

Native American Children's Literature Recommended Reading List



FIRST NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Our Mission

Our mission is to uplift and sustain the lifeways and economies of Native communities through advocacy, financial support, and knowledge sharing.



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)

My Heart Fills With Happiness

by Monique Gray Smith (Cree, Lakota and Scottish)
(Orca Book Publishing, 2016)

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)
(Scholastic, 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/Cherokee)
(7th Generation, 2014)

Indian Shoes

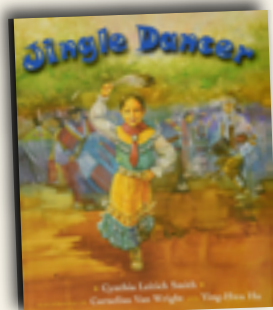
by Cynthia Leitich Smith (Muscogee (Creek))
(HarperCollins, 2002)

How I Became a Ghost:

A Choctaw Trail of Tears Story
by Tim Tingle (Choctaw)
(Roadrunner Press, 2015)



Cover art by Julie Flett



Cover art by Cornelius
Van Wright and
Ying-Hwa Hu



Cover art by
Jim Yellowhawk



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RECOMMENDED READING LIST

BOOKS FOR HIGH SCHOOL (8-12)

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

by Sherman Alexie (Spokane/Coeur d'Alene)
(Little Brown, 2007)

Moccasin Thunder: American Indian Stories for Today

A collection of stories by Native writers edited by Lori Marie Carlson
(HarperCollins, 2005)

If I Ever Get Out of Here

by Eric Gansworth (Onondaga)
(Arthur A. Levine Books, 2013)

The Night Wanderer: A Native Gothic Novel

by Drew Hayden Taylor (Ojibway)
(Annick Press, 2007)

House of Purple Cedar

by Tim Tingle (Choctaw)
(Cinco Puntos Press, 2014)

The Lesser Blessed: A Novel

by Richard Van Camp (Dogrib)
(Douglas & McIntyre, 2004)

COMICS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS

We Speak in Secret

by Roy Boney (Cherokee)
(INC Comics, 2014)

Trickster: Native American Tales, A Graphic Collection

A collection of stories written by Native authors edited by Matt Dembicki
(Fulcrum Books, 2010)

Moonshot: The Indigenous Comics Collection, Volume

A collection written by Native authors edited by Hope Nicholson
(Alternative History Comics, 2015)

Super Indian Volume One

by Arigon Starr (Kickapoo)
(Wacky Productions, 2012)

Super Indian Volume Two

by Arigon Starr (Kickapoo)
(Wacky Productions, 2015)

Captain Paiute: Indigenous Defender of the Southwest

by Theo Tso (Las Vegas Paiute Tribe) (War Paint Studios, 2015)

A Blanket of Butterflies

by Richard Van Camp (Dogrib)
(Highwater Press, 2016)



Jacket art and design by Christopher Stengel



Super Indian Volume One:
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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>.

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.

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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 book-stores, 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:
<https://www.firstnations.org/knowledge-center/books/>

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