

#2 Traditional Story Picture Books and Published Collections

(Compiled by Dorothea M. Susag dotsusag42@gmail.com)

The items **highlighted in yellow** indicate books that appear on the Accelerated Reader List. To access that list for viewing or ordering, go to <http://www.arbookfind.com/>

The books and collections listed below primarily represent **Essential Understandings #1 and #3**.

AR Book: Ahenakew, Freda. *How the Mouse Got Brown Teeth. (Cree)* Illustrated by George Littlechild **(Cree)**. ISBN 0-920079-40-7

Picture Book - K and up

Summary:

From the Preface: "This is a student story which was written in an intermediate Cree course at Saskatoon during the summer of 1982. We are grateful to Ray Smith for permission to edit and publish his work. . . . Since this is a traditional story, which is collectively owned by the Cree Indian people, the royalties from the sale of this book go to the Saskatchewan Indian Languages Institute."

Ahenakew, Freda. *How the Birch Tree Got Its Stripes. (Cree)* Illustrated by George Littlechild **(Cree)**. ISBN 0-920079-38-5

Picture Book - K and up

Summary:

A story of the Cree Trickster/Transformer, *Wisahkecahk*, who wants to test his endurance beyond common sense. After catching ducks, he prepares them for eating and then asks two birch trees to hold him away from the ducks to see how long he can go without eating. Among other lessons, the story communicates the dangers of too much pride.

Ahenakew, Freda. *Wisahkecahk Flies to the Moon. (Cree)* Illustrated by Sherry Farrell Racette **(Timiskaming First Nation)**. ISBN 0-921827-57-1

Picture Book - K and up

Summary:

Again Wisahkecahk desires something beyond his capability – to travel to the moon, from which he can see all the stars and planets. He's grateful to the crane who has brought him to this wonderful place, but he suffers consequences when the moon shrinks and he can no longer hold on. Falling from the sky to earth, he lands in a soft spot and is covered with mud. He curses the waste land that's no use to anyone and calls it 'muskeg.' One of the lessons might be this: be careful what you wish for; you never know what hardships might come with it.

Angutinngurnig, Jose **(Inuit)**. *The Giant Bear: An Inuit Folktale*. Illustrated by Eva Widemann. Toronto, ON: Canada Council for the Arts, 2012. ISBN: 978-927095-03-4

Picture Book – 4 and up

Summary:

Based on the Inuit legendary world in a time when giant creatures lived under the sea, including a giant polar bear, *The Giant Bear* is told in the first person and in the storyteller's voice as he remembers the way his grandfather would tell the story. A hunter and his wife live in an iglu, and one day he finds an aglu (small hole that sea creatures breathe through). Beneath lay a giant bear. So the hunter kept pouring snow along the side of the hole until it was so small that the bear could only poke his nose through. To save himself and his family, this is the story of how the young hunter outsmarted the bear and saved his family from fear.

Armstrong, Jeanette (**Okanagan**). *Neekna and Chemai, How Food Was Given, How Turtle Set the Animals Free*. Penticton, B.C.: Theytus Books, 1984.

Picture Books - K and up

Summary:

According to a reviewing librarian from the Ontario School Library Association, these four award-winning children's stories of the *Kou-skelowh* ('We Are the People') Series of children's books are 'told in strong rhythmic language,' which teachers and students can easily read aloud. The books can be used to 'help children think about the values of sharing, self-sacrifice and reverence for life in all forms.' *Neekna and Chemai* recounts the growing up of two *Okanagan* girls before the coming of the white man. *How Food Was Given* teaches the values of generosity and self-sacrifice. *How Turtle Set the Animals Free* demonstrates the way wisdom and not physical force is the mark of a good leader. Each book is illustrated in full color by Barbara Marchand.

Beaver Steals Fire: A Salish Coyote Story. (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes) Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2005. 50 pp.

