



Museum of the
Cherokee People

Reading List

Grades
3-5

THE SECRETS AND MYSTERIES OF THE CHEROKEE LITTLE PEOPLE

By Lynn Lossiah (Eastern Band of
Cherokee Indians)

This book tells about the Yun wi Tsunsdi (the Little People of the Cherokee), the small mystical beings that played a vital part in traditional Cherokee life and culture. From myths, legends, historical sources, and stories of personal experiences comes this exhaustive account of the Little People.

SHE PERSISTED: WILMA MANKILLER

By Traci Sorell (Cherokee Nation)
and Chelsea Clinton

The descendant of Cherokee ancestors who had been forced to walk the Trail of Tears, Wilma Mankiller experienced her own forced removal from the land she grew up on as a child. As she got older and learned more about the injustices her people had faced, she dedicated her life to instilling pride in Native heritage and reclaiming Native rights.

AS LONG AS THE RIVER FLOWS

By Larry Louie (Cree) and
Constance Brissenden

This is the story of Larry Louie's last traditional summer before entering residential school. It is a time of adventure and learning from his Elders.

ON A WING AND A TEAR

By Cynthia Leitich Smith
(Muscogee)

Cynthia Leitich Smith incorporates the traditional Muscogee story of the ball game between the Animals and the Birds, and legendary Great-Grandfather Bat, into her novel about modern-day Indigenous characters. Though it nods to the traditional tale, this is an all-new story set in a world that young readers will recognize.

CHEROKEE: THE PEOPLE AND NATION

By Brad Wagnon (Cherokee
Nation)

In this book, discover the difficult journey of The Cherokee people. How they came to North America and how they were then removed with other Nations through The Trail of Tears. Learn about the seven Cherokee clans. Their culture, traditions, and language as it was the first Indigenous language put into writing.

SHE PERSISTED: MARIA TALLCHIEF

By Christine Day (Upper Skagit
Tribe) and Chelsea Clinton

Maria Tallchief loved to dance, but was told that she might need to change her Osage name to one that sounded more Russian to make it as a professional ballerina. She refused, and worked hard at dancing her best, becoming America's first prima ballerina.

SHE PERSISTED: DEB HAALAND

By Laurel Goodluck (Mandan,
Hidatsa) and Chelsea Clinton

An enrolled member of the Pueblo Laguna nation, Deb was one of the first two Native American women to be elected to Congress, where she represented New Mexico's 1st District. In 2021, when the Senate confirmed her as President Biden's secretary of the interior, she became the first Native American in history to become a cabinet secretary.

ELLA CARA DELORIA: DAKOTA LANGUAGE PROTECTOR

By Dian Wilson (Dakota),
illustrated by Tashia Hart (Red
Lake Anishinaabe)

Growing up, Ella Cara Deloria loved listening to her family tell stories in the Dakota language. As an adult, she recorded many Native American peoples' stories and languages and shared them with everyone. She helped protect her people's language for future generations.

