RECOMMENDED BOOKS ABOUT AMERICAN INDIANS

Teachers, Media Specialists and those in charge of school book purchases: it is crucial when teaching about the First People in the Americas that you use accurate, non-stereotypical texts, both non-fiction and fiction. We want all students, Native and non-Native, to be given the gift of accurate material. We particularly want to show non-Native teachers and students that there is a thriving, contemporary 'Indian Country' all around them, although non-Natives may not be aware of it. And we want our Native children to see themselves in texts in a way that reflects what they know to be true about themselves and their people - without stereotypes of the monolithic and historic Indian. These books are appropriate for media centers, classrooms and for book rooms/guided reading.

Parents and Students: We want Native families to be proud of who they are and to have that reflected in the texts that are read in school. We want all students to have access to the books below in order to show a balanced, accurate, non-stereotyped view of American Indians. So much of what we see on tv and in the movies, as well as what we read in most books about American Indians, sadly, does not give us an accurate representation of America's vast, diverse and contemporary Indian culture.

There are many wonderful books about American Indians, most, notably, written by Native authors. If you would like to learn for yourself how to tell the difference between a text that presents stereotypical views of American Indians and texts that depict Indians in an authentic and accurate light, please see the Revised Criteria for How to Tell the Difference. Through the books below, we welcome you to our world.

-- North Carolina State Advisory Council on Indian Education 5/3/16

TOP Recommended American Indian Books*

*This list adapted from American Indians in Children’s Literature

Comics and Graphic Novels:

- The Blue Raven written by Richard Van Camp, illustrated by Steven Keewatin Sanderson, published by Pearson.
- We Speak in Secret written and illustrated by Roy Boney, published by INC Comics
• *Annumpa Luma--Code Talkers* written and illustrated by Arigon Starr, published by INC Comics
• *Captain Paiute: Indigenous Defender of the Southwest* by Theo Tso

**TOP Books for Elementary Schools:**

• Ajmera, Maye, Arlene Hirshfelder. *Children of Native America Today*
• Alexie, Sherman. *Thunder Boy, Jr.*
• Braine, Susan. *Drumbeat...Heartbeat: A Celebration of the Powwow*
• Bruchac, Joseph. *Jim Thorpe's Bright Path*
• Bruchac, Joseph. *Eagle Song*
• Bruchac, Margaret and Catherine Grace O'Neill. *1621, A New Look At Thanksgiving*
• Campbell, Nicola. *Shishteko*
• Campbell, Nicola. *Shinchi's Canoe*
• Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. *Beaver Steals Fire: A Salish Coyote Story*
• Coulson, Art. *The Creator's Game: A Story of Baaga'adowe/Lacrosse*
• Cuthand, Beth. *The Little Duck Sikihpsis*
• Edwardson, Debby Dahl. *Whale Snow.*
• Erdrich, Louise. *The Birchbark House* (excellent 4th grade mentor text to replace the stereotypical Stone Fox suggested as a mentor text in Lucy Calkins' Units of Reading)
• Erdrich, Louise. *The Game of Silence* (sequel to Birchbark House)
• Erdrich, Louise. *Porcupine Year* (sequel to Birchbark House)
• Erdrich, Louise. *Chickadee* (sequel to Birchbark House)
• Flett, Julie. *We All Count: A Book of Cree Numbers*
• Flett, Julie. *Wild Berries*
• Francis, Lee DeCora. *Kunu's Basket: A Story from Indian Island*
• Harjo, Joy. *The Good Luck Cat*
• Kalluk, Celina. *Sweetest Kulu*
• Lacapa, Kathleen and Michael. *Less Than Half, More Than Whole*
• Loyie, Larry. *As Long As The Rivers Flow*
• Minnema, Cheryl. *Hungry Johnny*
• Messinger, Carla. *When the Shadbush Blooms*
• Montileaux, Donald F. Tasunka. *A Lakota Horse Legend*
• Nelson, S.D. *Buffalo Bird Girl, A Hidatsa Story*
• Ortiz, Simon J. *The Good Rainbow Road/Rawa 'kashtyaa'tsi hiyaani: A Native American Tale*
• Pelletier, Mia. *A Children’s Guide to Arctic Birds*
• Peters, Russell M. *Clambake: A Wampanoag Tradition*
• Robertson, Robbie. *Hiawatha and the Peacemaker*
• Robertson, Sebastian. *Rock & Roll Highway, The Robbie Robertson Story*
• Rodgers, Greg. *Chukfi Rabbit's Big Bad Bellyache: A Trickster Tale*
• Roesell, Monty. *Songs From the Loom: A Navajo Girl Learns to Weave* *(We Are Still Here Series)*
• Seale, Doris, Slapin, Beverly & Silverman, Carol. *Thanksgiving: A Native Perspective*
• Sockabasin, Allen J. *Thanks to the Animals*
• Smith, Cynthia Leitich. *Jingle Dancer*
• Smith, Cynthia Leitich. *Indian Shoes*
• Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk. *The Christmas Coat: Memories of My Sioux Childhood*
• Stroud, Virginia. *Doesn't Fall Off His Horse*
• Tingle, Tim. *Crossing Bok Chitto*
• Tingle, Tim. *Saltypie, A Choctaw Story from Darkness Into Light*
• Tingle, Tim. *When Turtle Grew Feathers*
• Waboos, Jan Bourdeau. *SkySisters*
• Wheeler, Bernelda. *Where Did You Get Your Moccasins?*

