Native American & First Nation Creators

Fiction, Nonfiction, Graphic Novels, Biographies & Traditional Stories

Fiction & Graphic Novels

Akulukjuk, Roselynn (Inuit). ***Putuguq & Kublu and the Qalupalik!*** (Graphic Novel series). What creatures lurk beneath the sea ice? Putuguq and Kublu--two siblings who can't seem to get along--are about to find out!

Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids (FIC ANC). Families from Nations across the continent gather at the Dance for Mother Earth Powwow. In connected short stories, young protagonists will meet relatives from faraway, mysterious strangers, and one another.

Bird, James (Ojibwe). ***The Second Chance of Benjamin Waterfalls.*** After being caught stealing one too many times, Benjamin Waterfalls is sent to a "boot camp" at the Ojibwe reservation where he searches for answers as he tries to turn his life around and embrace this second chance. Also by James Bird: ***The Brave.***

Bruchac, Joseph (Abenaki). ***Rez Dogs***. Twelve-year-old Malian lives with her grandparents on a Wabanaki reservation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Also by Joseph Bruchac: **Bearwalker, Hidden Roots, Peacemaker,** and **Two Roads**.

Coulson, Art (Cherokee). ***The Reluctant Storyteller.*** Chooch has doubts about being a storyteller like the rest of his Cherokee family, and he is hesitant to spend spring break with Uncle Dynamite in Oklahoma.

Day, Christine (Upper Skagit). ***The Sea in Winter***. When an injury ends her dream of becoming a ballerina, Maisie is not excited for her family's road trip along the coast, near the Makah community where her mother grew up. Also by Christine Day: ***I Can Make This Promise.***

Erdrich, Louise (Turtle Mountain Chippewa). ***Birchbark House*** (series). Spanning two generations of stories, this series follows a 19th century Ojibwa family as they change and grow.

Hutchinson, Michael (Misipawistik Cree Nation). ***Mighty Muskrat Mysteries: The Case of Windy Lake*** (series). When a visiting archaeologist goes missing, four inseparable cousins decide to solve the mystery of his disappearance.

Johnson, Anna Rose (Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa). ***The Star That Always Stays.*** When fourteen-year-old Norvia moves from Beaver Island to Boyne City in 1914, she has to contend with a new school, a first crush, and a blended family, but she also must keep secret her parents' divorce and her Ojibwe heritage.

The Journey Forward: Novellas on Reconciliation: When We Play Our Drums, They Sing/Lucy & Lola (FIC JOU). Novellas on residential schools and reconciliation from authors Richard Van Camp (Tlicho Nation) and Monique Gray Smith (Cree and Lakota).

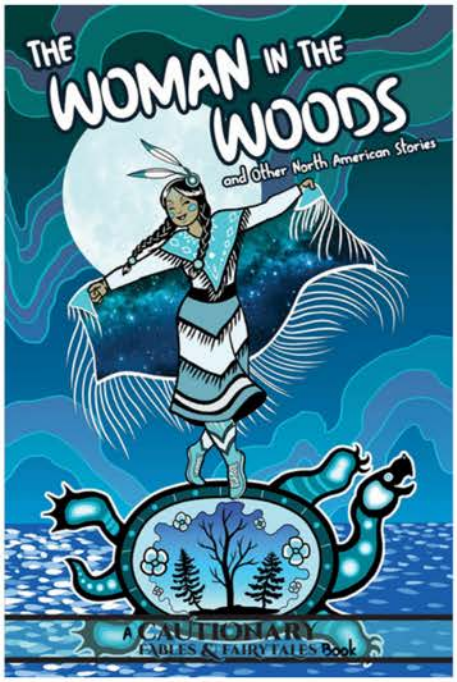
King, Thomas (Cherokee). ***Borders*** (Graphic Novels). The story of a boy and his mother whose road trip is thwarted at the U.S./Canada border when they state their citizenship as Blackfoot. In the limbo between countries, they find power in their connection to their identity. Also by Thomas King: ***Coyote Tales.***