ISBN: 0-8032-4323-5

Traditional Story/Picture Book - K and up

Summary:

The center of the Fire History Project, a website, interactive DVD, and storybook program available to all, *Beaver Steals Fire* is for all ages, an illustrated creation story, about the origin and nature of things. Germaine White and David Rockwell, project creators, are trusting teachers who use this material to respect the tradition of the culture. Stories are told only in the winter when animals sleep.

The interactive DVD shows how native peoples used fire in the northern Rockies. The DVD asks the question 'what is the relevance of story today?'

http://www.cskt.org/tr/fire_firehistoryproject.htm To order the DVD, contact dxn3365@blackfoot.net

Big Crow, Moses Nelson (**Lakota**) ***Hoksila and the Red Buffalo***. Chamberlain, South Dakota: Tipi Press, 1991. 50 pp. ISBN: 1-877976-02-4

Grade 3 and up

Summary:

According to the storyteller, *Hoksila* has been passed down from generation to generation and changing with each telling. The story begins when a Lakota grandmother takes

her grandson to the place where he will wait for a vision because he is looking for guidance and wisdom to kill the red buffalo with the 'big ugly black spots' and to rescue his wife and the other women who have been captured. This is a story of adventure, bravery, spiritual and physical growth, and personal responsibility for the community.

Big Crow, Moses Nelson (Lakota) ***A Legend From Crazy Horse Clan***. Chamberlain, South Dakota: Tipi Press, 1991. 50 pp. ISBN 1-877976-03-2

Grade 3 and up

Summary:

Legendary *Tashia Grupa* (Meadowlark) and her baby raccoon are left behind after a buffalo stampede scatters their camp. Befriended by a buffalo calf, *Tashia* becomes a member of the Buffalo Nation. Years later, warriors find and take her with them. The story communicates the Lakota tradition of accepting strangers into a clan or community, the problems for individuals who must live between two cultures or ways, and it shows how even the youngest children are taught to respect and to express gratitude to *Wakan-Tanka*, the Great Mystery, who brings every new day.

Bouchard, David (Métis). ***Rainbow Crow Nagweyaabi-Aandeg***. Art of David Jean and music of Manantial. Markham, ON: Red Deer Press, 2012. ISBN 978-0-88995-458-8

Grade 1 and up

Summary:

This Ojibwe story takes place before humans populated the earth. Re-told by Bouchard in both English and Ojibwe, it is about the way 'Little Crow' brought the gift of fire from Creator to all the animals on earth who were freezing in the forever winter. She was picked because she had the most beautiful song and colorful feathers, both of which she lost—and sacrificed—when she took a shortcut and got too close to Creator Sun.

Brass, Eleanor (Cree). ***Medicine Boy and other Cree Tales***. Saskatoon, SK: Fifth House, 1979c. Illustrated by Henry Nanooch ISBN 0-919224-04-0

Grades 3 and up

Summary:

In this collection of twenty-six stories, Eleanor Brass explains the culture hero figure, *Wesuketchuk*. The collection includes creation stories, stories which reflect the influence of the French language and culture, some more contemporary stories, and stories featuring *Wesuketchuk*. Although all the stories communicate traditional values, some close with the essential teaching of the story: to always listen to warnings, to remember to think of others, to never be greedy and neglect responsibilities, and to be grateful for all gifts on earth. Students from all grade levels can appreciate these stories.

AR Book: Bruchac, Joseph. (Abenaki/Slavic). ***Between Earth and Sky: Legends of Native American Sacred Places***. Illustrated by Thomas Locker. New York: Harcourt Brace and Company, 1996. ISBN: 0-15-200042-9

Picture Book - Grades 2 and up

Summary:

Each story ends with the name of the Native tribe from which the story originated: Wampanoag, Seneca, Navajo, Cherokee, Papago, Hopewell, Cheyenne, Hopi, Walapai, Abenaki. *Between Earth and Sky* concludes with a map of America, particularly designating the tribes included in this book.

