

## Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center Children's Library

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### Selected Picture Books

**These titles are only a few of the many books written by American Indians in the Children's Library.**

Ahenakew, Freda (Cree). *Wisahkecahk Flies to the Moon*. Pemmican Publications, 1999. ISBN 0-921827-57-1.

Wisahkecahk flies to the moon by holding on to the legs of a crane (that's why the crane has long legs) and falls back to earth when the moon "disappears" from beneath him. In English and Cree.

Armstrong, Jeanette ((Okanagan). *Dancing with the Cranes*. Theytus Books, 2004. ISBN 1-894778-17-0.

Chi' misses her grandmother so much that she is unhappy with everything including the impending arrival of a sibling. Her parents' love and the joy she feels when the cranes return on their way north help her realize the cycle of life continues.

Ata, Te (Chickasaw) and adapted by Lynn Maroney. *Baby Rattlesnake*. Children's Book Press, 1989. ISBN 0-89239-049-2.

A teaching tale about what happens when you get something before you're ready for it.

Begay, Shonto (Navajo). *Ma'ii and Cousin Horned Toad: A Traditional Navajo Story*. Scholastic, 1992. ISBN 0-590-45391-2.

Shonto Begay retells and illustrates his own favorite childhood tale about Ma'ii the coyote tricking his cousin with unexpected results. It is currently out-of-print, but can be found in libraries.

Blacksheep, Beverly (Diné), illustrator. *Baby's First Laugh, Baby Learns about Animals, Baby Learns about Colors, Baby Learns to Count, Baby Learns about Weather, Baby Learns about Seasons, Baby Learns about Time, Baby Learns about Senses*. Salina Bookshelf, 2003, 2005.

Eight bilingual board books show a young Diné child exploring her environment with her family.

Bruchac, Joseph (Abenaki). *The Circle of Thanks: Native American Poems and Songs of Thanksgiving*. BridgeWater Books, 1996. ISBN 0-8167-4012-7.

Daily prayers of giving thanks are gathered by Joseph Bruchac from fourteen Native American cultures.

Bruchac, Joseph (Abenaki) and Gayle Ross (Cherokee). *The Story of the Milky Way: A Cherokee Tale*. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1995. ISBN 0-8037-1738-5.

This Cherokee legend tells of the time when there were not many stars and an entire village worked together to drive the giant spirit dog into the sky creating the Milky Way.

Bruchac, Joseph (Abenaki) and James Bruchac (Abenaki). *How Chipmunk Got His Stripes*. Dial Books for Young Readers, 2001. ISBN 0-8037-2404-7.

Two well-known storytellers have combined their talents in this book about a boastful bear and a little brown squirrel who teases too much. Also look for *Raccoon's Last Race* (2004) and *Turtle's Race with Beaver* (2003) by the same father and son team.

Bruchac, Marge (Abenaki). *Malian's Song*. Vermont Folklife Center, 2006. ISBN 0-916718-26-3.

Based on the true story of "Roger's Raid" on the St. Francis Abenaki village during the French and Indian War in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, this book is emotionally powerful and moving.

*Byron Through the Season: A Dene-English Story Book by the Children of La Loche and Friends*. Fifth House Publishers, 1990. ISBN 1-895618-33-9.

Byron's grandfather, Jonas, talks about the seasons, recalling significant things and events in the daily life of the Dene people in La Loche, Saskatchewan.

Campbell, Nicola I. (Interior Salish/Métis). *Shi-shi-etko*. Greenwood, 2005.

ISBN 978-0-88899-659-6. *Shin-chi's Canoe*. Greenwood, 2008. ISBN 978-0-88899-857-6.

Shi-shi-etko has four days until she is sent off to a residential school, and she spend the time gathering memories to sustain her until she can come home again. In *Shin-chi's Canoe*, her younger brother joins her at the school and has a hard time being away from home.

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. *Beaver Steals Fire: A Salish Coyote Story*, told by Johnny Arlee (Salish). University of Nebraska, 2005. ISBN 0-8032-4323-5.

This is the story of how the animals got fire from Curlew, keeper of the sky world. A note to teachers and parents discusses the importance of fire to the Salish and Pend d'Oreille and how they used fire to improve the land and harvests. **2006 American Indian Youth Literature Picture Book Award** winner.

Cuthand, Beth (Cree). *The Little Duck Sikihipsis*. Theytus Books, 1999. ISBN 0-919441-74-2.

With Cree translations by Stan Cuthand. A lonely little mud duck wishes to join the Cree dance and discovers trying to be something you're not isn't a good idea.

De Coteau Orie, Sandra (Oneida). *Did You Hear Wind Sing Your Name? An Oneida Song of Spring*. Walker and Co., 1995. ISBN 0-8027-8350-3.

