

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 and teen librarian Alex Yeranossian 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.
- **"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.ypslibrary.org/book-list/authentic-thanksgiving-books/>): This short post provides a list of alternate Thanksgiving books that respect the traditions of indigenous peoples and the holiday's spirit of gratitude.
- **"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.

Booklist

Below is a list of recently published books that the DF school librarians and DFPL children's and young adult librarians 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. **Additions new to 2023 are in bold.**

Picture Books: Fiction

- *47,000 Beads* by Koja Adeyoha ● ●
- *All Around Us* by Xelena Gonzalez ●
- *At the Mountain's Base* by Traci Sorell ●
- *Awâsis and the World-Famous Bannock* by Dallas Hunt ●
- *Berry Song* by Michaela Goade ● ●
- *Birdsong* by Julie Flett ● ●
- *BowWow Powwow* by Brenda Child ● ●
- ***The First Blade of Sweetgrass* by Susan Greenlaw ●**
- *First Laugh: Welcome Baby!* by Rose Ann Tahe and Nancy Bo Flood ●
- *The Girl and the Wolf* by Katherena Vermette ●
- ***The Good Luck Cat* by Joy Harjo ● ●**
- *Greet the Dawn: The Lakota Way* by S.D. Nelson ●
- *Ho'onani, Hula Warrior* by Heather Gale ● ●
- *Hungry Johnny* by Cheryl Kay Minnema ●
- *It's a Mitig!* by Bridget George ●
- *Jingle Dancer* by Cynthia Leitich Smith ● ●
- *Josie Dances* by Denise Lajimodiere ●
- ***Just Like Grandma* by Kim Rogers ●**
- *Kamik: An Inuit Puppy Story* by Donald Uluadluak ●
- *Kamik's First Sled* by Donald Uluadluak ●
- *Keepunumuk: Weeâchumun's Thanksgiving Story* by Danielle Greendeer ● ●
- ***A Letter for Bob* by Kim Rogers ●**
- *Look, Grandma! Ni, Elisi!* by Art Coulson ●
- *A Man Called Raven* by Richard Van Camp ●
- *Molly of Denali* easy readers by various authors ●
- *My Heart Fills with Happiness* by Monique Gray Smith ●
- ***My Powerful Hair* by Carole Lindstrom ● ●**

- *'Ohana Means Family* by Ilima Loomis ●
- *On the Trapline* by David A. Robertson ●
- *Powwow Day* by Traci Sorrell ● ●
- *Punky Aloha* by Shar Tuiasoa ●
- ***Remember* by Joy Harjo** ●
- ***Rock Your Mocs* by Elizabeth Goodluck** ●
- *Sweetest Kulu* by Celina Kalluk ●
- *Tanna's Lemming* by Rachel Qitsualik-Tinsley ●
- *Tanna's Owl* by Rachel Qitsualik-Tinsley ●
- *We All Count: A Book of Cree Numbers* by Julie Flett
- *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga* by Traci Sorell ● ●
- *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom ● ●
- *When We Were Alone* by David A. Robertson and Julie Flett ● ●
- *You Hold Me Up* by Monique Gray Smith ●

Picture Books: Non-Fiction

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

Middle Grade Fiction

- *Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids*, edited by Cynthia Leitich Smith ● ●
- *Apple in the Middle* by Dawn Quigley ●
- *The Birchbark House* series by Louise Erdrich ● ●
- *The Brave* by James Bird ● ●
- *Code Talker* by Joseph Bruchac ● ●
- *Healer of the Water Monster* by Brian Young ● ●
- *I Can Make This Promise* by Christine Day ● ●
- *In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse* by Joseph Marshall ● ●
- *Indian No More* by Charlene Willing McManis ● ●
- *Indian Shoes* by Cynthia Leitich Smith ● ●
- *Jo Jo Makoon* series of early chapter books by Dawn Quigley ● ●
- ***Mascot* by Charles Waters and Traci Sorell** ● ●
- *Mighty Muskrats Mysteries* series by Michael Hutchinson ●
- *The Misewa Saga* series by David A. Robertson ●
- *Peacemaker* by Joseph Bruchac ●
- *Race to the Sun* by Rebecca Roanhorse ● ●
- *Rain is Not My Indian Name* by Cynthia Leitich Smith ● ●
- *Rez Dogs* by Joseph Bruchac ● ●
- *The Sea in Winter* by Christine Day ● ●
- *The Second Chance of Benjamin Waterfalls* by James Bird ●
- *Sisters of the Neversea* by Cynthia Leitich Smith ● ●
- *The Star That Always Stays* by Anna Rose Johnson ●
- *Stone River Crossing* by Tim Tingle ● ●
- *Two Roads* by Joseph Bruchac ● ●
- ***We Still Belong* by Christine Day** ●
- ***The Woman in the Woods and Other North American Stories* by Kel McDonald** ● ●