Bruchac, James and Joseph Bruchac(**Abenaki/Slavic**). *Native American Games and Stories*. Golden, CO: Fulcrum, 2000. 84 pp. ISBN: 1-55591-979-0

Nonfiction and traditional story - Grades 3 and up**Summary:**

Native American Games is separated into types of games: Ball Games and Team Sports, Bowl Games and Other Games of Chance, Games of Skill, Hoop Games, and Awareness Games. The collection includes relevant traditional stories (with tribal origins) and illustrated directions for playing the games.

AR Book: Bruchac, Joseph(**Abenaki/Slavic**). *Native American Stories* Told by Joseph Bruchac. Golden, CO: Fulcrum, 1991. 145 pp. ISBN: 1-55591-094-7

Grade 4 and up**Summary:**

This is a collection of the stories from *Keepers of the Earth*, with a Foreword by N. Scott Momaday and illustrated by John Kahionhes Fadden.

Bruchac, Joseph. (**Abenaki/Slavic**). *The Earth Under Sky Bear's Feet*. Illustrated by Thomas Locker. New York: Philomel Books, 1995. ISBN: 0-399-22713-X

Picture Book - K and up**Summary:**

In this companion to *Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back*, Joseph Bruchac has told twelve stories of the living earth seen from the sky. Each story ends with an acknowledgment of the story's tribal source: Mohawk, Pima, Winnebago, Lenape, Chumash, Lakota, Navajo, Pawnee.

AR Book: Bruchac, Joseph and James Bruchac(**Abenaki**) as told by the Bruchacs. *How Chipmunk Got his Stripes*. Pictures by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey. New York: Puffin Books, 2001.

ISBN: 0-14-250021-6 30 pp.

Traditional Story Picture Book**Grades K and up****Summary:**

Children will enjoy illustrations and the dialogue between an arrogant and bragging Bear and the little Chipmunk who challenges the Bear to stop the sun from coming up. When the sun rises the next morning, of course the Bear is grumpy. Because he won, the chipmunk teases him, even though his grandmother tells him it's not good to tease the loser in a contest. Bear pounces on Chipmunk and threatens to eat him, and then he lets him go just so he can hear him apologize. Once released Chipmunk runs. When Chipmunk is about to enter his burrow, the bear scratches his back. The storyteller ends his book with the lesson: Ano one,

not even Bear, can do everything.’ But there are other valuable lessons in this story that come alive in our memories whenever we see a chipmunk running.

AR Book: Bruchac, Joseph. **(Abenaki/Slavic). *The First Strawberries***. New York: Penguin Books, 1993. ISBN 0-8037-1331-2

Picture Book - K and up

Summary:

A Cherokee story, retold by Abenaki storyteller, Joseph Bruchac, with water color illustrations by Anna Vojtech. The story begins the way so many legends begin: “Long ago . . . ’ It is a story of a couple who married and lived happily for a long time until one day they quarreled because the husband’s words hurt his wife, and she left, saying ‘I will live with you no longer.’ Her husband regrets his words and follows her, but he can’t catch up to her. She does not stop to pick the first gifts of the Sun: raspberries, blueberries, blackberries. But when she sees the strawberries in the warmth of the Sun, she remembers her happiness with her husband and stops to pick the berries for him. Her husband approaches her and says, ‘Forgive me for my hard words,’ and she shares the berries with him. ‘So it was that strawberries came into the world.’ The story teaches about the importance of respect for others and about gifts of the earth.

AR Book: Bruchac, Joseph and Gayle Ross. ***The Girl Who Married the Moon: Tales from Native North America***. Troll Publications, 1993. ISBN 0-816703481-X 127 pp.

