Name_____ Date _____

<p style="border:1px solid; border-radius:20px; display:inline-block; padding:4px 12px;">Master 12</p> *The Number Four (Newo)* Story

By Teri Foureyes-Awasis

One day, Mrs. Lee was going over the numbers from 1 to 10. When she said the number four, Tayla jumped up from her desk, waving her arms in the air. "Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Lee!" said Tayla. "Yes, Tayla," said Mrs. Lee. "I told my Mosom (grandfather) last night that we were learning how to count to 10. When I said the number four, he told me that four is a very important number in our Plains Cree culture," said Tayla. Mrs. Lee was very happy to hear this and asked Tayla to share what she had learned with the class. Tayla took a piece of paper from her pocket and gave it to Mrs. Lee to read aloud. Mrs. Lee read, "We are known as the Nehwiyaw people, meaning four bodies. In our culture, everything comes in fours and is often in a circular pattern. We call this the natural law. For example, we have four seasons (spring, summer, fall, and winter), four stages of life (child, youth, adult, and elder) and four directions (north, east, south, and west)." Mrs. Lee and all of the children in the class found the information very interesting. Mrs. Lee said, "Tayla, please thank your Mosom for sharing this with us!" Tayla smiled and said, "My Mosom also told me that our circle has four colours and the colours can represent many different things. We use the colours blue, green, yellow, and white to represent the four seasons. Blue is for spring, green is for summer, yellow is for fall, and white is for winter." Mrs. Lee was very pleased and said, "Your culture definitely has a special connection to newo!"