

Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center Children's Library

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Some Selected Books for 5th – 8th Grade

Bruchac, Joseph (Abenaki). *Hidden Roots*. Scholastic, 2004.

Life is not going well for Howard "Sonny" Camp. His father's anger and his mother's unhappiness leave him wondering who he is and what secret his family carries with them. Set in the early 1950s, this book includes a brief essay about the Vermont Eugenics Project. **2006 American Indian Youth Literature Award winner** for young adults.

Bruchac, Joseph (Abenaki). *Wabi: A Hero's Tale*. Dial Books, 2006.

An exciting story about Wabi, born a great horned owl, who is funny, wise and strong-both as an owl and as a human. It's hard to put down before reaching the exciting and satisfying ending.

Bruchac, Joseph (Abenaki). *The Winter People*. Dial Books, 2002.

Saxso is fourteen when his village is attacked and burned by British soldiers in the summer of 1759. His mother and sisters are taken hostage and he is determined to save them. A gripping first person account which incorporates Abenaki history and culture.

Do All Indians Live In Tipis? Questions and Answers from the National Museum of the American Indian. Collins in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution, 2007.

About 100 questions answered by NMAI staff; topics range from question asked in the title to "what is a winter count?" to "do Indians pay taxes?" There is lots of good information here for educators and older students.

Dorris, Michael (Modoc). *Guests*. Hyperion Books for Children, 1994.

The story of the first steps a boy takes to find out who he is and who he will become as a man. Moss changes after his day alone in the woods where he has gone to get away from the outsiders invited to his village.

Dunn, Anne M. (Ojibwe). *When Beaver Was Very Great: Stories to Live By*. Midwest Traditions, 1995.

A collection of traditional stories and recent writings by an Ojibwe storyteller. In these stories for a modern age, traditional Native American animal messengers rub shoulders with characters from Dunn's original stories.

Erdrich, Louise (Ojibwa). *The Birchbark House*. Hyperion Books for Children, 1999.

Set on an island in Lake Superior in the late 1840s, this is the story of a year in the life of Omakayas. Her family builds a new birchbark house every summer, moves to a ricing camp in the fall and then to their cedar log house for the winter. The arrival of smallpox (brought by voyageurs) changes her family forever. **2006 American Indian Youth Literature Award winner** for middle school. Omakayas' story continues in two sequels: *The Game of Silence*, HarperCollins, 2004 and *The Porcupine Year*, HarperCollins, 2008.

Keoke, Emory Dean (Standing Rock Sioux) and Kay Marie Porterfield. *American Indian Contributions to the World*. Facts On File, 2005.

This is a set of five books filled with information about some of the inventions and technologies used by Native people of North, South and Central America. Titles are: *Buildings, Clothing, and Art*; *Food, Farming, and Hunting*; *Medicine and Health*; *Science and Technology*; and *Trade, Transportation, and Warfare*.

Loyie, Larry (Cree) with Constance Brissenden. *Goodbye Buffalo Bay*. Theytus Books, 2009.

This is the true story of the author's years in St. Bernard Missionary residential school. He continues with his memories of his first jobs as he overcomes his anger and unhappiness from the school experiences. It's heartbreaking, yet hopeful story which continues from his other books, *As Long as the Rivers Flow* and *When the Spirits Dance*.

Medicine Crow, Joseph. (Crow). *Counting Coup: Becoming a Crow Chief on the Reservation and Beyond*. National Geographic, 2006.

Crow Chief Joseph Medicine Crow has lived on the Crow Reservation since his birth there in 1913. This book is his memories-of his childhood with his loving, large family; of his school years; and of his service as a soldier in World War II-and his reflections about his long and productive life. **2008 American Indian Youth Literature Award winner** for middle school readers. In August 2009, President Obama awarded 95-year-old Chief Medicine Crow the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor.

Schilling, Vincent (Mohawk). *Native Musicians in the Groove*. 7th Generation, 2009.

Another title in the *Native Trailblazers Series*, this is an easy-to-read book about ten contemporary musicians.

Shenandoah, Joanne (Oneida) & Douglas M. George (Mohawk). *Skywoman: Legends of the Iroquois*. Clear Light Publishers, 1998.

In this beautifully illustrated book, two Native American writers tell the ancient stories of the Iroquois.

Slipperjack, Ruby (Ojibwa). *Little Voice*. Couteau Books, 2001.

Ray grows up in this book; she copes with being an outsider in school and getting a new family when her mother remarries with both silence and humor. During summers her wise, strong and loving grandmother gives Ray the strength and knowledge to mature in many ways.

Smith, Cynthia Leitich (Muscogee Creek). *Rain is Not My Indian Name*. Harper Collins, 2001.

Rain is fourteen when her best friend dies. She shuts out her family and community until she gets a job photographing her aunt's controversial Indian Camp, and connects with new people who help her deal with her loss.

Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk (Lakota). *Lana's Lakota Moons*. University of Nebraska Press, 2007.

Lori and Lana are more like sisters than cousins and often don't get along. During this year, they come to value their different personalities and attitudes, which gives them strength to face Lana's death.

Sterling, Shirley (Salish). *My Name is Seepetza*. Douglas & McIntyre, 1992.

In diary form and based on her own experiences, this novel by Shirley Sterling is about living and studying at an Indian residential school. Her name and everything else about her life was changed when she was forced to deny being Indian.

Tingle, Tim (Choctaw). *Spirits Dark and Light: Supernatural Tales from the Five Civilized Tribes*. August House, 2006.

Here are stories of great love, faithfulness, strength, and kindness as well as supernatural events with unexpected occurrences. The cultures, values, beliefs, and hopes of the Choctaw, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole people come through in the stories

When the Rain Sings: Poems by Young Native Americans. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1999.

An anthology of 37 poems written by Native American writers aged seven to seventeen. Their heartfelt and striking words are paired with photographs of artifacts from the collection of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.