Grades 4 and up

Summary:

From the Introduction by Gayle Ross: “Of all the misconceptions and misunderstandings perpetuated about native peoples, the role of women in traditional cultures is perhaps the most falsely portrayed. . . . Though the survival of the tribe often sharply defined the roles of both men and women, the balance that existed between the sexes was as important as the harmony between the people and the world in which they lived. . . . And so we offer these stories both to honor the generations of grandmothers who have gone before us and to reach the daughters and granddaughters who will come after.’ Each of the four sections (Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, Northwest), with four stories in each, is prefaced with an explanation of the tribal backgrounds and focus of the stories.

AR Book: Bruchac, Joseph and James Bruchac**(Abenaki)** as told by the Bruchacs. ***Raccoon’s Last Race***. Pictures by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2004. ISBN: 0-8037-2077-4 30 pp.

Traditional Abenaki Story Picture Book

Grades K and up

Summary:

A story about Azban the Raccoon and how he paid a high price for conceit and trickery, with his ‘misdeeds [leading] to his own downfall. In his introduction, James Bruchac credits their good friend Wolfsong who was a ‘great Abenaki storyteller whose voice and generosity of spirit are missed by all those who loved him and learned from him.’

AR Book: Bruchac, Joseph and James Bruchac(**Abenaki**) as told by the Bruchacs. ***Turtle's Race with Beaver: A Traditional Seneca Story.*** Pictures by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey. New York: Penguin Young Readers Group, Dial Books, 2003. ISBN 0-8037-2852-2 26 pp.

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3;Traditional Story/PictureBook Gr K and up

Summary:

A story about the contest over territory and who owns it: Turtle (the weaker but wiser one) has happily lived there for years, but Beaver comes along and decides to 'make some changes.' Although Turtle is willing to share the pond, Beaver wants it for himself, so he challenges Turtle to a race. All the animals gather to watch the swimming race across the pond. As soon as Beaver takes off, Turtle snaps onto Beaver's tail. When Beaver flips his tail to shake him off, Turtle lets go just at the highest point in the air and is catapulted onto land the winner. Although Turtle invites him to share his pond, Beaver is embarrassed and goes to find another pond where another turtle lives. There Beaver demonstrates the lesson he has just learned and humbly asks, 'May I share your pond with you?' While readers might see that this story illustrates the importance of ingenuity in achieving success, it probably is more about the value of cooperation and living at peace with all.

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. ***Bull Trout's Gift: A Salish Story about the Value of Reciprocity.*** Illustrated by Sashay Camel. Lincoln, NB: University of Nebraska Press, 2011. 58 pp. ISBN: 978-0-8032-3491-8.

Narrative Picture Book and Traditional Story/Picture Book Grades 2-12

Summary:

Bull Trout's Gift begins with a teacher preparing her class for a field trip to the Jocko River. Following a brief history of the changes that have occurred on the Flathead Reservation, including the fish and other wildlife, readers are introduced to Johnny Arlee and Craig Barfoot, a biologist, who will explain how the native trout, including three kinds of migratory bull trout, in the river can only thrive in cold, clean water, with healthy riparian areas. The biologist explains the different stages of the lives of the fish, and problems that have occurred with the building of dams. The biologist then introduces elder Johnny Arlee to the children, and he tells them the story of the bull trout, closing with his message about their responsibility: 'rehe most important gift we can give the river and bull trout is to take care of them and protect them.' Germaine White has written a 'Note to Parents and Teachers' about the lessons the elders have taught and the importance of 'mending a river.'

Coyote Steals Fire: A Shoshone Tale. Retold and Illustrated by The Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 2005. ISBN 0-87421-618-4

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3

Traditional Story Picture Book - K and up

Summary:

Coyote is cold and so he travels to the people in the south to steal fire. *Coyote Steals Fire* also includes color photographs that accompany a comprehensive narration of the History, Culture, and Traditions of the Northwestern Shoshone, with Significant Events in Modern

Northwestern Shoshone History and Culture, Tradition and Education. The hard-cover book also includes a CD with the story told by Shoshone Elder Helen Timbimboo and two Round Dance songs. The printed story in Shoshone at the end of the book is set beside the English translation. The entire book was a collaborative effort of 'all the hands involved in the project.' 'rehey learned writing and illustrating techniques from book art specialist and artist Tamara Zollinger and writer and editor Shari Zollinger.' *Coyote Steals Fire* might be compared and contrasted with the Salish story, *Beaver Steals Fire*.

