

Own Voices: Native American & First Nation Creators

Board Books & Picture Books

Picture Books

Campbell, Nicola (Interior Salish/Métis). *A Day with Yayah and Grandpa's Girls*. Children spend time with grandparents, who pass down language and knowledge while foraging in the forest or playing on a farm.

Campbell, Nicola (Interior Salish/Métis). *Shi-shi-etko and Shin-chi's Canoe*. Shi-shi-etko has just days until she will have to leave her family and everything she knows to attend residential school. She spends them at home treasuring the beauty of her world.

Flett, Julie (Cree-Métis). *Birdsong*. When a young girl moves from the country to a small town, she feels lonely and out of place. But soon she meets an elderly woman next door, who shares her love of nature and art.

Flett, Julie (Cree-Métis). *Lii yiiiboo nayaapiiwak lii swer: Owls See Cearly at Night, a Michif Alphabet*. Michif is a combination of French and Cree with a trace of other regional languages. Once spoken by thousands of Métis, Michif might now disappear within a generation.

Francis, Lee DeCora (Penobscot and HoChunk). *Kunu's Basket: A Story from Indian Island*. Feeling frustrated when his first attempt to weave a basket fails, a boy receives help and encouragement from his grandfather.

González, Xelena (Tapilam Coahuitecan). *All Around Us*. Finding circles everywhere, a grandfather and his granddaughter meditate on the cycles of life and nature.

Harjo, Joy (Muscogee Creek). *The Good Luck Cat*. As her good luck cat has already used up eight of his nine lives in narrow escapes from disaster, a girl worries when he disappears.

Hunt, Dallas (Wapiseewipi/Swan River First Nation). *Awâsis and the World-Famous Bannock*. As young Awâsis searches for the ingredients to make Kohkum's bannock recipe, they run into a variety of other-than-human relatives that help them along in their journey.

Jameson, Catherine (Okanagan). *Zoe and the Fawn*. Zoe and her dad see a little spotted fawn curled up under an aspen tree and search for its mother, while learning the sylix (Okanagan) names of animals along the way.

Kinew, Wab (Ojibways of Onigaming First Nation). *Go Show the World*. Fourteen Indigenous Americans and Canadians are highlighted in this lyrical book, including Sac and Fox athlete Jim Thorpe, Omaha doctor Susan LaFlesche Picotte, and Mohawk Olympian Waneeck Horn-Miller.

Maillard, Kevin Noble (Seminole Nation, Mekusukey Band). *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story*. The story and recipe of a post-colonial food that is a shared tradition for Native American families all across the North American continent.

Messinger, Carla (Turtle Clan Lenape). *When the Shadbush Blooms*. A young Lenape Indian child describes her family's life through the seasons.

Minnema, Cheryl (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe). *Hungry Johnny and Johnny's Pheasant*. Two stories of a young boy learning patience and wonder for the natural world from his elders.

Nelson, S.D. (Lakota). *Star People*. When Young Wolf and his older sister wander from their village and face the danger of a prairie fire, their deceased grandmother, now one of the Star People, appears to guide them.

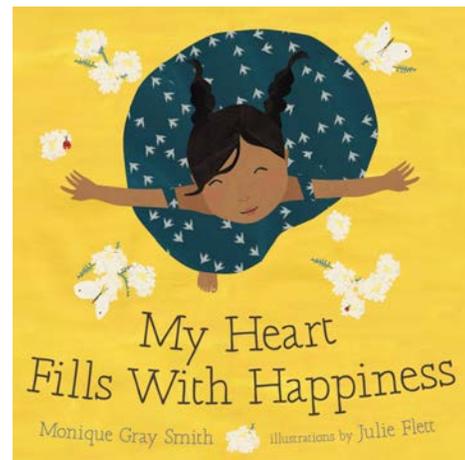
Peacock, Thomas (Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa). *The Dancers*. A young girl, her mother, and a very special auntie star in this story of wisdom and triumph, of being strong, and of dancing with your heart.

Peacock, Thomas (Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa). *The Forever Sky*. Two young Ojibwe brothers, Niigaanii and Bineshiinh, look to the stars and spin stories, some inspired by Uncle and some of their own making, as they remember their grandmother.

Qitsualik-Tinsley, Rachel (Inuit). *The Raven and The Loon*. A whimsical retelling of a pan-Arctic traditional tale of how the raven and the loon acquired their now-familiar coats.

Rodgers, Greg (Choctaw). *Chukfi Rabbit's Big Bad Bellyache: A Trickster Tale*. Chukfi Rabbit is figuring out some way to avoid work at all costs. When Bear, Turtle, Fox, and Beaver agree on an everybody-work-together day to build Ms. Possum a new house, Chukfi Rabbit says he's too busy to help.

