. Horses have secrets. Horses can always find their way home. Littlechild's bold and fanciful paintings perfectly capture Van Camp's playful vision of the world.

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Children's Book Press; First Trade Paper Edition edition (March 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0892391855

ISBN-13: 978-0892391851

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.2 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #854,137 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #126 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Canada](#) #598 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans](#) #1202 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Horses](#)

Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

## Customer Reviews

It's forty below in the Northwest Territories of Canada - so cold the ravens won't fly & Richard can't go outside. He decides to ask his family & friends the question that became the title to this book. Their answers bring a whole other world into light. Brilliantly illustrated by George Littlechild from the Plains Cree Nation, this humorous quest of a youngster's mind during a long winter's day, brings out the silly & the insightful. Makes a lovely gift!

This book combines the gorgeous artwork of George Littlechild and the wonderful text by Richard

van Camp, both of partial Canadian First Nations heritage. Because the book asks many questions, your students can be asked to respond either orally or in writing, making this book perfect for interactive learning. It is also a wonderful addition to North American culture studies at any grade. The Cree word for horse is written one way (mista'tim) and given a non-corresponding pronunciation hint (mistaim). My source (Meet Cree by H. C. Wolfart) writes horse as: misatim. Not a big deal, but one wonders why this wasn't caught by the editor. Another extended writing assignment would be to change the title to a different animal and have the students ask people to respond in a similar fashion.

A young Dogrib Indian boy in Northwest Canada wonders about horses and then asks his family and townspeople the question in the title. Their answers come from the heart and are both simple and poetic. The boy asks readers at the end to think of how they would answer the question and then asks, "What's the most beautiful thing that you know about you?" A truly special book that makes you think, filled with bright, bold and lively art that captures the spirit of horses.

The text and the illustrations carry the lift of a balanced ride and approach the "true unity" that dances outside articulation, that invites us to go ahead, create meaning in the search for wonder, for the beautiful. I made a video that explores this: [...] and talked about it in my blog: [...] .

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