Striking illustrations add to this song of spring and thanks.

Delaronde, Deborah L. (Métis). *The Rabbits' Race*. Theytus Books, 2009. ISBN 978-1-894778-76-3.

Joey's grandfather tells the story of how jackrabbits and bush rabbits learned to get along but only with help from a thoughtful, wise elderly rabbit.

Denny, Elizabeth (Métis). *Jenneli's Dance*. Theytus, 2008. ISBN 978-1-894778-61-9.

With the help of her loving Grandma, Jenneli overcomes her shyness to dance the Red River Jig at the jiggging contest. Will she remember the steps and music changes?

Duvall, Deborah L. (Cherokee). *Rabbit and the Well*. University of New Mexico Press, 2008. ISBN 978-8263-4331-4.

Another title in the Grandmother Stories Collection, this book is about Ji-Stu's learning experience when he refuses to help dig a well during a drought. Based on a Cherokee story that predates other "tar baby" stories.

*Eaglecrest Books – Leveled Readers.* EaglecrestBooks, 2003-2009.

A series of many small books from British Columbia for beginning readers at different levels of ability. They feature First Nations families doing everyday things, with engaging photographs.

Fawcett, Melissa Jayne (Mohegan) and Joseph Bruchac (Abenaki). *Makiawisug: The Gift of the Little People.* Little People Publications, 1997. ISBN 0-9656933-2-5.

Flying Bird, the little girl in this book, told this story about her Grandmother and the Little People of the Woodlands to Dr. Gladys Tantaquidgeon who passed on it to the author.

Harjo, Joy ((Muskogee-Creek). *The Good Luck Cat.* Harcourt, 2000. ISBN 0-15-232197-7.

Woogie, “a striped cat with tickling whiskers and green electric eyes,” gets into lots of trouble but all ends well.

Highway, Tomson (Cree). *Caribou Song* (2001), *Dragonfly Kites* (2002) and *Fox on the Ice* (2003), HarperCollins.

These three books form *Songs of the North Wind*-a trilogy of stories about Joe, Cody, their mother and father, and Cody’s little black dog, Ootsie who live in northern Manitoba. Share their adventures as they fish, play and laugh together!

*How Eagle Got His Good Eyes.* Written and illustrated by the Grade 5 and Grade 7 students of Oscar Blackburn School, South Indian Lake, Manitoba, Canada. Willowisp Press, 1995. ISBN 0-87406-743-X.

Nanabush the trickster tricks Eagle into trading his eyes, but all ends well. It is currently out-of-print, but may be found in libraries.

Jennings, Paulla Dove (Niantic/Narragansett). *Strawberry Thanksgiving.* Modern Curriculum Press, 1992. ISBN 1-8136-2286-7.

Adam is looking forward to celebrating Strawberry Thanksgiving until he quarrels with his sister. He then learns a valuable lesson from Grandmother’s story of the first Strawberry Thanksgiving. It is currently out-of-print, but may be found in libraries.

Keams, Geri (Navajo). *Grandmother Spider Brings the Sun.* Rising Moon, 1995. ISBN 0-87358-694-8.

After other animals have failed, Grandmother Spider succeeds in stealing a piece of the sun from the other side of the world.

Keeshig-Tobias, Lenore (Ojibway). *Emma and the Trees/Emma Mineaah Mtigooh.* Sister Vision, 1996. ISBN 0-920813-11-9.

On the way to the store one winter day, Emma gets over being upset and makes friends with the trees.

King, Thomas (Cherokee). *Coyote Solstice Tale.* Groundwood Books, 2009. ISBN 978-88899-929-0. A funny and thoughtful original story about Coyote and his friends visiting a shopping mall.

Kusugak, Michael Arvaarluk (Inuk). *The Littlest Sled Dog.* Orca Book, 2008. ISBN 978-1-55143-752-1.

Igvillu (Inuktitut for You Too) dreams of becoming a great sled dog, until she meets a real sled dog and changes her mind.

Kusugak, Michael Arvaarluk (Inuk). *My Arctic 1, 2, 3.* Annick Press, 1996. ISBN 1-55037-505-9.

From 1 polar bear to 10 lemmings, to 20 wolves, to 100 caribou, the animals of the Arctic are introduced in this informative and fun book.

LaDuke, Winona and Waseyabin Kapashesit (Anishinaabeg). *The Sugar Bush*. Rigby, 1999. ISBN 0-7635-5707-2.

The forest is very important to the Anishinaabeg and maple syrup is just one of the many gifts of the trees.

Loyie, Larry (Cree) and Constance Brissenden. *The Gathering Tree*. Theytus Books, 2005. ISBN 1-894778-28-6.

