



# BOOKLIST

This booklist consists of titles acknowledging Native peoples' histories and contemporary lives. Included are various books for children, young adults, adults, and families.

Book descriptions listed in this booklist are gathered from the Berks County Public Libraries' catalog. All titles are part of the countywide catalog and can be checked out at any of our 23 locations or online at **[www.berkslibraries.org](http://www.berkslibraries.org)**.

Bernville Area Community Library  
Bethel-Tulpehocken Public Library  
Boone Area Library  
Boyertown Community Library  
Brandywine Community Library  
Exeter Community Library  
Fleetwood Area Public Library  
Hamburg Public Library  
Kutztown Community Library  
Mifflin Community Library  
Muhlenberg Community Library  
Reading Public Library–Main  
Reading Public Library–Northeast  
Reading Public Library–Northwest  
Reading Public Library–Southeast  
Robesonia Community Library  
Schuylkill Valley Community Library  
Sinking Spring Public Library  
Spring Township Library  
Village Library of Morgantown  
Wernersville Public Library  
West Lawn-Wyomissing Hills Library  
Womelsdorf Community Library

# Books for Young Readers

## ***Being Home*** by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Michaela Goade (2024)

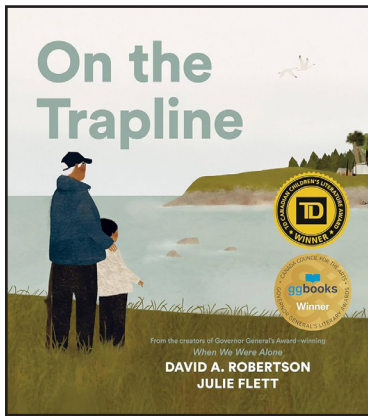
On a day filled with anticipation, a young Cherokee girl bids farewell to her familiar city life and documents the changing landscape through drawings as her family moves to their ancestral land and embraces their new home.

## ***Berry Song*** by Michaela Goade (2022)

As a young Tlingit girl collects wild berries over the seasons, she sings with her Grandmother as she learns to speak to the land and listen when the land speaks back.

## ***Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story*** by Kevin Noble Maillard, illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal (2019)

This award-winning depiction of a modern Native American family tells a tale of a family coming together to create a meaningful meal and new memories. Includes a recipe and an extensive author note that delves into the social ways, foodways, and politics of America's 537 recognized tribes.



## ***On the Trapline***

by David A. Robertson,  
illustrated by Julie Flett (2021)

A boy and Moshom, his grandpa, take a trip together to visit a place of great meaning to Moshom. A trapline is where people hunt and live off the land, and it was where Moshom grew up. As they embark on their northern journey, the child repeatedly asks his grandfather, "Is this your trapline?" Along the way, the boy finds himself imagining what life was like two generations ago. This is a heartfelt story about memory, imagination and intergenerational connection that perfectly captures the experience of a young child's wonder as he is introduced to places and stories that hold meaning for his family.

***Powwow Day*** by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight (2022)

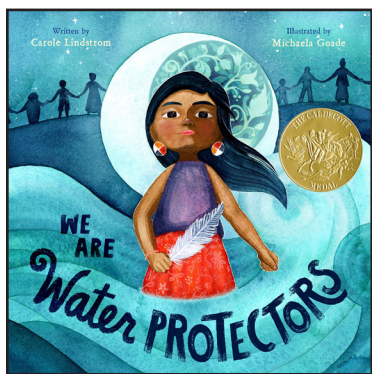
Because she has been very ill and weak, River cannot join in the dancing at this year's tribal powwow, she can only watch from the sidelines as her sisters and cousins dance the celebration - but as the drum beats she finds the faith to believe that she will recover and dance again.

***Jingle Dancer*** by Cynthia Leitich Smith (2000)

Jenna, a member of the Muscogee, or Creek, Nation, borrows jingles from the dresses of several friends and relatives so that she can perform the jingle dance at the powwow. Includes a note about the jingle dance tradition and its regalia.