Coyote Stories of the Montana Salish Indians. Salish Culture Committee Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Helena, MT: Montana Historical Society Press and the Salish Kootenai college Press, Pablo, Montana, 1999. 0-917298-61-6

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3

Traditional Story – 4th and up

Summary:

In 'Coyote Gets Lovesick,' Coyote becomes so lovesick that he dies of hunger and thirst.

In 'Coyote and Raven,' Coyote tries to get Raven to drop grease so Coyote can eat it.

In 'Coyote's Dry Meat Turns into Live Deer', Coyote ends up hungry again thanks to his greed.

Caduto, Michael J., and Joseph Bruchac (**Abenaki**), eds. ***Keepers of the Earth: Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children.*** Golden, CO: Fulcrum, 1988, 208 pp. ISBN: 1-55591-027-0

Grades 4 and up

Summary:

Keepers of the Earth, the flagship book in a series, provides illustrated stories from various tribal orientations, together with a *Teacher's Guide* and a list of other resources. Many of the classroom activities inspire environmental awareness. Although the series aims at the primary through intermediate levels, any of the books work well in secondary classes because individuals of any age can identify with the characters in the stories.

Keepers of Life: Discovering Plants Through Native American Stories and Earth Activities for Children. Golden, CO: Fulcrum, 1994. 265 pp. ISBN: 1-55591-186-2

Keepers of the Animals: Native American Stories and Wildlife Activities for Children. Golden, CO: Fulcrum, 1991. 265 pp. ISBN: 1-55591-088-2

Keepers of the Night: Native American Stories and Nocturnal Activities for Children. Golden, CO: Fulcrum, 1994. 146 pp. ISBN: 1-55591-177-3

Native American Gardening: Stories, Projects and Recipes for Families. Golden, CO: Fulcrum, 1996. 157 pp. ISBN: 1-55591-148-X

AR Book: Lacapa, Michael (**Apache/Hopi/Tewa**). ***The Flute Player: An Apache Folktale.*** Told and Illustrated by Michael Lacapa. Flagstaff, AZ: Rising Moon Press, 1990. 40 pp. ISBN: 0-87358-627-1

Picture Book - 3 and up

Summary:

The Flute Player is about lost love and grief and enduring love. There is a young man who plays the flute, and he meets a young woman at a hoop dance. When they part, he tells her he will play his flute in the canyon and she will hear it as she works in her father's fields. She promises to respond by sending a leaf down the river to let him know she likes his music. But one day the elders take him to hunt, and she can't hear his flute. She misunderstands what has happened, and the loss she feels is so terrible that she becomes sick and dies. When he finally returns, happy with his hunt, he fails to understand why he never sees the leaf and wonders what he has done to cause her not to like him. After he learns she has died, he disappears. Today the Apache people can go to the canyon where they will hear the beautiful sound like the wind, blowing through the trees.'

A story about the power of music and of action to communicate our deepest feelings, *The Flute Player* teaches about the tragic consequences that can occur when we misunderstand others, and it can be used with Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Marshall, Joseph M. III (**Lakota**). ***How Not To Catch Fish and Other Adventures of Iktomi***. Illustrated by Joseph Chamberlain. Music by John Two-Hawks. Eureka Springs, AK: Circle Studios, 2005. 55 pp. ISBN: 0-9768022-0-1A

