



LEE & LOW BOOKS

# INDIGENOUS PEOPLES & NATIVE AMERICAN BOOK LIST

Lee & Low publishes a range of stories centering Native Americans and Indigenous Peoples, with many written and illustrated from within the community. Discover beginning readers, picture books, middle grade, and YA novels that celebrate Native voices and experiences.



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# ENJOY THE FUN OF PHONICS WITH THE DRUMBEAT DECODABLE BOOK COLLECTION!



Published by our exclusive BeboP Books® imprint in collaboration with Indigenous Education Press, the Drumbeat Decodable Book Collection is a groundbreaking early reader series that strengthens phonics skills and offers much-needed Indigenous content to literacy programs.

Each book includes a list of high-frequency words and activities for extended learning. Free downloadable lesson plans accompany every book to supplement any teaching practice.

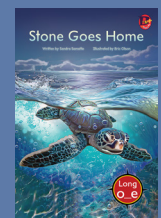
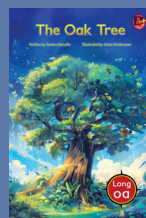
The series is written by Anishinaabe educator Sandra Samatte, member of Ne-biimiskonaan (Skownan) First Nation, Treaty 2 Territory, and Anishinaabe artist Julian Grafenauer, member of Ditibineya-ziibing (Rolling River) First Nation, Treaty 4 Territory.

★ “Simple text with clear and specific targeted practice for emergent readers reinforce foundational skills like segmenting and blending CVC words. . . .

Wonderful resources for parents to read together with children. The illustrations are breathtaking and lend themselves to lots of rich conversation.”

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

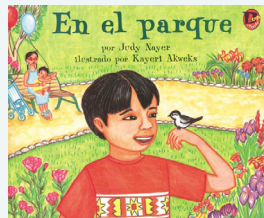
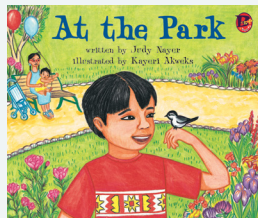
**COMING  
SPRING  
2026!**



# EARLY READERS BY NATIVE AMERICAN CREATORS

Bebop Books®, the exclusive imprint and school line from Lee & Low Books, publishes content-rich books that support early literacy learning in English and Spanish for emergent and early readers.

Illustrated by KAYERI AKWEKS (KANYEN'KEHÁ:KA, SIX NATIONS)



**By Judy Nayer**

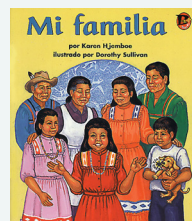
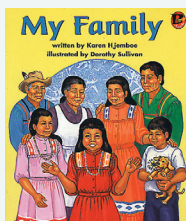
A Mohawk boy visits the park and uses his five senses to discover the natural world around him.



**By Leslie Johnson**

Joe is dancing the Fancy Dance at a powwow for the first time. He is nervous, but once the dance starts he knows just what to do.

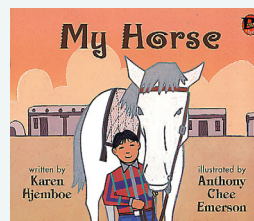
Illustrated by DOROTHY SULLIVAN (CHEROKEE NATION)



**By Karen Hjemboe**

A Cherokee girl learns traditional skills and customs from the members of her family.

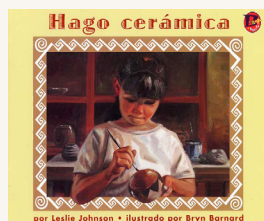
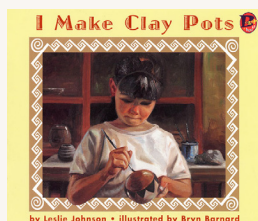
Illustrated by ANTHONY CHEE EMERSON (DINÉ, NAVAJO NATION)



**By Karen Hjemboe**

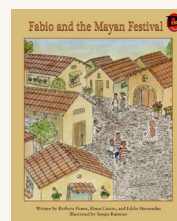
A young Pueblo boy living on a reservation in New Mexico cares for and rides his horse.

More Bebop Books® with Indigenous Content



**By Leslie Johnson • Illustrated by Bryn Barnard**

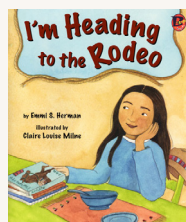
A Pueblo girl learns the traditional art of making pottery from her grandmother.