**TOP Books for Middle Schools:**
• 7th Generation, Native Voices Books, *Native Trailblazers Series*
• Bruchac, Joseph. *Hidden Roots.*
• Bruchac, Joseph. *Jim Thorpe’s Bright Path*
• Bruchac, Joseph, *Killer of Enemies*
• Carvell, Marlene. *Who Will Tell My Brother?*
• Dawl Edwardson, Debbky. *My Name is Not Easy*
• Dembicki, Matt (editor). *Trickster: Native American Tales: A Graphic Collection*
• Dorris, Michael. *Sees Behind Trees.*
• Erdrich, Louise. *The Birchbark House series*
• Flynn, K.V. *On the Move*
• Gansworth, Eric. *If I Ever Get Out Of Here*
• Garcia McCall, Guadalupe. *Under the Mesquite*
• Guest, Jacqueline. *Triple Threat*
• Jordan-Fenton, Christy and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton. *Fatty Legs: A True Story*
• Loyie, Larry. *As Long as the Rivers Flow: A Last Summer before Residential School*
• Marshall III, James, *In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse*
• McLaughlin, Timothy P. (editor). *Walking on Earth and Touching the Sky: Poetry and Prose by Lakota Youth at Red Cloud Indian School*
• Ortiz, Simon. *The People Shall Continue*
• Robertson, Sebastian. *Rock & Roll Highway, The Robbie Robertson Story*
• Robinson, Gary. *Son Who Returns*
• Sigafus, Kim and Ernst, Lyle. *Native Writers: Voices of Power*
• Smith, Cynthia Leitich. *Indian Shoes*
• Smith, Cynthia Leitich. *Rain Is Not My Indian Name*
• Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk. *High Elk’s Treasure*
• Starr, Arigon. *Super Indian: Volume One*
• Sterling, Shirley. *My Name is Seepeetza*
• Tingle, Tim. *How I Became A Ghost*
• Tingle, Tim. *No Name*

**TOP Books for High Schools:**
• 7th Generation, Native Voices Books, *Native Trailblazers Series*
• Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*
• Anderson, Laurie Halse. *The Impossible Knife of Memory*
• Bigelow, Bill (editor). *Rethinking Columbus, The Next 500 Years*
• Broker, Ignatia. *Night Flying Woman: An Ojibway Narrative*
• Bruchac, Joseph. *Killer of Enemies*
• Carlson, Lori Marie (ed.). *Moccasin Thunder: American Indian Stories for Today*
• Charleyboy, Lisa & Leatherdale, Mary Beth (editors), *Urban Tribes*
• Charleyboy, Lisa & Leatherdale, Mary Beth (editors), *Dreaming in Indian*
• Deloria, Ella C. *Waterlily*
• Erdrich, Louise. *The Round House*
• Halse Anderson, Laurie. *The Impossible Knife of Memory*
• Hogan, Linda. *Power*
• Gansworth, Eric. *If I Ever Get Out Of Here*
• Kenny, Maurice (ed.). *Stories for a Winter's Night: Fiction by Native American Writers*
• King, Thomas. *One Good Story, That One*
• Leitich Smith, Cynthia, *Feral Pride* series
• Robinson, Gary. *Little Brother of War*
• Ortiz, Simon J. *Men on the Moon: Collected Short Stories*
• Tapahonso, Luci. *Blue Horses Rush In: Poems and Stories*
• Taylor, Drew Hayden. *The Night Wanderer*
• Tingle, Tim. *Danny Blackgoat: Navajo Prisoner*
• Tingle, Tim. *House of Purple Cedar*
• Tingle, Tim. *How I Became A Ghost*
• Tohe, Laura. *Code Talker Stories*
• Van Camp, Richard, *Whistle*
• Wurth, Erika. *Crazy Horse’s Girlfriend*

***************

More wonderful books about American Indians are below. Notably, most books on this list have Native authors. If you would like to learn for yourself how to tell the difference between a text that presents stereotypical views of American Indians and texts that depict Indians in an authentic and accurate light, please see the Revised Criteria for How to Tell the Difference. For more good American Indian titles, please see: [http://oyate.org/index.php/shop-new](http://oyate.org/index.php/shop-new)
A Sampling of Recommended Children's and Young Adult Books about
American Indians from American Indians in Children's Literature

PIC – Picture book; RF – Realistic Fiction; HF – Historical Fiction; NF – Nonfiction; P – Poetry; TL – Traditional Literature; B – Biography; AB – Autobiography; E – Elem.; M – Middle School; YA – Young Adult


Campbell, Maria. (1973) *Halfbreed*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press (RF - M/YA)


Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, (2005), Lincoln: U of Nebraska Press. (PIC/TL – All ages)


Grace, Catherine O’Neill and Bruchac, Margaret. (2001). National Geographic Society. (NF – All ages)


Hubbard, Jim. (1994) *Shooting Back from the Reservation*. (Photo essay/NF – All ages)


Hucko, Bruce. (1996). *Where There Is No Name for Art: The Art of Tewa PuebloChildren*. Santa Fe, N.M.: School of American Research: Distributed by the University of Washington Press. (NF – All ages)


Littlechild, George. (1993) *This Land is My Land*. Children’s Book Press. (PIC/RF – All ages)


National Museum of the American Indian (2007) *Do All Indians Live in Tipis?* (NF/EL-YA)

Okanagan Tribal Council (1999) *How Food Was Given, How Names Were Given,* and *How Turtle Set the Animals Free.* Okanagan Tribal Council. (TL – All Ages)


Skolnick, Sharon. (1997) *Where Courage is Like a Wild Horse*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. (RF - YA)


