

Native American Heritage Month Resources for Teachers and Families

Indigenous peoples are often overlooked by the dominant forces in contemporary American society. They're a vital part of our past, but also of our present and future. While this resource list focuses on the indigenous peoples of the United States, it also contains a section acknowledging native peoples of other countries in the Americas. These stories span contemporary life as well as historical fact and are part of a growing movement in publishing to better represent marginalized voices. Many are about Native Americans of the continental United States, but Native Hawaiians and Alaskans appear too. Springhurst librarian Lauren Rodriguez, Middle/High School media specialist Ellen Elsen, and K-8 literacy coordinator Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek have teamed up with Dobbs Ferry Public Library children's librarian Gina Elbert to create this resource list to help you dive deeper into indigenous literature for kindergarten through 12th grade. **This is a sampling of available resources and not an exhaustive list. If you would like help finding more, please contact your librarian(s).**

A Note on Thanksgiving

November is also the month of Thanksgiving, a holiday whose history is often popularly misrepresented. Depictions of the "first Thanksgiving" and of peaceful collaboration between the Wampanoag in Massachusetts and the colonists in Plymouth, Massachusetts, are often inaccurate. Below is a list of resources that you can use to start exploring and evaluating children's literature about Thanksgiving for yourself.

- **American Indians in Children's Literature blog** (<https://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/>): Run by Dr. Debbie Reese of Nambé Pueblo, this blog contains many posts about Thanksgiving as well as reviews of other books about Native Americans.
- **"Thinking About Thanksgiving" blog post from Reading While White blog** (<http://readingwhilewhite.blogspot.com/2015/11/thinking-about-thanksgiving.html>): This post interrogates the history of Thanksgiving and its representation in children's books. The blog overall is a resource dedicated to promoting anti-racism in children's literature and librarianship.
- **"Deconstructing the Myths of the First Thanksgiving" from Oyate** (<http://oyate.org/index.php/resources/43-resources/thanksgiving>): This list, written by an Abenaki scholar, analyzes and corrects the most popular misconceptions about Thanksgiving. Oyate is a Native organization working to see that indigenous stories are portrayed with honesty and integrity.
- **"Thanksgiving Books: Authenticity and Accuracy" from Ypsilanti District Library** (<https://www.ypsilibrary.org/2018/11/thanksgiving-books-authenticity-and-accuracy/>): This short post provides a list of alternate Thanksgiving books

that respect the traditions of indigenous peoples and the holiday's spirit of gratitude.

Booklist

Below is a list of recently published books that the DF school librarians and DFPL children's librarian recommend as starting points for education and discussion. You can access items marked with a blue dot (●) through the Dobbs Ferry school libraries and items marked with a yellow dot (●) through the Dobbs Ferry Public Library. Please contact your librarians to put them on hold and/or learn more information about the formats in which these titles are available.

Picture Books: Fiction

- **47,000 Beads** by Koja Adeyoha ● ●
- **BowWow Powwow** by Brenda Child ● ●
- **Look, Grandma! Ni, Elisi!** By Art Coulson ●
- **Birdsong** by Julie Flett ● ●
- **We All Count: A Book of Cree Numbers** by Julie Flett
- **Ho'onani, Hula Warrior** by Heather Gale ● ●
- **Berry Song** by Michaela Goade ●
- **It's a Mitig!** by Bridget George ●
- **All Around Us** by Xelena Gonzalez ●
- **Keepunumuk: Weeâchumun's Thanksgiving Story** by Danielle Greendeer ●
- **Awâsis and the World-Famous Bannock** by Dallas Hunt ●
- **Sweetest Kulu** by Celina Kalluk ●
- **Josie Dances** by Denise Lajimodiere ●
- **We Are Water Protectors** by Carole Lindstrom ● ●
- **'Ohana Means Family** by Ilima Loomis ●
- **Hungry Johnny** by Cheryl Kay Minnema ●
- **Greet the Dawn: The Lakota Way** by S.D. Nelson ●
- **Tanna's Owl** by Rachel Qitsualik-Tinsley ●
- **Tanna's Lemming** by Rachel Qitsualik-Tinsley ●
- **When We Were Alone** by David A. Robertson and Julie Flett ● ●
- **On the Trapline** by David A. Robertson ●
- **Jingle Dancer** by Cynthia Leitich Smith ● ●
- **My Heart Fills with Happiness** by Monique Gray Smith ●
- **You Hold Me Up** by Monique Gray Smith ●
- **At the Mountain's Base** by Traci Sorell ●
- **We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga** by Traci Sorell ● ●
- **Powwow Day** by Traci Sorrell ● ●
- **First Laugh: Welcome Baby!** by Rose Ann Tahe and Nancy Bo Flood ●