LaPensée, Elizabeth (Anishinaabe & Métis). ***Rabbit Chase*** (Graphic Novels). Aimée, a non-binary Anishinaabe middle-schooler, is on a class trip to offer gifts to Paayehnsag, the water spirits known to protect the land. When Aimée accidentally wanders off, they are transported to an alternate dimension populated by traditional Anishinaabe figures in a story inspired by *Alice in Wonderland.*

Marshall III, Joseph (Sicangu Lakota). ***In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse***. Teased for his fair coloring, eleven-year-old Jimmy travels with his grandfather to learn about his Lakota heritage.

McManis, Charlene Willing (Grand Ronde) with Traci Sorrell (Cherokee). ***Indian No More***. When Regina's Umpqua tribe is legally terminated and her family relocated, she goes on a quest to understand her identity despite being so far from home.

Mills, Allison (Ililiw/Cree). ***The Ghost Collector.*** Shelly and her grandmother catch ghosts. Just like all the women in their family, they can see souls who haven't transitioned yet; it's their job to help the ghosts along their journey. When Shelly's mom dies suddenly, Shelly's relationship to ghosts--and death--changes. Instead of helping spirits move on, Shelly starts hoarding them. But no matter how many ghost cats, dogs, or people she hides in her room, Shelly can't ignore the one ghost that's missing. Why hasn't her mom's ghost come home yet?



Quigley, Dawn (Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe). ***Jo Jo Makoons: The Used-to-Be Best Friend*** (Early Chapter series). Jo Jo Makoons Azure is a spirited seven-year-old who moves through the world a little differently than anyone else on her Ojibwe reservation. It always seems like her mom, her kokum, and her teacher have a lot to learn—about how good Jo Jo is at cleaning up, what makes a good rhyme, and what it means to be friendly.

Roanhorse, Rebecca (Ohkay Owingeh). ***Race to the Sun.*** Lately Nizhoni has been able to detect monsters, like Mr. Charles, her dad's new boss at the oil and gas company. He's also alarmingly interested in Nizhoni and her brother, Mac, their Navajo heritage, and the legend of the Hero Twins. Nizhoni knows he's a threat, but her father won't believe her. When Dad disappears the next day, leaving behind a message that says 'Run!', the siblings are thrust into a rescue mission.

Robertson, David (Norway House Cree Nation). ***The Barren Grounds*** (series). Morgan and Eli, two Indigenous children are brought together in a foster home. They each feel disconnected and struggle to fit in... until they find a secret portal to another reality. There they meet Ochek, the only hunter supporting his starving community, who teaches the kids traditional ways to survive.

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Native American & First Nation Creators

Fiction, Graphic Novels, Nonfiction & Biographies

Fiction & Graphic Novels, cont.

Rogers, Andrea L. (Cherokee). ***Mary and The Trail of Tears: A Cherokee Removal Survival Story***. Mary does not really understand what is happening when her family is forced from their Cherokee Nation home by U.S. soldiers in May, 1838. Why did the soldiers kill her grandfather? How will they survive the 1000-mile trip to the lands west of the Mississippi?

Sainte-Marie, Buffy (Cree). ***Tâpwê and the Magic Hat*** (Early Chapters). Tâpwê's Kokum has given him the most amazing gift, a magic hat with birds and snakes that come to life! But he forgets his Kokum's advice: Watch out for tricksters!

Smith, Cynthia Leitich (Muscogee Creek). ***Sisters of the Neversea***. In this magical, modern twist on *Peter Pan*, stepsisters Lily and Wendy are spirited away to Neverland by a mysterious boy and must find a way back to the family they love. Also by Cynthia Leitich Smith: ***Indian Shoes***.

Starr, Arigon (Kickapoo). ***Super Indian Vol. 1 & 2*** (Graphic Novels). Hubert was ordinary until he ate tainted cheese. Now he fights with strength, smarts, and humor to stop the evil that would overtake the Reservation's resources and population.