Lengthy picture book about a strong and loving family whose beloved cousin is HIV positive.

McLellan, Joseph (Nez Percé). *Nanabosho: How the Turtle Got its Shell*. Pemmican Publications, 1994. ISBN 0-921827-40-7.

Nanabosho gets some good fishing advice from Turtle and rewards him with a painted rock to use as a protective shell.

Medicine Crow, Joe (Crow). *Brave Wolf and the Thunderbird*. National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, 1998. ISBN 0-7892-0160-7.

The Thunderbird snatches Brave Wolf and takes him to her nest to protect her chicks from the monster that lives in the lake below.

Messinger, Carla (Lenape), and Susan Katz. *When the Shadbush Blooms*. Tricycle Press, 2007. ISBN 978-1-58246-192-2.

This story takes place both in the past (left page) and today (right page) and tells how Lenape people continue to live through the cycle of the seasons. Illustrated by David Kanietakeron Fadden (Mohawk).

Murray, Bonnie (Metis). *Thomas and the Metis Sash: Li Seannchur Fleshii di Michif*. Pemmican Publications, 2004. ISBN 1-894717-23-6.

The third in a series of books about Thomas-a contemporary child learning about his Metis culture. Translated into a written form of Michif Cree by Rita Flamand (Metis), Thomas gets a pet in *Li Minoush* (2001), finds out about the Metis flag in *Li Paviyón di Michif* (2003) and in this title, his mother tells him what the colors in her sash mean to the Metis people.

Nelson, S. D. (Standing Rock Sioux). *Coyote Christmas: A Lakota Story*. Abrams, 2007. ISBN 978-0-8109-9367-9.

Original story about Coyote's Christmas Eve trick which surprises even him in the end.

Nelson, S. D. (Standing Rock Sioux). *Quiet Hero: The Ira Hayes Story*. Lee & Low Books, 2006. ISBN 1-58430-263-1.

An illustrated short biography of Ira Hayes who is best known for helping raise the American flag at Iwo Jima in 1945. It traces his childhood, schooling, service in the Marines and unhappiness toward the end of his life and gives a portrait of a modest, courageous man.

Nicholson, Caitlin Dale with Leona Morin-Neilson (Cree). *Niwechihaw/I Help*. Groundwood Books, 2008. ISBN 978-0-88899-812-5.

A young man and his kôhkom spend time together-everything she does, he does, except sit! In Cree (the Y dialect) and English with glowing illustrations. Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation.

*Coyote Steals Fire: A Shoshone Tale*. Utah State University Press, 2005. ISBN 978-0-87421-618-9.

Retold and illustrated in a lively silhouette style, this book and CD are an excellent package.

Okanagan Tribal Council. *How Turtle Set the Animals Free*. Theytus Books, 1991. ISBN 0-919441-16-5.

Eagle controls the animals until Turtle has a dream that tells him how to beat Eagle in a race and free the animals from Eagle's power.

Ortiz, Simon (Acoma). *The People Shall Continue*. Children's Book Press, 1988. ISBN 0-89239-041-7.

"*The People Shall Continue* is the single best overview of Native history for younger people that I have ever seen." Doris Seale in *Through Indian Eyes*.

Orona-Ramirez, Kristy (Taos Pueblo/Tarahumara). *Kiki's Journey*. Children's Book Press, 2006. ISBN 0-89239-214-2.

Kiki lives with her parents in southern California and during this rare visit to Taos Pueblo, she realizes her connectedness to all her family and their "home."

Parsons-Yazzie, Evangeline (Navajo). *Dzání Yázhí Naazbaa': Little Woman Warrior Who Came Home: A Story of the Navajo Long Walk*. Salina Bookshelf, 2005. ISBN 1-893354-55-5.

Written in both English and Navajo and illustrated by Irving Toddy (Navajo), this book describes the march and the four years of exile that the Navajo endured from a child's point of view.

Peters, Russell (Mashpee Wampanoag). *Regalia: American Indian Dress and Dance*. Sundance, 1994. ISBN 1-56801-375-2.

An introduction to dancers, "real people who keep their traditional culture alive", of varying ages from twelve tribes. Illustrated with photographs of the dancers in their regalia and in their everyday clothes. Also available with a cassette narrated by Russell Peters.

Ross, Gayle, Retold by (Cherokee). *How Turtle's Back Was Cracked*. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1995. ISBN 0-8037-1728-8.

Turtle learns the hard way that boasting is dangerous.

Sanderson, Esther (Cree). *Two Pairs of Shoes*. Pemmican Publications, 1990. ISBN 0-921827-15-6.

