

National Indian Education Association Recommended K-12 Reading List

Books by Native Authors and/or with Native Main Characters



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The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) is pleased to present this list of books by Native authors and/or that feature a Native main character.

Please note that this list is not exhaustive and there many other fantastic authors and texts available but all books have been vetted by NIEA and support a culturally-competent curriculum.

If you would like to support NIEA's Book Fund which provides books to Native students around Indian Country, we have placed many of the books in this listing on an Amazon Wish List, categorized by grades. You can find links to those book below.

[Grades K through 4](#)

[Grades 5 through 8](#)

[Grades 9 and Up](#)

Thank you and happy reading!

— *Your Friends at NIEA*



Grades K Through 3

Antelope Woman: An Apache

Folktale by Michael Lacapa (1992)

Arrow to the Sun by Gerald McDermott (1974)

Many Nations: An Alphabet book by Joseph Bruchac (2004)

Baby Rattlesnake by Te Ata. Illustrated by Lynn Moroney (1991)

Beauty Beside Me: Stories of My Grandmother's Skirts by S. Yazzie (2011)

Birdsong by Julie Flett (2019)

A Boy Called Slow: The True Story of Sitting Bull by Joseph Bruchac (1994)

Cradle Songs of Southeast Alaska (book and CD) illustrated by Crystal Worl (2019)

Crazy Horse's Vision by Joseph Bruchac. Illustrated by S.D. Nelson (2000)

Crossing Bok Chitto by Tim Tingle (2008)

Cowboy Up: Ride the Navajo Rodeo by Nancy Bo Flood (2013)

The Boy Who Dreamed of an Acorn by Leigh Casler. Illustrated by Shonto Begay (1994)

Dreamcatcher by Audrey Osofsky (1992)

Dancing Teepees by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneave (1989)

Drumbeat? Heartbeat: A Celebration of the Powwow by Susan Braine (1995)

Dzání Yázi Naazbaa': Little Woman Warrior Who Came Home by Evangeline Parsons Yazzie (2005)

Earth Daughter: Alicia of Acoma Pueblo by George Ancona (1995)

Enduring Wisdom by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneave. Illustrated by Synthia St. James. (2003)

Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story by Kevin Noble Maillard (2019)

Full Moon Stories by Eagle Walking Turtle (1997)

The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses by Paul Goble (1978)

Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message by Jake Swamp and Erwin Printup (1995)

The Good Luck Cat by Joy Harjo. Illustrated by Paul Lee (2000)

Grandmother's Dreamcatcher by Becky Ray McCain (1998)

Grandmother's Pigeon by Louise Erdrich (1996)

Ghost Dance by Alice McLerran (1995)



Grades K Through 3, cont.

How the Stars Fell into the Sky by Jerrie Oughton (2018)

The Hogan that Great-Grandfather Bilt by Nancy Bo Flood (2012)

In my Mother's House by Ann Nolan Clark (1991)

Jingle Dancer by Cynthia Leitich Smith. Illustrated by Cornelius Wright (2000)

Johnny's Pheasant by Cheryl Minnema (2019)

Knots on a Counting Rope by John Archambault. Illustrated by Ted Rand (1997)

The Legend of the White Buffalo Woman written and illustrated by Paul Goble (1998)

Less Than Half, More Than Whole by Kathleen LaCapa. Illustrated by Michael LaCapa (1994)

Little Boy with Three Names: Stories of the Taos Pueblo by Ann Nolan Clark (1999)

The Magic Hummingbird translated by Ekkehart Malotki, narrated by Michael Lomatuway'Ma. Illustrated by Michael Lacapa (1996)

The Magic of Spider Woman by Lois Duncan (2014)

Mama, Do You Love Me? by Barbara M. Joose. Illustrated by Barbara LaVallee. Chronicle Books (1998)

A Man Called Raven by Richard Van Camp. Illustrated by George Littlechild (1997)

Many Nations: An Alphabet of Native America by Joseph Bruchac. Illustrated by Robert F. Goetzi (1996)

My Arctic 1,2,3 by Michael Kusagak. Illustrated by Vladyana Krykorka (1996)

Native American Stories by Joseph Bruchac (1991)

Pig Boy: A Trickster Tale from Hawai'i by Gerald McDermott (2009)

Powwow by George Ancona (1993)

The Rough Face Girl by Rafe Martin & David Shannon (1992)

The Return of the Buffaloes: A Plains Indian Story about Famine and Renewal of the Earth written and illustrated by Paul Goble (1996)

Saltypie: A Choctaw Journey from Darkness into Light by Tim Tingle (2010)

Sing Down the Rain by Judi Moreillon. Illustrated by Michael Chicago (1997).