Tales of the Mighty Code Talkers (Graphic Novels). The wartime contributions of Navajo Code Talkers have garnered attention, but the role played by men of other tribes is often overlooked.

Tingle, Tim (Choctaw). ***Stone River Crossing.*** When Martha crosses the river into the Mississippi territory she meets an enslaved boy whose mother is about to be sold, so Martha convinces them to cross the river and be free. Also by Tim Tingle: ***How I Became a Ghost: A Choctaw Trail of Tears Story*** (series).

The Woman in the Woods and Other North American Stories (Graphic Novels). Loup Garrou, trickster rabbits, and spirits with names that can't be spoken--the plains and forests of North America are alive with characters like these, all waiting to meet you in this collection of folklore retold in comics!

Young, Brian (Diné/Navajo). ***Healer of the Water Monster.*** When Nathan goes to visit his grandma, Nali, at her mobile summer home on the Navajo reservation, he knows he's in for a pretty uneventful summer. But one night, while lost in the nearby desert, Nathan finds someone extraordinary: a Holy Being from the Navajo Creation Story, a Water Monster, in need of help.

Nonfiction

Annino, Jan Godown. ***She Sang Promise: The Story of Betty Mae Jumper: Seminole Tribal Leader*** (970.3 SEM). Authorized biography of Betty Mae Tiger Jumper: storyteller, journalist, community activist, and the first female elected Seminole tribal leader.

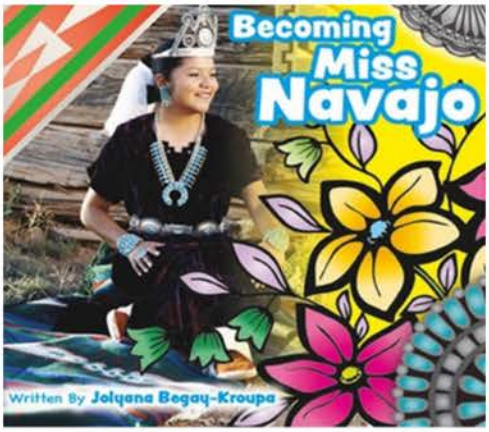
Begay-Kroupa, Jolyana (Diné/Navajo). ***Becoming Miss Navajo = Dine' bich'eekę' yishłeeh*** (970.3 NAV).* As a little girl, Jolyana Begay-Kroupa dreamed of becoming Miss Navajo. After years of learning the language, culture, and traditions, her chance finally comes to take on the important role.The skills she learned help her in tough competitions, but will they be enough to earn her the crown of Miss Navajo? Witness the inspiring true story of what it takes to become Miss Navajo and how the competition is only the beginning. *Also available in World Languages: Diné.

Bruchac, Joseph (Abenaki). ***A Peacemaker for Warring Nations: The Founding of the Iroquois League*** (970.3 BRU). The League of the Iroquois was a true representational democracy. But how, did the Five Iroquois Nations (the Mohawk, Onondaga, Oneida, Cayuga, and Seneca) come to end the bitterwarfare among them? What brought them together in an alliance based on the Great Law of Peace? Also by Joseph Bruchac: ***The Hunter's Promise: An Abenaki Tale*** (398.2 BRU).

Craft, Aimée (**Anishinaabe/Métis**). ***Treaty Words: For as Long as the Rivers Flow*** (970.004 CRA). On the banks of the river that have been Mishomis's home his whole life, he teaches his granddaughter to listen--to hear both the sounds and the silences, and so to learn her place in Creation. Most importantly, he teaches her about treaties--the bonds of reciprocity and renewal that endure for as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow.

Dupuis, Jenny Kay (Nipssing First Nation). ***I am Not a Number = Gaawin gindaaswin ndaawsii*** (971.004 DUP).* When Irene is removed from her First Nations family to live in a residential school, she is confused, frightened, and homesick. *Also available in World Languages: Ojibwe.