***Remember*** by Joy Harjo, illustrated by Michaela Goade (2023)

In simple and direct language, Joy Harjo, a member of the Mvskoke Nation, urges readers to pay close attention to who they are, the world they were born into, and how everyone on Earth is connected.

***We Are Water Protectors***

by Carole Lindstrom, Michaela Goade (Illustrator) (2020)

Water is the first medicine. It affects and connects us all... When a black snake threatens to destroy the Earth and poison her people's water, one young water protector takes a stand to defend Earth's most sacred resource. Inspired by the many indigenous-led movements across North America, this bold and lyrical picture book issues an urgent rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption

***Rock Your Mocs*** by Laurel Goodluck, illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight (2023)

This happy, vibrant tribute to Rock Your Mocs Day, observed yearly on November 15, celebrates the joy and power of wearing moccasins - and the Native pride that comes with them.

***We All Play: kimêtawânaw*** by Julie Flett (2021)

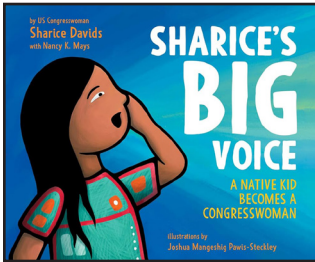
A marvelous celebration of the interconnectedness of all creatures, based on the Cree teaching of wahkohtowin, interconnectedness and play. Includes the English and Cree names of the animals in the book.

***I Sang You Down from the Stars*** by Tasha Spillett-Sumner, Michaela Goade (Illustrator) (2021)

A Native American woman describes how she loved her child before it was born and, throughout her pregnancy, gathered a bundle of gifts to welcome the newborn.

***Where Wonder Grows*** by Xelena Gonzalez, Adriana M. Garcia (2022)

From the creators of the award-winning picture book “All Around Us” comes another lyrical intergenerational story exploring our connections to nature, family, and traditions.



***Sharice's Big Voice: A Native Kid Becomes a Congresswoman***

by Sharice Davids & Nancy K. Mays, illustrated by Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley (2021)

This inspiring picture book autobiography tells the remarkable story of Sharice Davids, one of the first Native American women elected to Congress and the first LGBTQ congressperson to represent Kansas.

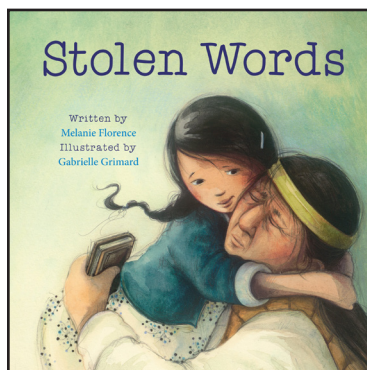
***When the Stars Came Home*** by Brittany Luby, illustrated by Natasha Donovan (2023)

After his family moves to the city, young Ojiig misses the life he knew back home and the night sky full of stars until his parents help him find ways to make the city feel more like home.

***Why We Dance: A Story of Hope and Healing*** by Deidre Havrelock, illustrated by Aly McKnight (2024)

A young Indigenous girl's family helps calm her nervous butterflies before her first Jingle Dress Dance and reminds her why she dances.

## Books for School-Age Readers



### ***Stolen Words***

by Melanie Florence, illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard (2017)

This picture book explores the intergenerational impact of Canada's residential school system that separated Indigenous children from their families. The story recognizes the pain of those whose culture and language were taken from them, how that pain is passed down and shared through generations, and how healing can also be shared. *Stolen Words* captures the beautiful, healing relationship between a little girl and her grandfather. When she asks him how to say

something in his language - Cree - her grandpa admits that his words were stolen from him when he was a boy. The little girl then sets out to help her grandfather regain his language.

***Jo Jo Makoons: The Used-to-Be Best Friend*** by Dawn Quigley, illustrated by Tara Audibert (2021)

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.

