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

Arrow to the Sun by Gerald McDermott (1974)
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)
Cradle Songs of Southeast Alaska (book and CD) illustrated by Crystal Worl (2019)
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)
Dzání Yází Naazbaa’: Little Woman Warrior Who Came Home by Evangeline Parsons Yazzie (2005)
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)
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)
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)
The Magic of Spider Woman by Lois Duncan (2014)
A Man Called Raven by Richard Van Camp. Illustrated by George Littlechild (1997)
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)
This Land is My Land by George Littlechild. Children’s Press (1993)
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

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)
Thanku: Poems of Gratitude edited by Miranda Paul
Thirteen Moons on Turtle’s Back by Joseph Bruchac & Jonathan London
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)


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


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

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


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


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)


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 Lightening 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)


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)


#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)