- **Punky Aloha** by Shar Tuiasoa ●
- **Kamik: An Inuit Puppy Story** by Donald Uluadluak ●
- **Kamik's First Sled** by Donald Uluadluak ●
- **A Man Called Raven** by Richard Van Camp ●
- **Molly of Denali** easy readers by various authors ●
- **The Girl and the Wolf** by Katherena Vermette ●

Picture Books: Non-Fiction

- **C is for Chickasaw** by Willy Barnes ●
- **Unstoppable: How Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team Defeated Army** by Art Coulson ●
- **Sharice's Big Voice: A Native Kid Becomes a Congresswoman** by Sharice Davids and Nancy K. Mays ●●
- **Deb Haaland: First Native American Cabinet Secretary** by Jen Doerfler ●
- **Mission to Space** by John Herrington ●
- **Spotted Tail** by David Heska Wanbli Weiden ●
- **Go Show the World: A Celebration of Indigenous Heroes** by Wab Kinew ●
- **Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story** by Kevin Noble Maillard and Juana Martinez-Neal ●●
- **The People Shall Continue** by Simon J. Ortiz ●●
- **Wilma's Way Home: The Life of Wilma Mankiller** by Doreen Rappaport ●
- **Nibi is Water / nibi aawon nbiish** by Joanne Robertson
- **The Water Walker** by Joanne Robertson ●
- **Rock and Roll Highway: The Robbie Robertson Story** by Sebastian Robertson ●
- **We Are Still Here!** By Traci Sorrell ●●
- **Finding My Dance** by Ria Thundercloud ●
- **Young Water Protectors: A Story About Standing Rock** by Aslan and Kelly Tudor and Jason Eaglespeaker ●

Middle Grade Fiction

- **The Brave** by James Bird ●●
- **The Second Chance of Benjamin Waterfalls** by James Bird ●
- **Code Talker** by Joseph Bruchac ●●
- **Two Roads** by Joseph Bruchac ●●
- **Rez Dogs** by Joseph Bruchac ●●
- **Peacemaker** by Joseph Bruchac ●
- **The Sea in Winter** by Christine Day ●●
- **I Can Make This Promise** by Christine Day ●●
- **The Birchbark House** series by Louise Erdrich ●●
- **The Star That Always Stays** by Anna Rose Johnson ●
- **Mighty Muskrats Mysteries** series by Michael Hutchinson ●

- **In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse** by Joseph Marshall ●●
- **Indian No More** by Charlene Willing McManis ●●
- **Jo Jo Makoon** series of early chapter books by Dawn Quigley ●
- **Apple in the Middle** by Dawn Quigley ●
- **Race to the Sun** by Rebecca Roanhorse ●●
- **The Misewa Saga** series by David A. Robertson ●
- **Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids**, edited by Cynthia Leitich Smith ●●
- **Indian Shoes** by Cynthia Leitich Smith ●●
- **Rain is Not My Indian Name** by Cynthia Leitich Smith ●●
- **Sisters of the Neversea** by Cynthia Leitich Smith ●●
- **Stone River Crossing** by Tim Tingle ●
- **Healer of the Water Monster** by Brian Young ●●