Take a humorous, educational and inspirational journey with Iktomi, the silly, teacher/trickster character from centuries of wonderful Lakota character-building stories. Young people and adults alike will laugh, learn and discover the profound wisdom in these fun stories. At long last, the adventures of Iktomi are now written, illustrated and put to music and sound, all by Sioux Indian people! And although these tales do come from Indian culture, they are not 'Indian stories'. These are tales that impart the value of honesty, humility, integrity, love, selflessness, perseverance, faith, respect, compassion and so many other qualities we all need, young and old, to live a good life.' www.johntwohawks.com

AR Book: Medicine Crow, Joe (**Crow**). ***Brave Wolf and the Thunderbird***. Illustrated by Linda R. Martin (**Navajo**). New York: Abbeville Press Publishers, 2003. 30 pp. ISBN:0-7892-0160-7
Traditional Story/Picture Book - K and up

Summary:

"Every spring a great big monster climbs out of the lake and up the cliff to steal the mother Thunderbird's young chicks. This year she is determined to save them, but she needs human help. So she snatches up Brave Wolf while he is out hunting and carries him to her nest, where he comes up with a plan. First, he says, 'I want to build a fire.' And then, 'I'll need some nice round rocks.' When the water monster arrives to attack the nest this year, he is greeted by more than just chicks at the top of the cliff.'" The end of *Brave Wolf* includes an explanation of the thunderbird in the Crow culture, a Glossary of Crow Words, and some history and photographs of the Crow people. For other *Tales of the People* series books: www.abbeville.com

AR Book: Moore, Marijo (**Cherokee**). ***The Ice Man: A Traditional Native American Tale***. (Cherokee). Barrington, IL: Rigby, 2000. 24 pp.. ISBN: 0-7635-6699-3

Picture Book - K and up

Summary:

In the Great Smoky Mountains, a fire starts and the people can't put it out. Two men travel to the top of the world to find Ice Man to help them. Because they bring an offering of food, Ice Man agrees to help these 'careless people put out the fire before it spreads into all the world.' This is the story of how the Ice Man put out the fire and the 'crystal-clear lake' that remain in the place of the fire pit.

AR Book: Moore, Marijo (Cherokee). *The Cherokee Little People: a Native American Tale*. (Cherokee). Barrington, IL: Rigby, 2000. 16 pp.. ISBN: 0-7635-6663-2

Picture Book - K and up

Summary:

When a Cherokee couple's corn crop grows too big for them to harvest themselves, Tooni, the husband, goes for help. While he is gone, the crows threaten to eat all the corn. Worried and waiting, Polly dreams that the Cherokee Little People have helped them. The next morning they see the harvested corn. So Polly makes many small moccasins and cornbread for the Little People who helped them.

AR Book: Moore, Marijo (Cherokee). *First Fire*. Barrington, IL: Rigby, 2000. 24 pp.. ISBN: 0-7635-6694-2

Picture Book - K and up

Summary:

Because the world was so very cold, the animals tried to bring fire from a 'little green island.' Although several try, no one succeeds until Water Spider brings back one little burning coal which grew into a 'glowing fire that seemed to light up the world.' In the end, the animals gather around the fire and share stories.

Otokahekagapi (First Beginnings) Sioux Creation Story. Transcribed and Illustrated by Thomas E. Simms. Chamberlain, SD: Tipi Press, Box 89, 1987.

Grades 3 and up

Paul-Dene, Simon (Cree). *I Am The Eagle Free (Sky Song)*. Penticton, B.C.: Theytus Books Ltd., 1992. 36 pp. ISBN 0-919441-34-3

Grade 2 and up

Summary:

Color illustrated and told by North Saskatchewan artist, *I Am the Eagle Free* elicits children's own stories about their experiences with nature. In his introduction, Simon Paul-Dene explains his purpose for sharing this story: 'sooner or later, we're all going to have to face the Truth: that we are here to protect the Earth for the children and their children. In *I Am the Eagle Free*, there is a contest to see who could fly the highest. A tiny bird hitches a ride on the tail feathers of an Eagle. Ashamed of his trickery, the little bird hides in a tree where he still sings although no one can see him.