***We are Grateful: Ostaliheliga*** by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Frane Lessac (2018)

Ostaliheliga is a Cherokee word that is used to express gratitude. Journey through the year with a Cherokee family and their tribal nation as they express thanks for celebrations big and small. A look at modern Native American life as told by a citizen of the Cherokee Nation.

***We Are Still Here!: Native American Truths Everyone Should Know*** by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Frane Lessac (2021)

A group of Native American kids from different tribes presents twelve historical and contemporary time periods, struggles, and victories to their classmates, each ending with a powerful refrain: we are still here.

***Classified: The Secret Career of Mary Golda Ross, Cherokee Aerospace Engineer*** by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Natasha Donovan (2021)

Mary Golda Ross designed classified airplanes and spacecraft as Lockheed Aircraft Corporation's first female engineer. Find out how her passion for math and the Cherokee values she was raised with shaped her life and work.

***She Persisted: Maria Tallchief*** by Christine Day, Chelsea Clinton, Alexandra Boiger (Illustrator), Gillian Flint (Illustrator) (2021)

A biography of Maria Tallchief, part of the She Persisted chapter book series.

***Finding My Dance*** by Ria Thundercloud, illustrated by Kalila J. Fuller (2022)

Professional Indigenous dancer Ria Thundercloud tells the true story of her path to dance and how it helped her take pride in her Native American heritage.

***The First Woman Cherokee Chief: Wilma Pearl Mankiller*** by Patricia Morris Buckley, illustrated by Aphelandra Messer (2023)

The true story of how Wilma Pearl Mankiller challenged gender norms introduced by settlers and become the first woman Cherokee Chief.

***My Powerful Hair*** by Carole Lindstrom; illustrated by Steph Littlebird (2023)

After generations of short hair in her family, a little girl celebrates growing her hair long to connect to her culture and honor the strength and resilience of those who came before her.

***What Your Ribbon Skirt Means to Me: Deb Haaland's Historic Inauguration*** by Alexis Bunten, illustrated by Nicole Neidhardt (2023)

Pia rushes over to the Indigenous community center after school. It's where she goes every day to play outside with friends and work on her homework. But today - March 18, 2021 - is special: Auntie Autumn gathers all the children around their television to witness Secretary Deb Haaland in her ribbon skirt at the White House as she becomes the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary. Together with their parents and Elders, the children explore the values woven into their own regalia, land, community, and traditions, making precious memories on this day they won't soon forget.

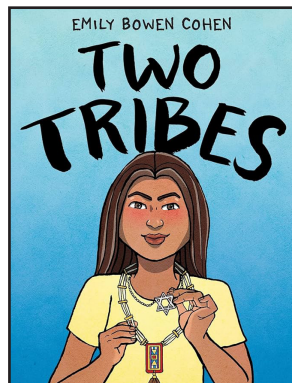
## Books for Middle Grade Readers

### *I Can Make this Promise* by Christine Day (2019)

When twelve-year-old Edie finds letters and photographs in her attic that change everything she thought she knew about her Native American mother's adoption, she realizes she has a lot to learn about her family's history and her own identity.

### *Healer of the Water Monster* by Brian Young (2021)

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, with no electricity or cell service. Still, he loves spending time with Nali and with his uncle Jet, though it's clear when Jet arrives that he brings his problems with him. 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. Now Nathan must summon all his courage to save his new friend. With the help of other Navajo Holy Beings, Nathan is determined to save the Water Monster, and to support Uncle Jet in healing from his own pain.



### *Two Tribes*

by Emily Bowen Cohen (2023)

Mia is still getting used to living with her mom and stepfather, and to the new role their Jewish identity plays in their home. Feeling out of place at home and at her Jewish day school, Mia finds herself thinking more and more about her Muscogee father, who lives with his new family in Oklahoma. Her mother doesn't want to talk about him, but Mia can't help but feel like she's missing a part of herself without him in her life. Soon, Mia makes a plan to use the gifts from her bat mitzvah to take a bus to Oklahoma - without telling her mom - to visit her dad and find the connection to her Muscogee side she knows is just as important as her Jewish side.