Middle Grade Non-Fiction

- **Four Ancestors: Stories, Songs, and Poems from Native North America** by Joseph Bruchac ●●
- **Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code: A Navajo Code Talker's Story** by Joseph Bruchac and Liz Amini-Holmes ●●
- **Duke Kahanamoku** (early reader biography) by Laurie Calkhoven ●
- **The Lenape of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and Ontario** by Anne Dalton ●●
- **1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving** by Catherine O'Neill Grace ●
- **Women in American Indian Society** by Rayna Green ●●
- **Navajo Code Talkers : Top Secret Messengers of World War II** by Blake Hoena and Marcel P. Massegú ●●
- **Living Ghosts and Mischievous Monsters** by Dan Sasuweh Jones and Weshoyot Alvitre ●
- **Native Americans of the Northeast** by Stuart Kallen ●●
- **Notable Native People** by Adrienne Keene ●
- **True History: Indigenous America** (graphic non-fiction) by Liam McDonald ●
- **Native American Mythology** by Jim Ollhoff ●
- **Hiawatha and the Peacemaker** by Robbie Robertson ●
- **Powwow Summer** by Nahanni Shingoose ●
- **Tales of the Mighty Codetalkers** (graphic non-fiction) by various authors ●
- **What the Eagle Sees: Indigenous Stories of Rebellion and Renewal** by Eldon Yellowhorn and Kathy Lowinger ●
- **Turtle Island: The Story of North America's First People** by Eldon Yellowhorn and Kathy Lowinger ●
- **Native Peoples of North America** series ●●

- **Peoples of North America** series ●
- **First Peoples of North America** series ●

Young Adult Fiction

- **Fire Keeper's Daughter** by Angeline Boulley ● ●
- **The Marrow Thieves** by Cherie Dimaline ● ●
- **This Place: 150 Years Retold** graphic novel by Alicia Elliott ●
- **The Summer of Bitter and Sweet** by Jen Ferguson ●
- **Give Me Some Truth** by Eric L. Gansworth ● ●
- **If I Ever Get Out of Here** by Eric L. Gansworth ●
- **Those Who Run in the Sky** by Aviaq Johnson ●
- **Fire Song** by Adam Garnet Jones ● ●
- **Shadows Cast By Stars** by Catherine Knutsson ●
- **Elatsoe** by Darcie Little Badger ● ●
- **A Snake Falls to Earth** by Darcie Little Badger ● ●
- **Love Beyond Body, Space, and Time** by Hope Nicholson
- **Hearts Unbroken** by Cynthia Leitich Smith ● ●
- **Surviving the City** by Tasha Spillett-Summer ●
- **House of Purple Cedar** by Tim Tingle ●
- **A Girl Called Echo** graphic novel series by Katharena Vermette ●

Young Adult Non-Fiction

- **Apple: Skin to the Core** by Eric L. Gansworth ●
- **Killers of the Flower Moon (Adapted for Young Readers)** by David Grann ● ●
- **#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women** by Mary Beth Leatherdale and Lisa Charleyboy ●
- **Dreaming in Indian: Contemporary Native American Voices** by Mary Beth Leatherdale and Lisa Charleyboy ● ●
- **An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People** by Debbie Reese and Jean Mendoza ● ●
- **Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask: Young Readers Edition** by Anton Treuer ●

Selected Books about American Indigenous Peoples outside the United States

- **I Am Not a Number** by Jenny Kay Dupuis (picture book) ● ●
- **When I Was Eight** by Christy Jordan-Fenton (picture book) ●
- **Fatty Legs** by Christy Jordan-Fenton (middle grade fiction) ● ●
- **Rainbow Weaver** by Linda Elovitz Marshall (picture book) ●

- **Walking in Two Worlds** by Wab Kinew (YA sci-fi) ●