AR Book: Ross, Gayle (Cherokee). *How Rabbit Tricked Otter and Other Cherokee Trickster Stories*. New York: Parabola Books, 1994. 79 pp.. ISBN: 0-930407-60-1

Grades 4 and up

Summary:

Fifteen traditional stories by the leading storytellers that follow the adventures of Rabbit, the Cherokee trickster/transformer. 'Traditional manners and morals, culture, and spirituality are lightly woven into the selections.' Gayle Ross is a direct descendant of John Ross, the principal chief of the Cherokee Nation during the infamous 'Trail of Tears.'

Silvey, Diane (**First Nations**). *Little Bear's Vision Quest*. Illustrated by Joe Silvey. Victoria, B.C. Aboriginal nations Education Division, 1995. ISBN-13: 978-1-894114-00-0 35 pp.

Picture Book – Traditional Story - Grades 2 and up

Summary:

Through several painful experiences and the wisdom of his grandfather, Little Bear learns the importance of respect, courtesy, friendliness, repentance and much more. The book ends with some ideas and questions for parents and teachers who use it, as well as themes and character qualities that can be discussed after reading the story.

AR Book: Sloat, Teri with Betty Huffmon (**Yupik**). *The Eye of the Needle*. Portland, OR: Alaska Northwest Books, 2001. 28 pp. ISBN: 0-88240-535-7

Picture Book – Traditional Story – Grades K and up

Summary:

A boy lives with his grandmother in a sod hut on the edge of the 'cold sea.' With little left to eat, the grandmother sends Amik to find food now that the winter ice is melting. Grandmother remains in the hut, sewing with an ivory needle and an eye that helps her 'see many things.' It is Amik's first time hunting and fishing by himself. Hungry, he eats whatever he catches, and each time it is a bigger fish or animal until he eats a whale. Too fat to get back into the hut, he is magically drawn through his grandmother's needle's eye. Once he is squeezed, all the animals he's eaten flow out. Grateful for his successful hunting, grandmother teaches Amik to share their abundance with all in need. Like Joe Bruchac's retelling of the Abenaki story, 'Gluscabi and the Game Animals,' in *Native American Stories*, there are many lessons in this wonderfully illustrated story.

AR Book: Swamp, Chief Jake (**Tekaranianeken**). *Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message*. Illustrated by Erwin Printup, Jr. New York: Lee & Low Books, Inc., 1995. 21 pp. ISBN: 1-880000-54-0

Picture Book, non-fiction

Grades K and up

Summary:

All over the world, Chief Swamp has delivered this message of gratitude to Mother Earth for all her gifts, even at a meeting of the United Nations. In his Author's Note, he explains that they come from the people known as the *Haudenosaunee*, or the *Iroquois* or Six Nations who live in upstate New York. The book concludes with the written version of the text in

the Mohawk language. This is a *Reading Rainbow* Feature Title with a free teacher's guide available at <http://leeandlow.com/teachers>

AR Book: Te Ata. **(Chickasaw) *Baby Rattlesnake***. Adapted by Lynn Moroney and Illustrated by Mira Reisberg. San Francisco, CA: Children's Press, 1989. ISBN:0-89239-111-1

Picture Book - K and up

Summary:

Lynn Moroney, an Oklahoma storyteller, received permission to tell and publish this story from ninety-two-year old Chickasaw, Te Ata, who has been telling stories across the country and in Europe for sixty-five years. *Baby Rattlesnake* demonstrates this lesson—the consequences of getting something before you're ready for it.' Wanting a rattle of his own, just like all the big snakes, Baby Rattlesnake keeps all the people awake with his crying. So they decide to give him a small one, knowing it will get him into trouble teach him a lesson. Baby Rattlesnake loses his rattle and sorrowfully returns to his loving family. Even after he has rejected the advice of his parents, he is welcomed home in the end. Like the story of the Prodigal Son, *Baby Rattlesnake* is a story about the impulsiveness of youth, the wisdom of elders, the value of forgiveness, and the importance of learning lessons for ourselves.