Smith, Cynthia Leitich (Muscogee Creek). *Jingle Dancer*. 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.

Sorrell, Traci (Cherokee Nation). *At the Mountain's Base*. At the mountain's base, lives a family—loving, weaving, cooking, and singing. The strength in their song sustains them as they wait for their loved one to return from war.

Tahe, Rose Ann (Navajo). *First Laugh: Welcome, Baby!* The First Laugh Ceremony is a celebration held to welcome a new member of the community. As everyone tries to elicit the joyous sound from Baby, readers are introduced to details about Navajo life and the Navajo names for family members.

Tharp-Thee, Sandy (Cherokee). *The Apple Tree*. A little boy plants an apple seed and can see the apple tree it is meant to be. But the little apple tree isn't so sure. How can the little boy encourage the tree to give the seasons and years the time to work their magic?

Tingle, Tim (Choctaw). *Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship & Freedom*. In the 1800s, a Choctaw girl becomes friends with an enslaved boy from a plantation across the great river, and when she learns that his family is in trouble, she helps them cross to freedom.

Tingle, Tim (Choctaw). *When Turtle Grew Feathers*. Choctaw variant of Aesop's fable, "The Tortoise and the Hare," in which Turkey assists Turtle in defeating Rabbit.

Uluadluak, Donald (Inuit). *Kamik: An Inuit Puppy Story*. Sulurayok, Matilda (Inuit). Kamik's First Sled. When Jake finally gets a puppy to call his own, all he can think about is the fast, strong sled dog that his puppy will become.

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Vermette, Katherena (Métis). *The Girl and the Wolf*. A young girl becomes lost in the woods after wandering too far away from her mother. Scared and lost, she encounters a large wolf who reminds her of her own ability to survive and find her mother again.

Waboose, Jan Bourdeau (Ojibway). *SkySisters*. Two Ojibway sisters set off across the frozen north country to see the SkySpirits' midnight dance in the northern lights. It isn't easy for the younger sister to be silent, but gradually she begins to treasure the stillness and the wonderful experience.

Toddler & Board Books

Gray Smith, Monique (Cree and Lakota). *My Heart Fills With Happiness*. A celebration of happiness and the things in life that bring joy.

Kalluk, Celina (Inuit). *Sweetest Kulu*. This bedtime poem describes the gifts given to a newborn baby by all the animals of the Arctic.

Van Camp, Richard (Tlicho Nation). *Kiss by Kiss/Ocêôtôwina; Little You; and We Sang You Home*. Celebrating the joy babies bring into the world and the wonder new parents feel as they welcome baby into the world.

Holiday Books

King, Thomas (Cherokee). *A Coyote Solstice Tale*. Wily trickster Coyote is having his friends over for a little solstice get-together in the woods when a girl comes by unexpectedly.

Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk (Sioux). *The Christmas Coat: Memories of My Sioux Childhood*. Virginia and her brother are never allowed to pick first from the donation boxes at church because their father is the priest, and she is heartbroken when another girl gets the beautiful coat that she covets.

World Languages Books

CREE

Highway, Tomson (Cree). *Dragonfly Kites*. Brothers Joe and Cody love watching dragonflies soar into the summer sky and racing after as they fly through the trees and down to the beach.

Nicholson, Caitlin Dale and Leona Morin-Neilson (Cree). *Nipêhon / I Wait and Niwîchîhâw / I Help*. Sweet, quiet stories of Cree children learning about nature by watching and helping their grandparents gather plants.

Smith, Monique Gray (Cree). *You Hold Me Up / Ki Kîhcêyimîn Mâna*. All the wonderful ways that people can hold and support each other, like helping each other, or playing together, or singing, or cooking.

INUKTITUT

Teevee, Ningeokuluk (Inuit). *Aliguq / Alego*. The experiences of a young child as she and her grandmother go for a walk along the shore to gather clams for the family's supper.

Vuriisan, Arnakuluk (Inuit). *Kisimi taimaippaktut angirrarjarani / Only in my Hometown*. The northern lights shine, women gather together, and everyone could be family in this ode to small-town life.

MICMAC

Syliboy, Alan (Mi'kmaq). *Kaqtukowa'tekete'w / Thundermaker*. Little Thunder learns the importance of responsibility as his father teaches him, and then passes on, the role of Thundermaker.

OJIBWE

Child, Brenda J. (Red Lake Ojibwe). *Bowwow Powwow / Bagosenjige-niimi'idim*. When Uncle and Windy Girl attend a powwow, Windy watches the dancers and listens to the singers. Later, Windy falls asleep under the stars. Uncle's stories inspire visions in her head: a bowwow powwow, where all the dancers are dogs.