### *Eagle Drums* by Nasugraq Rainey Hopson (2023)

In preparation for winter, a skilled young hunter embarks on a perilous journey up the mountain to gather obsidian, where he encounters the fearsome eagle god Savik and is presented with a life-altering choice.



***Indian No More*** by Charlene Willing McManus with Traci Sorell (2019)

When Regina's Umpqua tribe is legally terminated and her family must relocate from Oregon to Los Angeles, she goes on a quest to understand her identity as an Indian despite being so far from home.

***The Barren Grounds*** by David A. Robertson (2020)

Morgan and Eli, two Indigenous children forced away from their families and communities, are brought together in a foster home in Winnipeg, Manitoba. They each feel disconnected, from their culture and each other, and struggle to fit in at school and at their new home -- until they find a secret place, walled off in an unfinished attic bedroom. A portal opens to another reality, Askâi, bringing them onto frozen, barren grounds, where they meet Ochek (fisher). The only hunter supporting his starving community, Misewa, Ochek welcomes the human children, teaching them traditional ways to survive. But as the need for food becomes desperate, they embark on a dangerous mission. Accompanied by Arik, a sassy Squirrel they catch stealing from the trapline, they try to save Misewa before the icy grip of winter freezes everything -- including them. The first in a series.

***The Luminous Life of Lucy Landry*** by Anna Rose Johnson (2024)

Lucy, a spirited French-Ojibwe orphan, is sent to the stormy waters of Lake Superior to live with a mysterious family of lighthouse-keepers-and, she hopes, to find the legendary necklace her father spent his life seeking.

***Indigenous Ingenuity: A Celebration of Traditional North American Knowledge*** by Deidre Havrelock and Edward Kay (2023)

A middle grade nonfiction work celebrating North American Indigenous knowledge and Native contributions to contemporary STEM.

***The Storyteller*** by Brandon Hobson (2023)

Ziggy's mother disappeared ten years ago, one of the many Native women who have mysteriously gone missing, and Ziggy believes a secret cave may hold the key - so with his sister, Moon, and friends Alice and Corso, he sets out to find the cave and solve the mystery of his family's origins.

***We Still Belong*** by Christine Day (2013)

Wesley's hopeful plans for Indigenous Peoples' Day (and asking her crush to the dance) go all wrong -until she finds herself surrounded by the love of her Indigenous family and community at the intertribal powwow.

# Books for Teens

## ***Looking for Smoke*** by K.A. Cobell (2024)

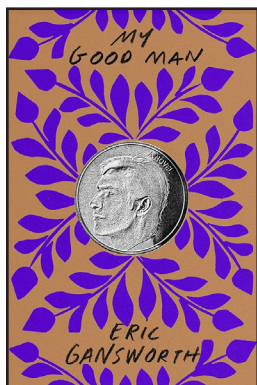
Four teens on the Blackfeet Reservation find themselves the suspects of an investigation when a classmate is found murdered during the annual Indian Days celebrations.

## ***Rez Ball*** by Byron Graves (2023)

These days, Tre Brun is happiest when he is playing basketball on the Red Lake Reservation high school team - even though he can't help but be constantly gut-punched with memories of his big brother, Jaxon, who died in an accident. When Jaxon's former teammates on the varsity team offer to take Tre under their wing, he sees this as his shot to represent his Ojibwe rez all the way to their first state championship. This is the first step toward his dream of playing in the NBA, no matter how much the odds are stacked against him. But stepping into his brother's shoes as a star player means that Tre can't mess up. Not on the court, not at school, and not with his new friend, gamer Khiana, who he is definitely not falling in love with. After decades of rez teams almost making it, Tre needs to take his team to state. Because if he can live up to Jaxon's dreams, their story isn't over yet.