Grace, Catherine and Margaret M. Bruchac (Abenaki). ***1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving*** (394.264 GRA). A photographic recreation of the 1621 harvest celebration by Plymouth Plantation and the Wampanoag community.



Gray Smith, Monique (Cree and Lakota). ***Speaking Our Truth: A Journey of Reconciliation*** (971.004 GRA). Canada's relationship with its Indigenous people has suffered as a result of both the residential school system and the lack of understanding of the historical and current impact of those schools. Healing and repairing that relationship requires education, awareness and increased understanding of the legacy and the impacts still being felt by Survivors and their families.

Herrington, John (Chicksaw). ***Mission to Space*** (629.41 HER). Chickasaw astronaut John Herrington shares his flight on the space shuttle Endeavour and his mission to the International Space Station.

Jordan-Fenton, Christy (Inuit). ***Fatty-Legs: A True Story*** (970.3 INU). The true story of an Inuit girl's unbreakable spirit while attending an Arctic residential school. Also retold for younger readers in ***When I was Eight*** and ***Not My Girl***.

Leatherdale, Mary Beth and Lisa Charleyboy (Tsilhqot'in – Raven Clan). ***Urban Tribes: Native Americans in the City*** (305.897 URB). Dozens of young Native Americans who live in cities offer glimpses of their lives, dreams, work. Also by the authors: ***Dreaming in Indian: Contemporary Native Voices*** (970.1 DRE).

McDonald, Liam (Kanien'keh:ka (Mohawk)) and Doug Kiel (Oneida). ***Indigenous America*** (973.1 MCD). American schoolchildren have long been taught that their country was "discovered" by Christopher Columbus in 1492. But the history of Native Americans in the United States goes back tens of tens of thousands of years prior to Columbus's and other colonizers' arrivals. So, what's the true history? *Indigenous America* introduces and amplifies the oral and written histories that have long been left out of American history books.

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Nonfiction, cont.

Mendoza, Jean and Debbie Reese (Nambé Pueblo). ***An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States, For Young People*** (970.004 MEN). Going beyond the story of America as a country "discovered" by a few brave men, this reveals the roles that settler colonialism and policies of American Indian genocide played in forming our national identity.

Nelson, S.D. (Standing Rock Sioux). ***Crazy Horse and Custer: Born Enemies*** (978.004 NEL). Lakota chief Crazy Horse and Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer had long been enemies when they finally crossed paths for the last time in 1876, as the people of the Great Plains resisted the invasion of their homes. Witness reports and reflections by their peers accompany side-by-side storytelling, revealing different perspectives on the historical events during their intertwined lives. Also by S.D. Nelson: ***Black Elk's Vision: A Lakota Story*** (970.3 LAK) and ***Buffalo Bird Girl: A Hidatsa Story*** (970.3 HID).

Newman, Carey. ***The Witness Blanket: Truth, Art and Reconciliation*** (970.004 NEW). The Blanket is a living work of art--a collection of hundreds of objects from residential schools. It includes everything from bricks, graduation certificates, dolls and piano keys to braids of hair. Behind every piece is a story. And behind every story is a residential school Survivor, including Carey's father.

One Land, Many Nations (970.004 ONE). The continental United States is one land, but within its borders are many nations--sovereign Native American nations whose citizens have dual citizenship. Native Americans Traci Sorell (Cherokee) and Lee Francis IV (Laguna Pueblo) share the history of their people, famous citizens, traditional stories, as well as details about tribal life today--including their system of government, education, and commerce.

Page, Andrea M. (Standing Rock Sioux). ***Sioux Code Talkers of World War II*** (940.548 PAG). The story of seven Sioux who joined the fight against Japan, using their native language as a secret code.

Pheasant-Neganigwane, Karen (Anishinaabe). ***Powwow: A Celebration Through Song and Dance*** (394 PHE). Journey through the history of powwow culture in North America, from its origins to the thriving powwow culture of today.

Robinson, Gary and Jesse T. Hummingbird (Cherokee). ***Native American Twelve Days of Christmas*** (970.1 ROB). The beloved traditional English Christmas carol has been adapted here to reflect aspects of the richly varied cultures and traditions of twelve Native American cultural groups from different parts of the U.S.