Middle Grade Non-Fiction

- *1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving* by Catherine O'Neill Grace ●
- ***The American Indian Rights Movement* by Eric Braun** ●
- *Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code: A Navajo Code Talker's Story* by Joseph Bruchac and Liz Amini-Holmes ● ●
- ***Cloudwalker: Contemporary Native American Stories* by Joel Monture** ● ●
- *Duke Kahanamoku (early reader biography)* by Laurie Calkhoven ●
- *First Peoples of North America* series ●
- *Four Ancestors: Stories, Songs, and Poems from Native North America* by Joseph Bruchac ● ●

- *Hiawatha and the Peacemaker* by Robbie Robertson ●
- *The Lenape of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and Ontario* by Anne Dalton ● ●
- *Living Ghosts and Mischievous Monsters* by Dan Sasuweh Jones and Weshoyot Alvitre ●
- *Native American Mythology* by Jim Ollhoff ●
- *Native Americans of the Northeast* by Stuart Kallen ● ●
- *Native Peoples of North America series* ● ●
- *Navajo Code Talkers: Top Secret Messengers of World War II* by Blake Hoena and Marcel P. Massegú ● ●
- *Notable Native People* by Adrienne Keene ●
- ***Of All Tribes* by Joseph Bruchac** ●
- *Peoples of North America series* ●
- *Powwow Summer* by Nahanni Shingoose ●
- ***Pushing Up the Sky: Seven Native American Plays for Children* by Joseph Bruchac** ● ●
- ***Race to the Truth: Colonization and the Wampanoag Story* by Linda Coombs** ●
- ***A River's Gifts: The Mighty Elwha River Reborn* by Patricia Newman** ● ●
- *Tales of the Mighty Code Talkers* (graphic non-fiction) by various authors ●
- ***Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back: A Native American Year of Moons* by Joseph Bruchac** ● ●
- *True History: Indigenous America* (graphic non-fiction) by Liam McDonald ●
- *Turtle Island: The Story of North America's First People* by Eldon Yellowhorn and Kathy Lowinger ●
- *What the Eagle Sees: Indigenous Stories of Rebellion and Renewal* by Eldon Yellowhorn and Kathy Lowinger ●
- ***Who Were the Navajo Code Talkers?* by James Buckley, Jr.** ●
- *Women in American Indian Society* by Rayna Green ● ●

Young Adult Fiction

- *Elatsoe* by Darcie Little Badger ● ●
- *Fire Keeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley ● ●
- *Fire Song* by Adam Garnet Jones ● ●
- *A Girl Called Echo* graphic novel series by Katharena Vermette ●
- *Give Me Some Truth* by Eric L. Gansworth ● ●
- *Hearts Unbroken* by Cynthia Leitich Smith ● ●
- *House of Purple Cedar* by Tim Tingle ●
- *If I Ever Get Out of Here* by Eric L. Gansworth ● ●
- *Love Beyond Body, Space, and Time* by Hope Nicholson

- **Man Made Monsters by Andrea Rogers** ●
- *The Marrow Thieves* by Cherie Dimaline ● ●
- **Rez Ball by Byron Graves** ● ●
- *Shadows Cast By Stars* by Catherine Knutsson ●
- *A Snake Falls to Earth* by Darcie Little Badger ● ●
- *The Summer of Bitter and Sweet* by Jen Ferguson ● ●
- *Surviving the City* by Tasha Spillett-Summer ●
- *This Place: 150 Years Retold* graphic novel by Alicia Elliott ●
- *Those Who Run in the Sky* by Aviaq Johnson ●
- **Warrior Girl Unearthed by Angeline Boulley** ● ●

Young Adult Non-Fiction

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

Selected Books about American Indigenous Peoples outside the United States

- *Fatty Legs* by Christy Jordan-Fenton (middle grade fiction) ● ●
- **Freddie the Flyer by Fred Carmichael (picture book biography)** ●
- *I Am Not a Number* by Jenny Kay Dupuis (picture book) ● ●
- *Rainbow Weaver* by Linda Elovitz Marshall (picture book) ●
- *When I Was Eight* by Christy Jordan-Fenton (picture book) ●
- *Walking in Two Worlds* by Wab Kinew (YA sci-fi) ●

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