**By Barbara M. Flores, Elena Castro & Eddie Hernández**

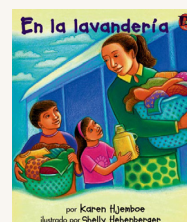
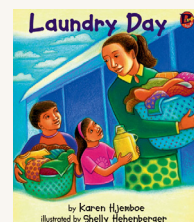
**Illustrated by Sergio Ramirez**

Fabio would like a poncho to wear at the Mayan cultural festival.



**By Emmi S. Herman • Illustrated by Claire Louise Milne**

On her way to school one morning, a young Native American girl gets a taste of the rodeo adventure she daydreams about.

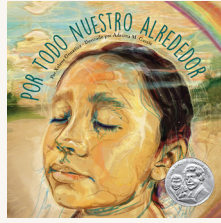
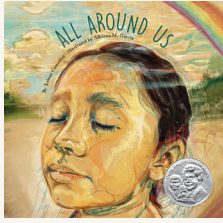


**By Karen Hjemboe • Illustrated by Shelly Hehenberger**

Two Navajo children help their mother do the weekly wash at the laundromat.



# BOOKS FOR GRADES K–2



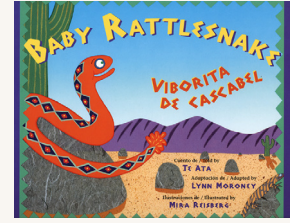
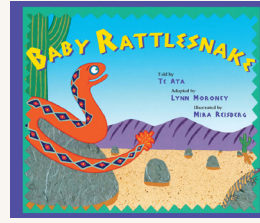
By Xelena González (Tāp Pilam Coahuiltecan Nation)  
Illustrated by Adriana M. Garcia

This gorgeous picture book celebrates the circles that surround us—in the sky, the earth, our neighborhoods, ourselves.

Pura Belpré Award Illustrator Honor

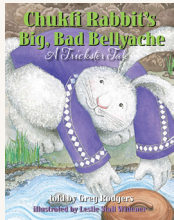
American Indian Youth Literature Award Picture Book Honor

★ *Booklist*



Told by Te Ata (Chickasaw Nation)  
Adapted by Lynn Moroney (Chickasaw Nation)  
Illustrated by Mira Reisberg

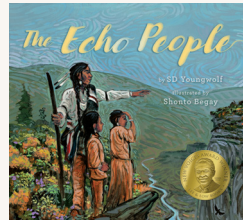
A young rattlesnake must learn self-control once he receives his first rattle in this vibrantly illustrated Pawnee Nation folktale.



By Greg Rodgers (Choctaw Nation)  
Illustrated by Leslie Stall Widener (Choctaw Nation)

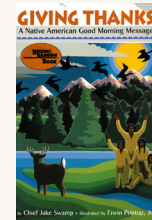
Deep in Choctaw country, trickster Chukfi Rabbit is always figuring out some way to avoid work at all costs.

★ *Kirkus Reviews*



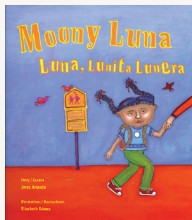
By SD Youngwolf (Tsalagiya Nvdagi Tribe)  
Illustrated by Shonto Begay (Diné, Navajo Nation)

A thought-provoking picture book about the ways we create our own realities through the words and actions that we put out into the world.



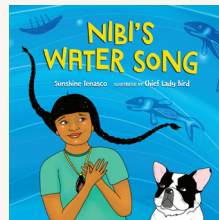
By Chief Jake Swamp (Wolf Clan Mohawk)  
Illustrated by Erwin Printup Jr. (Cayuga, Bear Clan)

A traditional Haudenosaunee celebration of the beauty and spirit of Mother Earth, as told by a contemporary Mohawk chief.



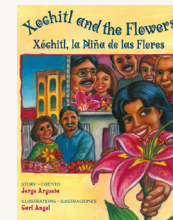
By Jorge Argueta (Pipil Nahua Indian)  
Illustrated by Elizabeth Gómez

A loving tale about a young girl afraid to go to school for the first time.



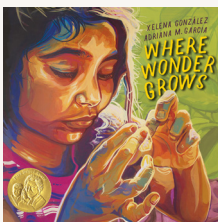
By Sunshine Tenasco (Anishinaabe)  
Illustrated by Chief Lady Bird (Chippewa/Potawatomi)

This bright and vivacious book celebrates the energy, moxie, and determination of water activists of all ages.