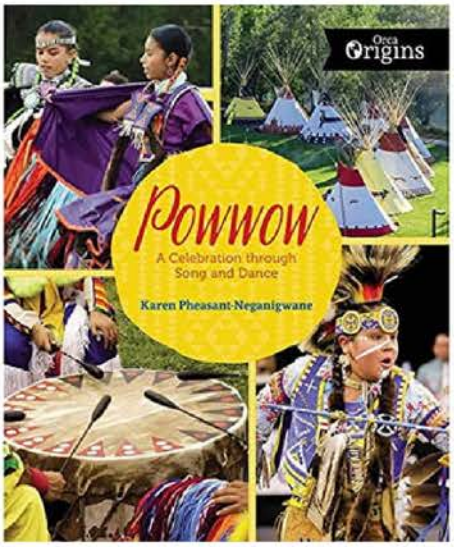
Sigafus, Kim (Ojibwa). ***Native Writers: Voices of Power*** (810.9 SIG). Discover the life events and aspirations that shaped the voices of ten influential Native writers.

Sorell, Traci (Cherokee). ***We Are Still Here: Native American Truths Everyone Should Know*** (970.1 SOR). Presenting to their classmates, a group of Native American kids shares struggles, and victories from across twelve historical and contemporary time periods. Also by Traci Sorrell: ***We are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*** (970.3 CHE).

Tudor, Aslan (Lipan Apache). ***Young Native Activist: Growing up in Native American Rights Movements*** (970.3 LIP). Eleven-year-old Aslan describes his life as an activist for Native American rights. Also by Aslan Tudor: ***Young Water Protectors: A Story about Standing Rock*** (970.3 LAK).

Weisman, Kay and Roy Henry Vickers (Tsimshian, Haida and Heiltsuk). ***If You Want to Visit a Sea Garden*** (639.44 WEI). Sea gardens have been created by First Peoples on the Northwest coast for more than three thousand years. These gardens consist of stone reefs that are constructed at the lowest tide line, encouraging the growth of clams and other marine life on the gently sloped beach.

Yellowhorn, Eldon (Piikani Nation). ***Sky Wolf's Call: The Gift of Indigenous Knowledge*** (970.004 YEL). From healing to astronomy to our connection to the natural world, the lessons from Indigenous knowledge inform our learning and practices today. How do knowledge systems get passed down over generations? Through the knowledge inherited from their Elders and ancestors, Indigenous Peoples throughout North America have observed, practiced, experimented, and interacted with plants, animals, the sky, and the waters over millennia. Also by Eldon Yellowhorn: ***Turtle Island: The Story of North America's First People*** (970.01 YEL) and ***What the Eagle Sees: Indigenous Stories of Rebellion and Renewal*** (970.004 YEL).



Biographies

The Water Lady: How Darlene ARVISO Helps a Thirsty Navajo Nation.

Sharice's Big Voice: A Native Kid Becomes a Congresswoman (DAVIDS).

Ella Cara DELORIA: Dakota Language Protector.

Peggy FLANAGAN: Ogimaa Kwe, Lieutenant Governor.

Cuthbert GRANT: Leader of the Métis People.

She Persisted: Wilma MANKILLER.

Shaped by Her Hands: Potter Maria MARTINEZ.

Chester NEZ and the Unbreakable Code: A Navajo Code Talker's Story.

RED CLOUD: A Lakota Story of War and Surrender.

One Real American: The Life of Ely S. PARKER, Seneca Sachem and Civil War General.

Classified: The Secret Career of Mary Golda ROSS, Cherokee Aerospace Engineer.

SITTING BULL: Lakota Warrior and Defender of His People.

SPOTTED TAIL.

She Persisted: Maria TALLCHIEF.

Unstoppable: How Jim THORPE and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team Defeated Army.

Finding My Dance (Ria THUNDERCLOUD).