Native American Children’s Literature
Recommended Reading List

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE
We believe that when armed with the appropriate resources, Native peoples hold the capacity and ingenuity to ensure the sustainable economic, spiritual and cultural well-being of their communities.
Native American Children’s Literature

RECOMMENDED READING LIST

BOOKS FOR HEAD START AND PRESCHOOL

Baby Learns About Colors
by Beverly Blacksheep (Navajo)
(Salina Bookshelf, 2003)

Wild Berries
by Julie Flett (Cree-Métis)
(Simply Read Books, 2013)

Boozhoo: Come Play With Us
by Deanna Himango (Ojibwe)
(Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, 2002)

Sweetest Kulu
by Celina Kalluk (Inuit)
(Inhabit Media, Inc., 2014)

Cradle Me
Photos in book provided by Native families and edited by Debby Slier.
(Star Bright Books 2012)

BOOKS FOR EARLY ELEMENTARY GRADES (K-3)

Hungry Johnny
by Cheryl Minnema (Ojibwe)
(Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2014)

Hiawatha and the Peacemaker
by Robbie Robertson (Mohawk)
(Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2015)

Chukfi Rabbit’s Big Bad Bellyache: A Trickster Tale
by Greg Rodgers (Choctaw)
(Cinco Puntos Press, 2014)

Jingle Dancer
by Cynthia Leitich Smith (Muscogee (Creek)
(Morrow Junior Books, 2000)

Kamik: An Inuit Puppy Story
by Donald Uluadluak (Inuit)
(Inhabit Media, 2012)

SkySisters
by Jan Bourdeau Waboose (Ojibwe)
(Kids Can Press, 2000)

BOOKS FOR MIDDLE GRADES (4-7)

Hidden Roots
by Joseph Bruchac (Abenaki)
(Albert Whitman & Company, 2004)

The Birchbark House
by Louise Erdrich (Turtle Mountain Chippewa)
(Hyperion Books for Children, 1999)

In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse
by Joseph Marshall III (Sicangu Lakota)
(Amulet Books, 2015)

Son Who Returns
by Gary Robinson (Choctaw/Cheyenne)
(7th Generation, 2014)

Indian Shoes
by Cynthia Leitich Smith (Muscogee (Creek)
(HarperCollins, 2002)

How I Became a Ghost: A Choctaw Trail of Tears Story
by Tim Tingle (Choctaw)
(Roadrunner Press, 2015)
Debbie Reese, Ph.D., is an enrolled member of Nambé Pueblo and the curator of the Native American Children’s Literature Recommended Reading list. Dr. Reese is an expert in the field of Native children’s literature, an educator, and has served on many national literacy boards. She holds a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Illinois, and a Masters of Library and Information Science from San Jose State University. Dr. Reese is the editor and publisher of the “American Indians in Children’s Literature” website at http://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.net.
FIRST NATIONS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

TEN WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A 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.

To download and print copies of this reading list visit: www.firstnations.org/HeritageMonth2016

About the Cover Art
The cover art is a portrait of reading list curator Dr. Debbie Reese. The artist, Julie Flett (Cree-Métis), is also the author of Wild Berries, which is one of our featured books.