By Jorge Argueta (Pipil Nahua Indian)  
Illustrated by Carl Angel

Miles away from their home in El Salvador, Xochitl and her family make a new home in the United States, but nothing is the same.

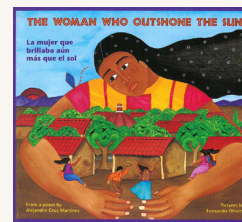


By Xelena González (Tāp Pilam Coahuiltecan Nation)  
Illustrated by Adriana M. Garcia

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.

Pura Belpré Award Illustrator Winner

★ *Kirkus Reviews* ★ *Publishers Weekly*

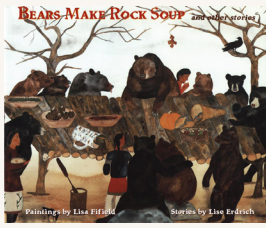


From a poem by Alejandro Cruz Martinez (Zapotec)  
Illustrated by Fernando Olivera

When the villagers banish the brilliant Lucia Zenteno from town, their river leaves with her in this legend from the Zapotec Indians of Oaxaca.

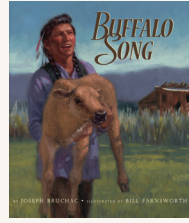


# BOOKS FOR GRADES 3–5



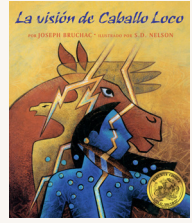
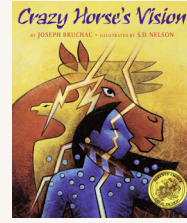
**By Lise Erdrich (Turtle Mountain Band of Plains Ojibway) • Illustrated by Lisa Fifield (Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin)**

This powerful collection of paintings and stories honors the people, animals, forests, and rivers that have lived in harmony beneath the wide skies of the Plains.



**By Joseph Bruchac (Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation) • Illustrated by Bill Farnsworth**

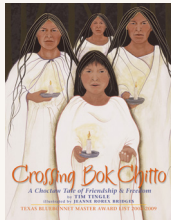
The story of Salish Indian Walking Coyote and his efforts to save the vanishing buffalo herds from extinction in the United States during the 1870s and 1880s.



**By Joseph Bruchac (Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation) • Illustrated by S. D. Nelson (Standing Rock Sioux Tribe)**

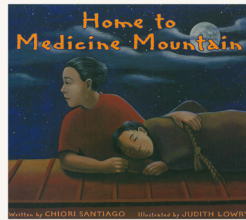
The true story of the great Sioux warrior who, as a young boy, defies tradition and seeks a vision on his own in hopes of saving his people.

★ Kirkus Reviews



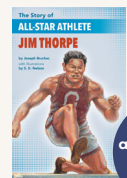
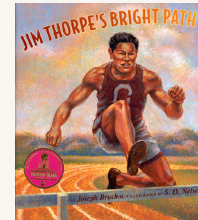
**By Tim Tingle (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) • Illustrated by Jeanne Rorex Bridges (Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama)**

In this story of cross-cultural friendship, a family of enslaved people and a Choctaw tribe work together on a daring escape. American Indian Youth Literature Award Picture Book Winner ★ Booklist



**By Chiori Santiago • Illustrated by Judith Lowry (Pit River Tribe)**

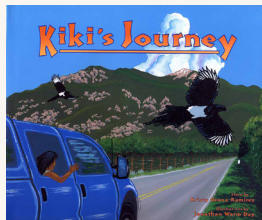
Two young Maidu Indian brothers, sent to live at a government-run Indian residential school in California in the 1930s, find a way to escape and return home for the summer.



Also available as a chapter book!

**By Joseph Bruchac (Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation) • Illustrated by S. D. Nelson (Standing Rock Sioux Tribe)**

A biography of the legendary Jim Thorpe, voted the Greatest Football Player and Greatest Athlete of the Half-Century, focusing on how school and sports shaped his future.



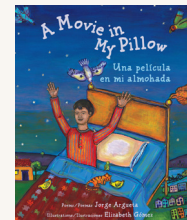
**By Kristy Orona-Ramirez (Taos Pueblo/Tarahumara) • Illustrated by Jonathan Warm Day (Taos Pueblo)**

Kiki and her parents travel back to the Taos Pueblo reservation where she was born to learn more about their Tiwa heritage.



