



Museum of the
Cherokee People

Reading List

Grades
K-2

SHELBY GOES TO THE DENTIST

By Kristina Hyatt (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians), illustrated by Preston Bark (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians)

This is a great book to read before a dental appointment, giving both the child and caregiver an idea of what to expect.

AT THE MOUNTAIN'S BASE

By Traci Sorell (Cherokee Nation), illustrated by Weshoyot Alvitre

A family separated by duty and distance waits for a loved one to return home in this lyrical picture book celebrating the bonds of a Cherokee family and the bravery of history-making women pilots.

POWWOW DAY

By Traci Sorell (Cherokee Nation), illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight (Chickasaw Nation)

River wants to dance very badly at the powwow this year. Follow her journey from feeling isolated after an illness to learning the healing power of community.

WE ARE GRATEFUL: OTSALIHELIGA

By Traci Sorell (Cherokee Nation), illustrated by Frane Lessac

Beginning in the fall with the new year and ending in summer, follow a full Cherokee year of celebrations and experiences.

THE LAND OF THE GREAT TURTLES

By Brad Wagnon (Cherokee Nation), illustrated by Alex Stephenson

The Land of the Great Turtles is a Cherokee origin story that introduces the reader to Cherokee beliefs and values.

THE FIRST FIRE: A CHEROKEE STORY

By Brad Wagnon (Cherokee Nation), illustrated by Alex Stephenson

This book retells the delightful Cherokee tale of how the earth was created, while teaching the valuable lesson that even the smallest creature can make a big difference.

CONTENDERS: TWO NATIVE BASEBALL PLAYERS, ONE WORLD SERIES

By Traci Sorell (Cherokee Nation), illustrated by Arigon Starr (Kickapoo)

The true story of John Meyers and Charles Bender, who in 1911 became the first two Native pro baseball players to face off in a World Series

HOW THE WORLD WAS MADE: A CHEROKEE STORY

By Brad Wagnon (Cherokee Nation), illustrated by Alex Stephenson

This book retells the delightful Cherokee tale of how the earth was created.

WE ARE STILL HERE: NATIVE AMERICAN TRUTHS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW

By Traci Sorell (Cherokee Nation), illustrated by Frane Lessac

Twelve Native American kids present historical and contemporary laws, policies, struggles, and victories in Native life, each with a powerful refrain: We are still here!

THE CHEROKEE SYLLABARY: AN ILLUSTRATED KEY TO THE CHEROKEE LANGUAGE

By Brad Wagnon (Cherokee Nation), illustrated by Beth Anderson (Cherokee Nation)

This book is a tool for parents and educators to introduce Cherokee children to the syllabary of their native language.

REMEMBER

By Joy Harjo (Muscogee Creek Nation), illustrated by Michaela Goade

This timeless poem paired with magnificent paintings makes for a picture book that is a true celebration of life and our human role within it.

WHEN WE WERE ALONE

By David Robertson (Norway House Cree Nation), illustrated by Julie Fleet

A young girl notices things about her grandmother that make her curious.

FRY BREAD: A NATIVE AMERICAN FAMILY STORY

By Kevin Noble Maillard (Seminole Nation of Oklahoma), illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal
A modern Native American family shares joy, stories, and history as they come together to make fry bread.

GRANDMOTHER SPIDER BRINGS THE SUN: A CHEROKEE STORY

By Geri Keams (Navajo Nation), illustrated by James Bernardin
After Possum and Buzzard fail in their attempts to steal a piece of the sun, Grandmother Spider succeeds in bringing light to the animals on her side of the world.

THE FIRST STRAWBERRIES: A CHEROKEE STORY

By Joseph Bruchac (Abenaki), illustrated by Anna Voitech
This story explains how strawberries came into the world and how today they are a symbol of friendship and respect.

SPIRIT RANGERS

By Karissa Valencia (Samala Chumash), illustrated by Chris Aguirre (Chiricahua Apache)
When a mysterious storm threatens to close Xus National Park, siblings must put their heads together to save the day.

WHY WE DANCE: A STORY OF HOPE AND HEALING

By Deirdre Havelock (First Nations-Saddle Lake Cree Nation), illustrated by Aly McKnight (Shoshone Bannock)
It's a special day—the day of the Jingle Dress Dance! Before the big powwow, there's a lot to do.

BERRY SONG

By Michaela Goade (Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska)
Michaela Goade's luminous rendering of water and forest, berries and jams glows with her love of the land and offers an invitation to readers to deepen their own relationship with the earth.

FOREVER COUSINS

By Laurel Goodluck (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Tsimshian), illustrated by Jonathan Nelson (Navajo)
In this Native American story, Kara and Amanda are best-friend cousins. Then Kara leaves the city to move back to the Rez. Will their friendship stay the same?

ROCK YOUR MOCS

By Laurel Goodluck (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Tsimshian), illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight (Chickasaw)
In this happy, vibrant tribute to Rock Your Mocs Day, observed yearly on November 15, we celebrate the joy and power of wearing moccasins—and the Native pride that comes with them.

WE ARE WATER PROTECTORS

By Carole Lindstrom (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa), illustrated by Michaela Goade (Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska)
Powerfully written and gorgeously illustrated, *We Are Water Protectors*, issues an urgent rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption—inviting young readers everywhere to join the fight.

CLACK, CLACK! SMACK! A CHEROKEE STICKBALL STORY

By Traci Sorell (Cherokee Nation), illustrated by Joseph Erb Vann, a struggling stickball player, competes in a game on the Cherokee Nation. Can he help his team win?



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