## ***Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask: Young Readers Edition*** by Anton Treuer (2021)

A book of questions and answers for Native and non-Native young readers alike. Ranging from 'Why is there such a fuss about nonnative people wearing Indian costumes for Halloween?' to 'Why is it called a traditional Indian fry bread taco?' to 'What's it like for Natives who don't look Native?' to 'Why are Indians so often imagined rather than understood?' and beyond, [this book] does exactly what its title says for young readers.



## ***My Good Man***

by Eric Gansworth (2022)

When a mysterious assault lands the brother of his mother's late boyfriend in the hospital, Brian, a twenty-something Indigenous reporter, must pick up the threads of a life he's abandoned, returning to the Tuscarora reservation to discover the truth.



## *A Snake Falls to Earth*

by Darcie Little Badger (2021)

Nina is a Lipan girl in our world. She's always felt there was something more out there. She still believes in the old stories. Oli is a cottonmouth kid, from the land of spirits and monsters. Like all cottonmouths, he's been cast from home. He's found a new one on the banks of the bottomless lake. Nina and Oli have no idea the other exists. But a catastrophic event on Earth, and a strange sickness that befalls Oli's best friend, will drive their worlds together in ways they haven't been in centuries. And there are some who will kill to keep them apart.

### *Apple: (Skin to the Core)* by Eric Gansworth (2020)

The term "Apple" is a slur in Native communities across the country. It's for someone supposedly "red on the outside, white on the inside." Eric Gansworth is telling his story in *Apple (Skin to the Core)*. The story of his family, of Onondaga among Tuscaroras, of Native folks everywhere. From the horrible legacy of the government boarding schools, to a boy watching his siblings leave and return and leave again, to a young man fighting to be an artist who balances multiple worlds. Eric shatters that slur and reclaims it in verse and prose and imagery that truly lives up to the word heartbreaking.

### *Saints of the Household* by Ari Tison (2023)

When brothers Max and Jay help a classmate in trouble, they struggle with the consequences of their violent actions and worry they may be more like their abusive father than they thought, so the brothers turn to their Bribri roots to find their way forward.

### *This Indian Kid: A Native American Memoir* by Eddie Chuculate (2023)

Award-winning author Eddie Chuculate brings his childhood to life with spare, unflinching prose. Growing up impoverished and shuttled between different households, it seemed life was bound to take a certain path for Eddie. Despite the challenges he faced, his upbringing was rich with love and bountiful lessons from his Creek and Cherokee heritage, deep-rooted traditions he embraced even as he learned to live within the culture of white, small-town America that dominated his migratory childhood.

### *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley (2021)

Daunis, who is part Ojibwe, defers attending the University of Michigan to care for her mother and reluctantly becomes involved in the investigation of a series of drug-related deaths.

***Elatsoe* by Darcie Little Badger, Rovina Cai (Illustrator) (2020)**

Imagine an America very similar to our own. It's got homework, best friends, and pistachio ice cream. There are some differences. This America has been shaped dramatically by the magic, monsters, knowledge, and legends of its peoples, those Indigenous and those not. Some of these forces are charmingly everyday, like the ability to make an orb of light appear or travel across the world through rings of fungi. But other forces are less charming and should never see the light of day. Seventeen-year-old Elatsoe ("Ellie" for short) lives in this slightly stranger America. She can raise the ghosts of dead animals, a skill passed down through generations of her Lipan Apache family. Her beloved cousin has just been murdered, in a town that wants no prying eyes. But she is going to do more than pry. The picture-perfect facade of Willowbee masks gruesome secrets, and she will rely on her wits, skills, and friends to tear off the mask and protect her family.

***The Marrow Thieves* by Cherie Dimaline (2017)**

#Not Your Princess presents an eclectic collection of poems, essays, interviews, and art that combine to express the experience of being a Native woman. Stories of abuse, humiliation, and stereotyping are countered by the voices of passionate women making themselves heard and demanding change. Sometimes angry, often reflective, but always strong, the women in this book will give teen readers insight into the lives of women who, for so long, have been virtually invisible.