This Land is My Land by George Littlechild. Children's Press (1993)

What's the Most Beautiful Thing You Know About Horses? by Richard Van Camp. Illustrated by George Littlechild. Children's Book Press (1998).

When the Rain Sings by the National Museum of the American Indian (1999)

Zinnia: How the Corn was Saved by Patricia Hruby Powell (2004)



Grades 4 Through 5

The Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich. Harper (1999)

Buffalo Bird Girl: A Hidatsa Story by SD Nelson (2012)

Horse Raid: The Making of a Warrior by Paul Goble (2014)

How I Became a Ghost and **When a Ghost Talks, Listen** by Tim Tingle
(series 2015 & 2019)

I Can Make this Promise by Christine Day (2019)

In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse by Joseph Marshall (2015)

Indian No More by Charlene Willing McManis and Traci Sorell (2019)

My Heart is on the Ground: The Diary of Nannie Little Rose, a Sioux Girl
by Ann Rinaldi (1999)

Navajo Long Walk by Joseph Bruchac (2002)

The Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth Geroge Speare (1983)

Tallchief: America's Prima Ballerina by Maria Tallchief. Viking Press (1999).

Thanku: Poems of Gratitude edited by Miranda Paul

Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back by Joseph Bruchac & Jonathan London



Grades 6 Through 8

Arctic Memories by Normee Ekoomiak (1988)

Arrow Over the Door by Joseph Bruchac (1998)

Children of the Sun: Stories by and About Indian Kids by Beverly Hungry Wolf (1998)

Code Talkers by Joseph Bruchac (2006)

Did You Hear Wind Sing Your Name? An Oneida Song of Spring by Sandra DeCoteau (1995)

Dancing Teepees: Poems of American Indian Youth by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneave (1988)

Fatty Legs by Christy Jordan-Fenton, Margaret Pokiak-Fenton (2010)

Four Seasons of Corn: A Winnebago Tradition by Sally M. Hunter (1997)

House Made of Dawn by N Scott Momaday (2010)

House of Purple Cedar by Tim Tingle (2014)

Indian Shoes by Cynthia Leitich Smith (2002)

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People by Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz (2019)

The Man to Send Rain Clouds by Leslie Marmon Silko (short story)

The Mighty Muskrat Mystery Series by Michael Hutchinson

Navajo: Visions and Voices Across the Mesa by Shonto Begay. Illustrated by Shonto Begay (1995)

Northern Lights: The Soccer Trails by Michael Kusugak. Illustrated by Vladyana Krykorka (1993)

The Path of the Quiet Elk by Virginia Stroud (1999)

Pushing Up the Sky by Joseph Bruchac (2000)

Rain is Not My Indian Name by Cynthia Leitich Smith (2001)

Soldier Sister, Fly Home by Nancy Bo Flood (2016)

Soul Would Have No Rainbow If the Eyes Had No Tears and Other Native American Proverbs by Guy A. Zona (1994)

Talking Leaves by Joseph Bruchac (2016)

Trickster: Native American Tales, A Graphic Collection by Matt Demibicki (2010)

The Ways of My Grandmothers Beverly Hungry Wolf (1998)

Wonderful Sky Boat and Other Native American Tales of the Southeast by Jane Louise Curry. Illustrated by James Watts (2001)

Great Native American Speeches by Dover Thrift Publishers (2000)



Grades 9 and Up

After and Before the Lightning by Simon Ortiz (1994)

Bloodlines: Odyssey of a Native Daughter by Janet Campbell Hale (1993)

Brave Are My People by Frank Waters (1993)

Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko (1977, 2006)

Encyclopedia of American Indian Civil Rights by James Stuart Olson (editor), Mark Baxter (editor), Darren Pierson (editor), and Jason M. Tetzloff (editor) (1997)

Food and Spirits by Beth Brant (1991)

Full Moon on the Reservation by Gloria Bird (1998)

A Gathering of Spirit: A Collection of North American Indian Women edited by Beth Brant (1989)

Ghost Dance: New and Selected Poems by Dorise Seale (2001)

Green Grass, Running Water by Thomas King (1993)

Here First: Autobiographical Essays by Native American Writers edited by Arnold Krupet (2001)

House Made of Dawn by N. Scott Momaday (1966)

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People by Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz (2019)

The Joe Leaphorn Series by Tony Hillerman (1989-2002)

#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women edited by Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale (2017)

Power by Linda Hogan (1999)

Pushing the Bear by Diane Glancy (2009)

The Round House by Louise Erdrich (2013)

Skeleton Man by Joseph Bruchac (2001)

Speaking for the Generations: Native Writers on Writing by Simon Ortiz (1998)

Standing Strong by Gary Robinson (2019)

The Woman Who Watches the World by Linda Hogan (2001)

There There by Tommy Orange (2018)



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