

**Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center
Children's Library**

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Selected Books for 3rd – 5th Grade Students

Ancona, George (Maya). *Earth Daughter: Alicia of Acoma Pueblo*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1995. ISBN 0-689-80322-2. [40] pages.

A beautiful photo-essay about Alicia Histia, a young girl who learns the art of pottery-making from her family.

Belarde-Lewis, Miranda (Tlingit/Zuni). *Meet Lydia: A Native Girl from Southeast Alaska*. NMAI with Council Oak Books, 2004. ISBN 1-57178-147-1. 48 pages.

The third book in the *My World: Young Native Americans Today* series produced by the National Museum of the American Indian. Spend some time with Lydia as she shows what her life is like, from traditional Tlingit lessons to playing the trombone.

Big Crow, Moses Nelson (Lakota). *A Legend from Crazy Horse Clan*. Tipi Press, 1991. ISBN 1-877976-03-2. [36] pages.

The story of Tashia Gnupa, a young Lakota girl, and her raccoon, Mesu, who survive a buffalo stampede but find themselves all alone on the plains. A young buffalo befriends her and they live together for years until she returns home to find she has become a legend among her people.

Browne, Vee (Navajo), retold by. *Monster Slayer: A Navajo Folktale*. Northland Publishing, 1991. ISBN 0-87358-525-9 and *Monster Birds: A Navajo Folktale*. Northland Publishing, 1993. ISBN 0-87358-558-5. [32] pages.

The twin sons of Changing Woman and Sunbearer use their weapons (lightning arrows & magic feathers) plus help from their Grandmother, Spider Woman, to defeat the Walking Giant and then the Monster Birds. Both these lengthy picture books are illustrated in watercolors by Baje Whitethorne (Navajo).

Bruchac, Joseph (Abenaki). *The Arrow Over the Door*. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1998. ISBN 0-8037-2078-5. 89 pages.

This story is based on a historical meeting of Quakers and Abenaki Indians during the Revolutionary War. It is told from the alternating viewpoints of Samuel, a Quaker and Stands Straight, an Abenaki.

_____. *Dog People: Native Dog Stories*. Fulcrum, 1995. ISBN 1-55591-228-1. 63 pages.

The stories of six puppies born in the same litter to Awasosqua, a Dog Person who lived long ago with the Abenaki people in northern New England. From "How the Dogs Became

Companions to the People,” to “The Dangerous Stranger,” these stories will please all those who love dogs.

_____. *Eagle Song*. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1997. ISBN 0-8037-1918-3. 80 pages.

“Hey, Chief, going home to your teepee?” are the words that greet Danny Bigtree after school. Danny’s family has moved from Akwesasne to Brooklyn and he is having a hard time adjusting to city life. Danny’s father tells the story of the Great Peace to his class but Danny has to make his own peace with his tormentors.

_____. *Pushing Up the Sky: Seven Native American Plays for Children*. Dial Books for Young Readers, 2000. ISBN 0-8037-2168-4. 94 pages.

Joseph Bruchac has adapted seven traditional tales as short plays for reading or acting. He includes suggestions for easy-to-make props, scenery and costumes.

_____. *Skeleton Man*. HarperCollins, 2001. ISBN 0-06-029076-5. 114 pgs.

Molly wakes up and her parents have disappeared. Can she figure out what’s going on in time to save herself and find her parents? This book is one of the 2005 Connecticut Nutmeg Children’s Book Award nominees.

_____. *The Trail of Tears*. Random House, 1999. Step into Reading, Step 4 Book. ISBN 0-679-99052-6. 48 pages.

An introduction to the Cherokee Nation and the events that led to the Trail of Tears, as the Cherokee called their forced removal from their homes in the Southeast to Oklahoma.

Bruchac, Joseph and James (Abenaki). *When the Chenoo Howls: Native American Tales of Terror*. Walker and Company, 1998. ISBN 0-8027-8639-1. 136 pages.

Twelve scary stories of monsters, giants and flying heads from the Northeast. Some are set in the past and some are contemporary. Source notes and a pronunciation guide are included.

Dennis, Yvonne Wakim (Cherokee) and Arlene Hirschfelder. *Children of Native America Today*. Charlesbridge, 2003. ISBN 1-57091-499-0. 63 pages.

Photos and essays about twenty-five tribal communities and their children. With information about traditions and activities today. Also includes an essay on urban Indians.

Ekoomiak, Normee (Inuit). *Arctic Memories*. Henry Holt, 1990. ISBN 0-8050-1254-0. [32] pages.

In paintings, felt pictures and words, Mr. Ekoomiak tells about the Arctic of his childhood, before the tremendous changes of the late 20th century. The text is in English and Inuktitut.

Erdrich, Lise (Ojibwa). *Sacagawea*. Carolrhoda Books, Inc., 2003. ISBN 9-87614-646-9. [33] pages.

An account of the life of the courageous Shoshone woman who accompanied Lewis and Clark as an interpreter in the Corps of Discovery exploration of western United States. With an emphasis on Sacagawea’s perspective and artwork by Julie Buffalohead (Ponca).