***Walking in Two Worlds* by Wab Kinew (2021)**

Bugz is caught between two worlds. In the real world, she's a shy and self-conscious Indigenous teen who faces the stresses of teenage angst and reserve life. But in the virtual world, her alter ego is not just confident but dominant in a massive multiplayer video game universe. When betrayal threatens everything Bugz has built in the virtual world, as well as her relationships in the real world, it will take all her strength to reconcile the parallel aspects of her life: the traditional and the mainstream, the east and the west, the real and the virtual.

# Fiction for Adults

## ***The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters (2023)**

In July 1962, a Mi'kmaq family travels from Nova Scotia to Maine to pick blueberries, and their four-year-old daughter disappears. Subsequently, little Norma grows up haunted by strange dreams she becomes convinced are memories as one family mourns, another hides secrets, and a mystery slowly unravels over 50 years.

## ***Blood Sisters* by Vanessa Lillie (2023)**

A powerful mystery about a Native American archaeologist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs who must reckon with her past when she is called back to Oklahoma to investigate both the disappearance of her sister and a new case of a missing Native girl.

## ***Crow Mary* by Kathleen Grissom (2023)**

In Montana in the summer of 1872, Crow Mary marries Abe Farwell, a white fur trader, and accompanies him to his trading post in the Cypress Hills of Saskatchewan, Canada. In the spring of 1873, they are preparing to return to Montana when they witness the Cypress Hills Massacre, in which forty innocent Nakoda are killed by a drunken gang. Following the massacre, Crow Mary single-handedly rescues five Nakoda women who are being held captive and abused by the gang. Thus, she sets off a whirlwind of colliding cultures that brings out the worst and best in the cast of unforgettable characters and pushes the love between Farwell and Crow Mary to the breaking point.

## ***A Grandmother Begins the Story* by Michelle Porter (2023)**

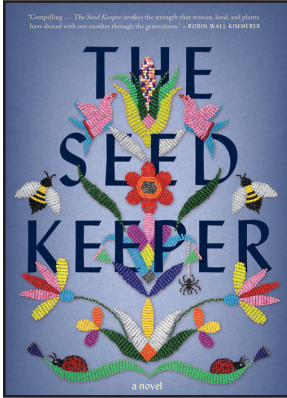
The story of the unrivaled desire for healing and the power of familial bonds across five generations of Métis women and the land and bison that surround them.

## ***The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich (2021)**

A small independent bookstore in Minneapolis is haunted by the store's most annoying customer. Flora dies on All Souls' Day, but she simply won't leave the store. Tookie, who has landed a job selling books after years of incarceration that she survived by reading with murderous attention, must solve the mystery of this haunting while at the same time trying to understand all that occurs in Minneapolis during a year of grief, astonishment, isolation, and furious reckoning.

## ***The Only Good Indians* by Stephen Graham Jones (2020)**

Four American Indian men from the Blackfeet Nation, who were childhood friends, find themselves in a desperate struggle for their lives, against an entity that wants to exact revenge upon them for what they did during an elk hunt ten years earlier by killing them, their families, and friends.



## ***The Seed Keeper***

by Diane Wilson (2021)

A haunting novel spanning several generations, *The Seed Keeper* follows a Dakota family's struggle to preserve their way of life, and their sacrifices to protect what matters most.

## ***Night of the Living Rez* by Morgan Talty (2023)**

Set in a Native community in Maine, *Night of the Living Rez* is a riveting short story collection about what it means to be Penobscot in the twenty-first century and what it means to live, to survive, and to persevere after tragedy.

## ***There, There* by Tommy Orange (2018)**

Follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize. Among them is Jacquie Red Feather, newly sober and trying to make it back to the family she left behind. Dene Oxendene, pulling his life together after his uncle's death and working at the powwow to honor his memory. Fourteen Orvil, coming to perform traditional dance for the very first time. Together, this chorus of voices tells of the plight of the urban Native American - grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion and sacrifice and heroism.

