Is it really quality over quantity

Both books are about residential schools and people who have been to them but **which book explores the topic better.** The books *Indian Horse* by Richard Wagamese and *Sugar falls* by David Robertson explore the mental, physical, and sexual abuse of residential schools in detail. **On one hand *Indian Horse* explores more in-depth the negative impact it had on the main character and his future; Although, the visuals in *Sugar falls* helps the reader understand how evil the schools were Ultimately, both books show the hardship of the residential schools but *Indian Horse* shows the long lasting effects of the residential schools better.**

The book are similar in more than one way, they both talk about their hair getting cut and there skin being scrubbed when they arrive at the residential schools. The priests and nuns do this to clean the aboriginal children. Saul the main character in the book *Indian Horse* says “A pair of nuns scrubbed us… nearly raw” (*Wagamese*, 44). And in Sugar Falls there is a similar interaction when the main character stated, “She scrubbed violently and didn't stop until my skin was sore and red” (*Robertson*, 19). The quotes show how in that instance, the books were very alike and showed that this likely happens to every child who was in the residential schools. Interestingly in both sources the main character suffers from sexual abuse. In *Sugar Falls* there is only one instance where it occurs “On the nights he came to get us so he could… she would close her mind to it… numb her body so she couldn't feel it” (*Robertson*, 27). In *Indian Horse* later in the book Saul explains how it was reoccurring; he didn't say anything because the priest who was doing it was letting him play hockey and that was his escape from the schools.

The books try to accurately show the residential schools and make you feel what they felt; but in *Sugar falls* it can actually show you. The biggest difference between the books is the way they get there point across. In *Indian Horse* the have to use extremely descriptive language “The school itself was crumbling. Hollow. All of the windows were smashed" (*Wagamese*, 195). This is referring to the residential schools when Saul goes to visit the residential schools when he is grown up. Where if *Sugar falls* were to present the same or a similar scene they would just have to show a picture of it; that way you could actually see the school not just a few descriptive words. While reading *Sugar Falls* you can see the hatred in the nuns and priests faces, the fear in Betty’s (The main character) face, and the terrible way they treated the children. This is an experience that only a graphic novel can give compared to a classic novel format.

Although *Indian Horse* has some trouble describing the experience compared to *Sugar Falls* however it more deeply explores the after effects of the residential schools. The better part of the last half of the book is all about what he does after he gets out of the schools as to *Sugar Falls* where it describes what she did after being at the residential schools in 3 sentences on page 38. He starts to play hockey, he makes new friends, and he enjoys himself. On the other hand he experiences extreme racism and discrimination on top of the depression from the residential schools gave him. Sometimes he would be assaulted just because of the colour of his skin; people would play a game “…Broom-a-buck the redneck game of leaning out the window of a car or truck to swat Indians on the sidewalk or the road. Fifty points for a headshot. Twenty points for any other part of the body” (*Wagamese*, 99). Obviously *Indian Horse* can talk about things in length because it is a 222 page novel compared to *Sugar Falls* 40 Page graphic novel.

In conclusion, both books *Indian Horse* and *Sugar Falls* help the readers understand the residential schools but the format they each use is vastly different. Each book holds a separate experience for each read. To educate younger audiences *Sugar Falls* objectively does it better but overall *Indian Horse* explores a part of the suffering that the residential schools caused that The other book barely touched on. For this reason the obvious answer to the question which book explores the topic of residential schools better would be *Indian Horse* due to the excess of information and the lack of it in *sugar falls.* Even if *sugar falls* has the illustration and is easier to digest the pros of *Indian Horse* out weigh the cons.