Maggie gets two pairs of shoes for her birthday- patent leather shoes and moccasins.

Savage, Leah (Ojibwe). *Powwow: Niimiwin: Everyone Dance*. Fond du Lac Ojibwe Head Start, 2009. ISBN 978-0-9820870-6-0.

Shaydon and Delilah get ready for and dance at a powwow. Sturdy board book includes many Ojibwe words.

Savageau, Cheryl (Abenaki). *Muskrat Will Be Swimming*. Northland Publishing, 1996. ISBN 0-87358-604-2.

The kids at school call Jeannie a "Lake Rat," which upsets her until her grandfather tells her a Seneca story about how the earth was formed.

Smith, Cynthia Leitich (Muscogee Creek). *Jingle Dancer*. Morrow Junior Books, 2000. ISBN 0-688-16241-X.

Jenna borrows just enough jingles from relatives and friends to make her dress sing at the powwow where she dances for all the women who shared their jingles with her.

Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk (Lakota). *The Christmas Coat: Memories of My Sioux Childhood*. Holiday House, 2011. ISBN 978-0-8234-2134-3.

Virginia has outgrown her winter coat, but the needs of other children come first in her family's thinking. Will she be one of the lucky ones this Christmas?

Sockabasin, Allen (Passamaquoddy). *Thanks to the Animals*. Tilbury House, 2005. ISBN 0-88448-270-7.

Little Zoo Sap tumbles off his family's sled as they move inland for the winter, but the animals and birds keep him warm and happy until his father finds him.

Swamp, Chief Jake (Mohawk). *Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message*. Lee & Low Books, 1995. ISBN 1-880000-15-6.

Chief Jake Swamp's version of the Mohawk Thanksgiving Address, strikingly illustrated by Erwin Printup, Jr. (Cayuga/Tuscarora). An excellent video version narrated in Mohawk and English by Chief Jake Swamp is available from Weston Woods.

*Tatanka and the Lakota People: A Creation Story*. South Dakota State Historical Press, 2006. ISBN 0-9749195-8-6.

In Lakota and English, illustrated by Donald Montileaux (Oglala Lakota), this story about Tatanka (Buffalo) is one part of the full Lakota creation story.

Tchin (Blackfoot-Narragansett). *Rabbit's Wish for Snow*. Scholastic Hello Readers! Level 2, 1996. ISBN 0-590-69767-6.

Rabbit wants to play in the snow but it's spring and there's no snow to be found. He gets his wish but with consequences.

Teevee, Ningeokuluk (Inuit). *Alego*. Groundwood Books, 2009.

Simple story about a girl and her grandmother walking on the shore in Kinngait (Cape Dorset). In Inuktitut and English.

Tingle, Tim (Choctaw). *Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship & Freedom*. Cinco Puntos Press, 2006. ISBN 0-938317-77-6.

A Choctaw girl, Martha Tom, crosses Bok Chitto river in search of blackberries. **2008 American Indian Youth Literature Picture Book Award** winner.

Tingle, Tim (Choctaw). *Saltypie: A Choctaw Journey from Darkness into Light*. Cinco Puntos Press, 2010. ISBN 978-1933693675.

This Tingle family story explains how "saltypie" came to mean facing adversity with strength.

Tsinajinnie, Veronica (Navajo). *Jóhonaa' éí: Bringer of Dawn*. Salina Bookshelf, 2007. ISBN 1-893354-54-7.

With bold illustrations by Ryan Singer (Navajo), this story is about how Jóhonaa' éí, the sun, brings light and warmth to desert, from the sagebrush to the family in their hogan. Winner of the **2008 Lacapa Spirit Prize**.

Waboose, Jan Bourdeau (Ojibway). *SkySisters*. Kids Can Press, 2000. ISBN 1-55074-697-9.

Two young sisters journey out into the Arctic night in search of the Northern Lights.

Wheeler, Bernelda (Cree). *Where Did You Get Your Moccasins?* Peguis Publishers, 1992. ISBN 1-895411-50-5.

Every time Jody answers a question about his moccasins, his friends ask another and so the story of how his Grandmother made them is told.

White, Tara (Mohawk). *I Like Who I Am*. Theytus Books, 2008. ISBN 978-1-894778-63-3.

One of Celina's new classmates doesn't think Celina "looks" Mohawk which makes her decide not to dance at the powwow. Bullying and belonging are the issues here.

Yazzie, Seraphine (Navajo). *The Three Little Sheep/Dibé Yázhí Taa'go Baa Hane'*. Salina Bookshelf, 2006. ISBN 1-893354-09-1.

Incorporates Navajo culture into a familiar story. In Navajo and English with great pictures by Ryan Huna Smith (Chemehuevi/Navajo).

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