## ***To Shape a Dragon's Breath* by Moniquill Blackgoose (2023)**

In this fantasy novel, a young, Indigenous woman enters a colonizer-run dragon academy after bonding with a hatchling - and quickly finds herself at odds with the "approved" way of doing things.

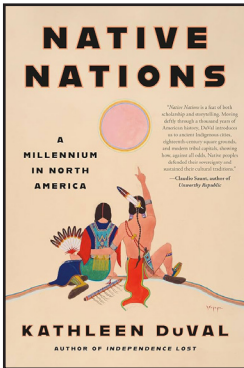
# Nonfiction for Adults

## ***Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*** by Robin Wall Kimmerer (2020)

As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer brings these two lenses of knowledge together.

## ***An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*** by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (2014)

Acclaimed historian and activist Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz offers a history of the United States told from the perspective of Indigenous peoples and reveals how Native Americans, for centuries, actively resisted expansion of the U.S. empire.



## ***Native Nations: A Millennium in North America***

by Kathleen DuVal (2024)

In this magisterial history of the continent, Kathleen DuVal traces the power of Native nations from the rise of ancient cities more than 1,000 years ago to the present. DuVal shows how the definitions of power and means of exerting it shifted over time, but the sovereignty and influence of Native peoples remained a constant - and will continue far into the future.

## ***When the Light of the World Was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through: A Norton Anthology of Native Nations Poetry*** edited by Joy Harjo with Leanne Howe and Jennifer Elise Foerster (2020)

United States Poet Laureate Joy Harjo gathers the work of more than 160 poets, representing nearly 100 indigenous nations, into the first historically comprehensive Native poetry anthology.

***Native American Archaeology in the Parks: A Guide to Heritage Sites in Our National Parks and Monuments*** by Kenneth L. Feder (2023)

A guide to national parks and national monuments that have a strong connection to the lives of Native Americans.

***New Native Kitchen: Celebrating Modern Recipes of the American Indian*** by Freddie Bitsoie and James O. Fraioli. (2021)

Showcases the variety of flavor and culinary history on offer from coast to coast, providing modern interpretations of 100 recipes that have long fed this country.

***Project 562: Changing the Way We See Native America*** by Freddie Bitsoie and James O. Fraioli. (2021)

In 2012, Matika Wilbur sold everything in her Seattle apartment and set out on a Kickstarter-funded pursuit to visit, engage, and photograph people from what were then the 562 federally recognized Native American Tribal Nations. Over the next decade, she traveled six hundred thousand miles across fifty states to meet, interview, and photograph hundreds of Indigenous people. The body of work Wilbur created serves to counteract the one-dimensional and archaic stereotypes of Native people in mainstream media and offers justice to the richness, diversity, and lived experiences of Indian Country.

***Seed to Plate, Soil to Sky: Modern Plant-Based Recipes Using Native American Ingredients*** by Lois Ellen Frank (2023)

Prior to 1492, eight plants - corn, beans, squash, chile, tomato, potato, vanilla, and cacao - existed only in the Americas. When these ingredients crossed the ocean, they drastically transformed the way the Old World would eat and cook forever. Yet the average American doesn't know this history. Grounded in a primer on Native American cuisine and with a necessary discussion of food sovereignty and sustainability, *Seed to Plate, Soil to Sky* shares more than 100 nutritious, plant based recipes organized by each of the foundational ingredients.

***The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History*** by Ned Blackhawk (2023)

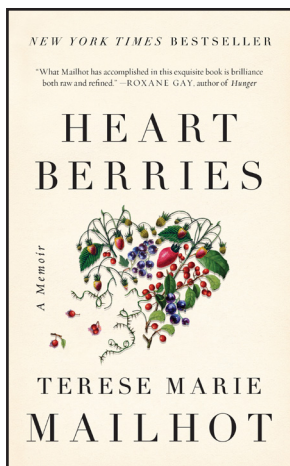
A sweeping and overdue retelling of U.S. history that recognizes that Native Americans are essential to understanding the evolution of modern America.