Fitzpatrick, Marie-Louise. *The Long March: The Choctaw's Gift to Irish Famine Relief*. Beyond Words, 1998. ISBN 1-885223-71-4. [33] pages.

Illustrated by Oklahoma Choctaw artist, Gary WhiteDeer, this picture book tells the story of Choonah, a 14 year-old in 1847, the year when the Choctaw decided to give what they could to help the Irish people.

Grace, Catherine O'Neill and Margaret M. Bruchac (Abenaki). *1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving*. National Geographic Society, 2001. ISBN 0-7922-7027-4. 47 pages.

Tells the story of the first contacts between the English settlers and the Wampanoags, dispelling the standard myths of the "First Thanksgiving". Produced in collaboration with the Wampanoag Indian Program at Plimoth Plantation, and illustrated with photographs of the live historical interpretations at Plimoth.

Indian Nations. Series. Raintree Steck-Vaughn Publishers. 1999-2000.

Series co-written by Native Americans about the culture and history of their people. Including chapters about the creation story, spiritual life, government, family, and contemporary life. With pictures and photographs.

King, Edna (Ojibwa) and Jordan Wheeler (Cree). *Adventure on Thunder Island*. James Lorimer & Company, 1991. ISBN 1-55028-133-X. 95 pages.

Four short stories about contemporary children who have exciting experiences with supernatural people and events.

Lacapa, Michael (Apache/Hopi/Tewa). *Antelope Woman: An Apache Folktale*. Northland, 1992. ISBN 0-87358-543-7. 41 pages.

A longer picture book in which the author/illustrator retells the story of a mysterious young man and the woman who loves him.

Left Hand Bull, Jacqueline (Lakota) and Suzanne Haldane. *Lakota Hoop Dancer*. Dutton Children's Books, 1999. ISBN 0-525-45413-6. [32] pages.

This book focuses on Kevin Locke who lives on Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota. He travels all over performing the hoop dance and teaching about his culture. Heavily illustrated with photographs.

Maher, Ramona. *Alice Yazzie's Year*. Tricycle Press, 2003. ISBN 1-58246-080-9. [32] pages.

Alice is an 11 year-old Navajo girl who lives with her grandfather. This is a depiction of some of the important events in twelve months of her life, from a trip to Disneyland to meeting a buffalo at the rodeo. The 2003 edition is illustrated by Shonto Begay (Navajo).

Monture, Joel (Mohawk). *Cloudwalker: Contemporary Native American Stories*. Fulcrum, 1996. ISBN 1-55591-225-7. 58 pages.

Short stories about life written from the perspectives of six contemporary Native American children. Life is not always easy for them, but they persevere.
Native Americans. Series. ABDO Publishing Co.

An ongoing series about individual Native American Nations, either written or co-written by Barbara A. Gray-Kanatiiosh (Akwesasne Mohawk) and illustrated by David Kanietakeron

Fadden (Akwasasne Mohawk). Currently there are three sets of 10 titles with more titles being added. Check www.abdopub.com for the series title. 32 pages. For ages 8 and up.

Ortiz, Simon J. (Acoma Pueblo). *The Good Rainbow Road: Rawa 'Kashtyaa'tsi Hiyaani*. University of Arizona Press, 2004. ISBN 0-8165-2340-1.

An original story told in a traditional manner about two courageous boys who set out to save their people. Written in Keres, the language of Acoma Pueblo, and English, with a Spanish translation at the end of the book.

Otto, Simon (Ojibway/Odawa). *Walk in Peace: Legends and Stories of the Michigan Indians*. Michigan Indian Press, 1990. ISBN 0-9617707-5-9. 50 pages.

As a young boy, Mr. Otto would sit and listen to stories, the latest news in Indian Country, and legends told by his family and friends. He has shared some of these memories which are part of his life, heritage and culture in this book.

Peters, Russell (Mashpee Wampanoag). *Regalia: American Indian Dress and Dance*. Sundance, 1994. ISBN 1-56801-375-2. [16] pages.

An introduction to dancers, "real people who keep their traditional culture alive", of varying ages from twelve tribes, illustrated with photographs of the dancers in their regalia and also in their everyday clothes. Also available with a cassette narrated by Russell Peters.

Ross, Gayle (Cherokee). *How Rabbit Tricked Otter and Other Cherokee Trickster Stories*. HarperCollins, 1994. ISBN 0-06-021285-3. 79 pages.

This collection of stories is all about Rabbit, the trickster-hero of the Cherokee oral tradition. No matter what happens, Rabbit always emerges free to create some other mischief.

Ross, LaVera (Rosebud Sioux). *Grandchildren of the Lakota*. Carolrhoda Books, 1999. ISBN 1-57505-279-2. 47 pages.

Lots of photographs illustrate this informative essay about Lakota families, their past, present and future. The author's grandchildren do all the things other American children do and at the same time maintain their Lakota traditions and values.

