



# FIRST NATIONS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

## Ten Ways You Can Make a Difference

Thank you for your commitment to First Nations Development Institute ([First Nations](#)) and sharing our vision of renewing and sustaining strong, healthy and culturally vibrant Native American communities. We believe that to be effective, a core part of our work is to change the narrative on how American Indians are viewed ... by making the invisible visible, by actively refuting the persistent negative stereotypes, and by shifting the pervasive misperceptions. We feel it is important and our responsibility to provide an opportunity to learn more about Native experiences from a culturally and historically accurate perspective.

To that end, we have partnered with children's literature expert Debbie Reese, Ph.D., (*Nambé Pueblo*) to create a Native American Children's Literature Recommended Reading List, along with 10 suggested ways you can make a difference — a Call to Action. We hope you accept the challenge by taking part in one or more of our 10 ways to make difference.

1. Select a book and read it with your child or a young person you know.
2. Share this list with librarians at your local public library and suggest they get the books and e-books for their collections that they can feature in library displays all year long.
3. Use the hashtag #NativeReads and share comments about your favorite #NativeReads on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Snapchat or other platforms.
4. Share this list with your local bookstore and ask them to set up a display in the store, and feature one or more of the books on their website.
5. Share the reading list with your local bookstore and encourage them to purchase some of them to have on hand for the local community.
6. Provide a quantity of copies of the list to both libraries and local bookstores, for them to hand out to potential customers.
7. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper and public radio or television stations and ask them to do a story on the books, in honor of Native American Heritage Month and throughout the year. The story could ask parents to choose books from the list for their own children to read and then share with their friends.
8. Give the list to the librarians at your local elementary, middle and high school.
9. Purchase copies of the books or e-books and donate them to a teacher who works with that age level.
10. Organize a book club in your community or virtually online with your friends on Facebook or Goodreads. After you've read the book, post your thoughts on social media (and use hashtag #NativeReads).