***Indigenous Continent: The Epic Contest for North America*** by Pekka Hämäläinen (2022)

A prize-winning scholar rewrites 400 years of American history from Indigenous perspectives, overturning the dominant "New World" origin story of the United States.



# Biographies & Autobiographies



## *Heart Berries*

by Terese Marie Mailhot (2018)

Chronicles the author's struggle to balance the beauty of her Native heritage with the often desperate and chaotic reality of life on the reservation.

## *Poet Warrior* by Joy Harjo (2021)

In the second memoir from the first Native American to serve as US poet laureate, Joy Harjo invites us to travel along the heartaches, losses, and humble realizations of her "poet-warrior" road. A musical, kaleidoscopic meditation, *Poet Warrior* reveals how Harjo came to write poetry of compassion and healing, poetry with the power to unearth the truth and demand justice. Weaving together the voices that shaped her, Harjo listens to stories of ancestors and family, the poetry and music that she first encountered as a child, the teachings of a changing earth, and the poets who paved her way.

## *Birding While Indian: A Mixed-Blood Memoir* by Thomas C. Gannon (2023)

This memoir spans more than fifty years of childhood walks and adult road trips to deliver, via a compendium of birds recorded and revered, the author's life as a part-Lakota inhabitant of the Great Plains.

## *Path Lit by Lightning: The Life of Jim Thorpe* by David Maraniss (2022)

A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist presents a biography of America's greatest all-around athlete and Olympic gold medal winner who survived racism, alcohol addiction, broken marriages, and financial distress to become a myth and a legend.

***Notable Native People: 50 Indigenous Leaders, Dreamers, and Changemakers from Past and Present*** by Adrienne Keene, illustrated by Ciara Sana (2021)

An accessible and educational illustrated book profiling 50 notable American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian people, from NBA star Kyrie Irving of the Standing Rock Lakota to Wilma Mankiller, the first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation. Also offers accessible primers on important Indigenous issues, from the legacy of colonialism and cultural appropriation to food sovereignty, land and water rights, and more.

***Redbone: The True Story of a Native American Rock Band*** by Christian Staebler and Sonia Paoloni, illustrated by Thibault Balahy (2020)

Brothers Pat and Lolly Vegas were talented Native American rock musicians that took the 1960s Sunset Strip by storm. They influenced The Doors and jammed with Jimmy Hendrix before he was “Jimi,” and the idea of a band made up of all Native Americans soon followed. Determined to control their creative vision and maintain their cultural identity, they eventually signed a deal with Epic Records in 1969. But as the American Indian Movement gained momentum the band took a stand, choosing pride in their ancestry over continued commercial reward. Part biography and part research journalism, Redbone tells a vivid story about this neglected chapter of American history.

***Thinning Blood: A Memoir of Family, Myth, and Identity*** by Leah Myers (2023)

Leah Myers may be the last member of the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe in her family line, due to her tribe’s strict blood quantum laws. In this unflinching and intimate memoir, Myers excavates the stories of four generations of women in order to leave a record of her family. Beginning with her great-grandmother, the last full-blooded Native member in their lineage, she connects each woman with her totem to construct her family’s totem pole: protective Bear, defiant Salmon, compassionate Hummingbird, and perched on top, Raven.

***We Had a Little Real Estate Problem: The Unheralded Story of Native Americans and Comedy*** by Kliph Nesteroff (2021)

Comedy historian Kliph Nesteroff focuses on one of comedy’s most significant and little-known stories: how, despite having been denied representation in the entertainment industry, Native Americans have influenced and advanced the art form. Profiles important events and humorists from the 1880s to the present.



*Widoktadwen Center for Native Knowledge is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization whose mission is to promote the visibility of Native Americans in Berks County and beyond through community education, leadership, and activism.*

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