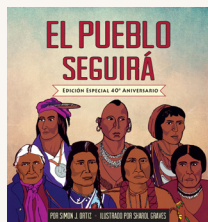
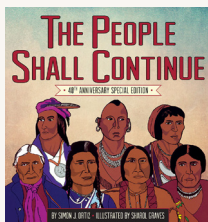
**By Richard Van Camp (Dogrib (Tłı̨chǫ) Nation) • Illustrated by George Littlechild (Plains Cree)**

Blending past with present, the magical with the real, *A Man Called Raven* is a tribute to the wisdom of the raven and a positive reminder that we can all learn from nature.



**By Jorge Argueta (Pipil Nahua Indian) • Illustrated by Elizabeth Gómez**

Young Jorgito has come to live in the Mission District of San Francisco, but he hasn't forgotten the unique beauty of El Salvador.



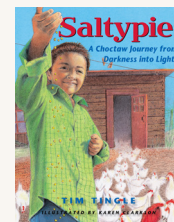
**By Simon J. Ortiz (Acoma Pueblo) • Illustrated by Sharol Graves (Absentee Shawnee Tribe)**

This powerful story traces the history of Native and Indigenous people of North America from the time of creation to the present.



**By S. D. Nelson (Standing Rock Sioux Tribe)**

A biography of Ira Hayes, a Pima (Akimel O'otham) man who was one of the six Marines to raise the United States flag on Iwo Jima during World War II, an event immortalized by Joe Rosenthal's Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph.



**By Tim Tingle (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) • Illustrated by Karen Clarkson (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma)**

SaltyPie is the sweet taste of Choctaw tears in this powerful picture book memoir.

American Indian Youth Literature Award Picture Book Honor

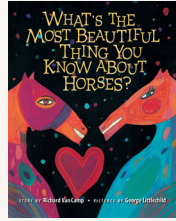


## BOOKS FOR GRADES 3–5



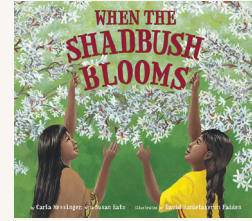
**By George Littlechild (Plains Cree)**

Through his own words and paintings, acclaimed Native artist George Littlechild takes us back in time to the first meeting between his Plains Cree ancestors and the first European settlers in North America.



**By Richard Van Camp (Dogrib (Tłıchǫ) Nation) • Illustrated by George Littlechild (Plains Cree)**

A friendly guide that explores all the ways horses are valuable and beautiful.



**By Carla Messinger (Turtle Clan Lenape) with Susan Katz • Illustrated by David Kanietakeron Fadden (Wolf Clan Mohawk)**

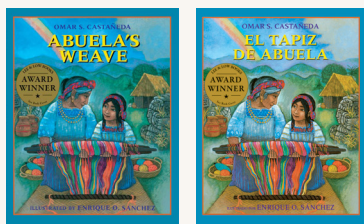
A young Lenape Indian girl observes and reflects on the small, important ways her family today, and her ancestors generations before, celebrate the cycle of seasons.



Contact [quotes@leeandlow.com](mailto:quotes@leeandlow.com) for a custom order

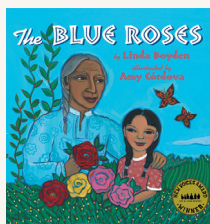


# MORE BOOKS FOR GRADES K–5 WITH INDIGENOUS CONTENT



**By Omar S. Castañeda**  
**Illustrated by Enrique O. Sánchez**

This touching story of personal growth and family pride is illustrated with authentic Guatemalan scenery that gives life to the country's radiant landscape and bustling city streets.



**By Linda Boyden**  
**Illustrated by Amy Córdova**

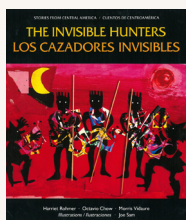
A modern-day Native American girl learns to understand the cycle of life after her beloved grandfather dies.



**By Cindy Trumbore and Susan L. Roth**

The fascinating true story of a beautiful native Hawaiian butterfly, a great Hawaiian warrior king, and current-day efforts by scientists and citizens to restore the butterfly's declining population.

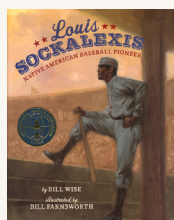
★ *Booklist* ★ *School Library Journal*



**By Harriet Rohmer • Illustrated by Joe Sam**

This story from the oral tradition of the Miskito people from Nicaragua plays on the classic folk theme of how the very thing that gives you power can turn against you if not respected and used properly.

**Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award Honor**



**By William Wise**  
**Illustrated by Bill Farnsworth**

A biography of Louis Sockalexis, Penobscot and the first Native American to play professional baseball, focusing on his formative years and culminating in an historic game at New York's Polo Grounds in 1897.

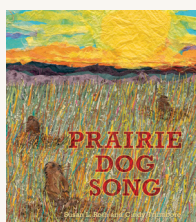


**By Cindy Trumbore and Susan L. Roth**

A nonfiction picture book about the history of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican parrot, which was brought back from the brink of extinction.

**Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award**

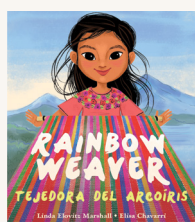
★ 5 starred reviews ★



**By Cindy Trumbore and Susan L. Roth**

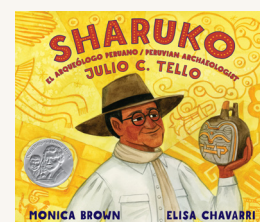
Focusing on the role of prairie dogs as a keystone species, this book tells the connected histories of the North American grassland prairies and current efforts to preserve and recover the Janos grasslands in northern Mexico.

★ *Kirkus Reviews* ★ *School Library Journal*



**By Linda Elovitz Marshall**  
**Illustrated by Elisa Chavarri**

A young Mayan girl isn't allowed to use her mother's thread to weave, so with a little ingenuity she discovers how to repurpose plastic bags to create colorful weavings. Based on an actual recycling movement in Guatemala.



**By Monica Brown**  
**Illustrated by Elisa Chavarri**

A fascinating bilingual picture book biography of Peruvian archeologist Julio C. Tello, who unearthed Peru's ancient cultures and fostered pride in the country's Indigenous history.

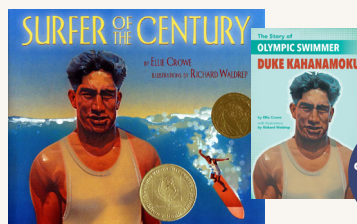
**Pura Belpré Illustrator Award Honor**

★ 3 starred reviews ★



**By Connie Ann Kirk**  
**Illustrated by Christy Hale**

Set in the early 1930s and based on the history of Mohawk steelworkers, *Sky Dancers* is a warm celebration of family, courage, and the forces of nature.



**By Ellen Crowe**  
**Illustrated by Richard Waldrep**

The true story of Hawaiian Duke Kahanamoku, six-time Olympic swimming champion and legendary surfer who popularized surfing around the world.

**Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature Picture Book Winner** ★ *School Library Journal*

Also available as a chapter book!



**By Pat Mora**  
**Illustrated by Rafael López**

A collection of haiku focusing on fourteen foods native to the Americas, celebrating the fun of the foods as well as their origins.

★ *Booklist*



# BOOKS FOR GRADES 6–8



Also on  
audio from  
RBmedia

**By Debby Dahl Edwardson**

Tracing four generations of bonds and breakage within an Iñupiaq family in Alaska, *Blessing's Bead* is a lovely and surprising novel about trauma, survival, and the healing power of culture and stories.

★ *Booklist*



Also on  
audio &  
large print  
editions

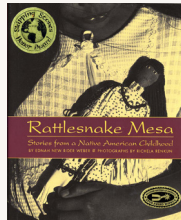


**By Charlene Willing McManis (Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde) with Traci Sorell (Cherokee Nation)**

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 Indigenous identity despite being so far from home.

American Indian Youth Literature Award Middle Grade Book Winner

★ *Booklist* ★ *School Library Journal*



**By EdNah New Rider Weber (Pawnee Nation)**

**Photographed by Richela Renkun**

The true account of a spirited Native American girl's experiences growing up on a reservation and attending Phoenix Indian School in the 1920s, accompanied by photographs that recreate the time and place.



**By Tim Tingle (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma)**

In this middle grade tale of unlikely friendship and miracles, Martha Tom helps Lil Mo and his family escape from the plantation across the river.

★ *Booklist* ★ *Kirkus Reviews* ★ *Publishers Weekly*



Also on  
audio &  
large print  
editions

**By Elizabeth Santiago (Taíno)**

Fourteen-year-old Taína just learned that she is a descendant of a long line of strong Taíno women, but will knowing this help her bring peace and justice to her family and community?