Secakuku, Susan (Hopi). *Meet Mindy: A Native Girl from the Southwest*. NMAI with Beyond Words Publishing, 2003. ISBN 1-58270-091-5. 48 pages.

The second in the *My World: Young Native Americans Today* series produced by the National Museum of the American Indian. Follows a teenage Hopi/Tewa girl as she explains about and participates in Hopi traditions and ceremonies, as well as everyday life like high school and football games.

Smith, Cynthia Leitich (Muskogee Creek). *Indian Shoes*. Harper Collins, 2002. ISBN 0-06-029531-7. 66 pages.

Ray Halfmoon and Grampa Halfmoon, are Seminole-Cherokee and live in Chicago. They have adventures involving moccasins, haircuts, an art show, and fishing.

Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk (Lakota). *The Chichi Hoohoo Bogeyman*. University of Nebraska Press, 1993. ISBN 0-8032-9219-8. 63 pages.

This book, originally published in 1975, is about three adventurous girl cousins who run into a weird creature on the South Dakota prairie.

_____. *First Americans*. Series. Holiday House, 1993-97.

A series about the histories and cultures of nine Native American Nations. Each book includes creation stories, the homelands, and life today.

_____. *High Elk's Treasure*. Holiday House, 1972. ISBN 0-8234-0212-6. 96 pages.

Joe discovers High Elk's treasure while waiting out a violent storm in a cave near his family's farm. This treasure was hidden around 1876, shortly after the Battle of the Little Big Horn by Joe's great grandfather who had also hidden his palomino mare from the soldiers. The mysteries of the treasure and the mare are unraveled as Joe fights to protect the family's new herd of horses.

Stroud, Virginia A (Cherokee). *Doesn't Fall Off His Horse*. Dial Book for Young Readers, 1994. ISBN 0-8037-1634-6. [32] pages.

Based on the story of the author's adoptive Kiowa grandfather, this is a beautifully illustrated picture book about a young man who participates in a daring raid to count coup by taking horses from a Comanche camp.

Sharing Our Worlds: Native American Children Today. United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, 1980. No ISBN. 30 pages.

Five young people write about their families, foods, lives, and values. By sharing their cultural experiences, they encourage all children to learn and write about their own families and lives.

Tallchief, Maria (Osage) with Rosemary Wells. *Tallchief: America's Prima Ballerina*. Viking, 1999. ISBN 0-670-88756-0. 28 pages.

This picture book autobiography will inspire and delight dancers. It concludes as Ms. Tallchief leaves Los Angeles to join the Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo at the age of seventeen.

Tapahonso, Luci (Navajo). *Songs of Shiprock Fair*. Kiva Publishing, 1999. ISBN 1-885772-11-4. [32] pages.

Throughout the year, everyone in Shiprock, New Mexico, prepares for the fair where they find old friends, share stories, and make new memories. This book celebrates that fair in an informative and fun way.

Tayac, Gabrielle (Piscataway). *Meet Naiche: A Native Boy from the Chesapeake Bay Area*. NMAI with Beyond Words Publishing, 2002. ISBN 1-58270-072-9. 48 pages.

A photo essay produced by the National Museum of the American Indian about Naiche Woosah Tayac, a young member of the Piscataway and Apache tribes. Naiche introduces us to his family and some Piscataway and Apache history and culture, including the Piscataway Awakening of Mother Earth celebration.

Taylor, C. J. (Mohawk). *Bones in the Baskets: Native Stories of the Origin of People*. Tundra Books, 1994. ISBN 0-88776-327-8. [32] pages.

Short stories about how seven different Native American peoples view the creation of the earth and humans on it.

_____. *How We Saw the World: Nine Native Stories of the Way Things Began*. Tundra Books, 1993. ISBN 0-88776-302-2. [32] pages.

Stories about things like why dogs are people's friends, how horses came into the world and the first tornado, from nine Native American cultures.

We Are Still Here. Series. Lerner Publications, 1992-98.

A series of photo-essay books by Native American authors. Each title features an individual Native American child learning about his or her culture from family members.

When the Rain Sings: Poems by Young Native Americans. National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution and Simon & Schuster, 1999. ISBN 0-689-82283-9. 75 pages.

A collection of poems written by young Native Americans. Their poetry is inspired by or matched with photographs of artifacts and people from the National Museum of the American Indian.

White, Ellen (Salish). *Kwulasulwut: Stories From the Coast Salish*. Theyus Books, 1992. ISBN 0-919441-45-9. 76 pages. And *Kwulasulwut II: Mores Stories from the Coast Salish*. Theyus Books, 1997. ISBN 0-919441-54-8. 79 pages.

Ellen White, whose Salish name is Kwulasulwut, has adapted these stories about life's lessons from both traditional and original stories that she tells in her role as teacher and storyteller.

These books are available through most vendors; however, some that are harder to find can be purchased through Oyate, a Native organization which writes, reviews and sells materials at www.oyate.org or by phone @ (510) 848-6700.

[] Unnumbered pages

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