



Museum of the
Cherokee People

Reading List

Grades
6-8

I CAN MAKE THIS PROMISE

By Christine Day (Upper Skagit Tribe)

In her debut middle grade novel—inspired by her family’s history—Christine Day tells the story of a girl who uncovers her family’s secrets and finds her own Native American identity.

ANCESTOR APPROVED: INTERTRIBAL STORIES FOR KIDS

Edited by Cynthia Leitich Smith (Muscogee Creek Nation)

A collection of intersecting stories and poems set at a powwow that bursts with hope, joy, resilience, the strength of community, and Native pride.

WE STILL BELONG

By Christine Day (Upper Skagit Tribe)

Wesley is proud of the poem she wrote for Indigenous Peoples’ Day—but the reaction from a teacher makes her wonder if expressing herself is important enough. And due to the specific tribal laws of her family’s Nation, Wesley is unable to enroll in the Upper Skagit tribe and is left feeling “not Native enough.” Through the course of the novel, with the help of her family and friends, she comes to embrace her own place within the Native community.

MARY AND THE TRAIL OF TEARS: A CHEROKEE REMOVAL SURVIVAL STORY

By Andrea L. Rogers (Cherokee Nation)

Featuring nonfiction support material, a glossary, and reader response questions, this Girls Survive story explores the tragedy of forced removals following the Indian Removal Act of 1830.

MASCOT

By Charlest Waters and Traci Sorell (Cherokee Nation)

An eighth-grade English teacher creates an assignment for her class to debate whether Rye’s mascot should stay or change. Now six middle schoolers—all with different backgrounds and beliefs—get involved in the contentious issue that already has the suburb turned upside down with everyone choosing sides and arguments getting ugly.

FIND HER

By Ginger Reno (Cherokee Nation)

Find Her explores the crisis of missing Indigenous women from the perspective of a sensitive young Cherokee girl who yearns to find her mother, while also navigating a chilling town mystery, a new friendship, and a family in need of healing.

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT INDIANS BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK: YOUNG READERS EDITION

By Anton Treuer, an author with Ojibwe heritage

What have you always wanted to know about Indians? Do you think you should already know the answers—or suspect that your questions may be offensive? In matter-of-fact responses to over 120 questions, both thoughtful and outrageous, modern and historical, Ojibwe scholar and cultural preservationist Anton Treuer gives a frank, funny, and sometimes personal tour of what’s up with Indians, anyway.

AN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES: FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

By Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, adapted by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese

Going beyond the story of America as a country “discovered” by a few brave men in the “New World,” Indigenous human rights advocate Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz reveals the roles that settler colonialism and policies of American Indian genocide played in forming our national identity.