★ *Booklist* ★ *Kirkus Reviews*



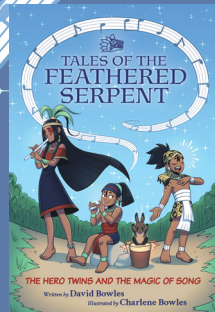
# GRAPHIC NOVELS WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONTENT

Adapted from Mexican American author David Bowles's retellings and translations of essential pre-Columbian texts like the *Popol Vuh*, the Tales of the Feathered Serpent series illustrated by Charlene Bowles brings Indigenous Mesoamerican stories alive for young readers!

**FOR GRADES 4-7**



A prophecy predicts that a young boy, half human and half mystical being, will defeat the evil king and lead the kingdom back to justice.  
★ *Kirkus Reviews*



With their magic of song, demigod twins prepare the world for humans—with a little trickster fun along the way.  
★ *School Library Journal*



Demigod twins must use all their cleverness to rescue their father and uncle from the perilous Land of the Dead.



## Also from David Bowles

**FOR GRADES 6 & UP**



Written by David Bowles and illustrated by Raúl the Third, discover a graphic novel unlike any other—a brilliant steampunk re-imagining of Frankenstein set in colonial Mexico.

In the Republic of Santander, non-Christian magic is frowned upon, if not outright prohibited. But when Cristina Franco, an apprentice shaman, is killed by with owls, her brother Enrique cannot let her go. With forbidden alchemy and engineering, Enrique brings her back to life: part human, part machine. Though her very existence is an abomination to Santander's citizens, Cristina vows to use her new abilities to protect her country from attack.



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# BOOKS FOR GRADES 9–12



Also on  
audio from  
RBmedia

**By David Bowles**

A stunning collection of Aztec folklore and myths passed from generation to generation and now from writer to reader.

★ *Kirkus Reviews* ★ *School Library Journal*



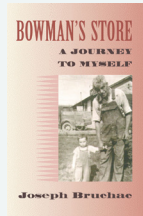
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**By Tim Tingle (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma)**

A Choctaw tale of tragedy, good and evil, revenge and ultimately forgiveness, laced with healing Choctaw humor and a little magical realism thrown in.

American Indian Youth Literature Award Young Adult Winner  
★ *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

## From Joseph Bruchac (Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation)



*Bowman's Store* gracefully weaves themes from Joseph Bruchac's intimate knowledge of Native American cultures with the scenes from the past that have shaped his life.



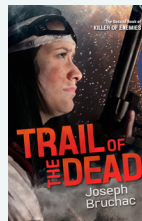
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Luke King, whose father is a black-ops infiltrator, uses the skills his father taught him to figure out his family's paranormal secret and save his kidnapped father and his own friends.



Also on  
audio from  
RBmedia

A post-Apocalyptic YA novel with a steampunk twist based on an Apache legend.  
American Indian Youth Literature Award Young Adult Winner



Also on  
audio from  
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In this sequel to *Killer of Enemies*, Lozen and her family, on the run from the tyrants who once held them hostage, embark on a journey along a perilous trail once followed by her ancestors, where they meet friends and foes alike.



Also on  
audio from  
RBmedia

In the final installment of the *Killer of Enemies* series, Lozen attempts to live without the violence that so far has defined her life, but the remaining Ones will not let that happen without a fight.

★ *Kirkus Reviews*



## HOW TO EVALUATE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND NATIVE AMERICAN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Use the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian's Worksheet for Selecting Native American Children's Literature to assess books in your collection or library: <https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/pdf/Native-American-Literature-in-Your-Classroom-Worksheet.pdf>

## TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF LAND TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND NATIVE AMERICANS

Share a map of traditional territories. Talk about how different territory and geography influence culture, stories, and language:

- Native Land Digital: <https://native-land.ca>
- University of Maine Canada-American Center's Coming Home to Indigenous Place Names in Canada map: <https://umaine.edu/canam/coming-home-map>

Learn more about communities and tribes in your area from the National Congress of American Indians: <http://www.ncai.org/about-tribes>

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Native Knowledge 360° Educational Resources: <https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/lessons-resources/search-resources>

American Indians in Children's Literature: <https://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com>

National Indian Education Association: <https://www.niea.org>

American Indian Library Association: <https://ailanet.org>

Indigenous Reads Rising: <https://indigenousreadsrising.com>

GoodMinds: <https://goodminds.com>

Social Justice Books: <https://socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/american-indians/>

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