The Magic Hummingbird: A Hopi Folktale. Collected and Translated by Ekkehart malotki and Narrated by Michael Lomatuway'ma and Illustrated by Michael Lacapa. Walnut, CA: Kiva Publishing, 1996. ISBN: 1-885772-04-1

Essential Understandings #1, #2, #3; Traditional Story/ Picture Book

Summary:

'Long ago' the people were starving because of a drought. When families left to find food, one couple left their two children behind. One day the brother makes a hummingbird toy out of a sunflower stalk for his sister to play with while he looks for food. Suddenly, the hummingbird comes to life. When it flies away and returns, day after day, the children find corn in the niche where the bird rests. The hummingbird also flies away to search for them the boy's parents. He finds a paradise where Musingwa, the god of fertility and germination lives, and hummingbird asks Musingwa to 'have mercy on the people and go out from his Kiva to the upper world again.' The bird returns to Oraibi and to the children with much corn and then sets out again to find their parents. Musingwa moves up through the Kiva levels, and rain begins to fall. 'Thus Oraibi recovered, thanks to the two children who fashioned a hummingbird and made it come alive; thanks also to the hummingbird who pitied the children, and on their behalf pleaded with Musingwa at Earth Center to restore life.'

The Translator's Note concludes with a comment about the harsh beginning of this story:

In this age of political correctness, we see too many original stories watered down either to oversimplify or to eliminate any unpleasantness. Several other publishers rejected this story on the grounds that the abandonment of the children at the beginning of the story was 'reoo cruel' and 'not fit for children's consumption.' The attitude evidence by these comments betrays an unfortunately common preference for 'fakelore' over genuine folklore.

To be sure, famines have occurred in Hopi history, and children may have been abandoned at such life-threatening times. However, the abandonment of the children can also be viewed as a literary device used by the originator of the story, enabling him to narrate it from the viewpoint of the children and thus elicit the listeners' sympathy. Additionally, this device allows him to create the opportunity for the children to become, if not actual heroes, at least instrumental in the survival of Oraibi.

AR Book: *Tatanka and the Lakota People: A Creation Story*. Illustrated by Donald F. Montileaux (Oglala Lakota). Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 2006. Unpaginated ISBN: 0-9749195-8-6

Essential Understanding #1, #3 Traditional Story Picture Book – Grades 1- up

Summary:

A Best Books Award Winner by USA Book News 'this story is one part of the Lakota creation legend. It tells how Tatanka—the buffalo—came to the Lakota people—the Ikce Wicasa of this story—so that they would have food and warmth. The full creation story is made up of many parts and is much longer. It also tells how the sky, the earth, and the sea came to be. . . . These narratives, which are told by the Lakota Elders, help Lakota children understand the world in which they live. The stories have been told and retold for many generations.' (Introduction)

Thomason, Dovie. *The Animals' Wishes*. Illustrated by Bee Willey. Barrington, IL: Rigby Publishing, 2000 24 pp. ISBN 0-7638-6744-2

Picture Book – K and up

Summary:

This is a traditional Native American tale about the rabbit and the owl and how they came to be as they are today.

Thunder Hawk, Cal. (**Lakota**) *Lesson of the Feather: A Lakota Story*. Illustrations by Bruce Preheim. Chamberlain, SD: Tipi Press, 1998. 17 pp. ISBN: 1-877876-21-0

Picture Book - Grade 2 - up

Summary:

If we're lucky, the lessons we learn might result from less than serious consequences. The *Lesson of the Feather* features two boys and their grandfathers: Star, a ten-year-old Lakota boy, who lived in a small band led by his grandfather Stone; and Legs, the grandson of grandfather Lizard, of the animal people who live in the surrounding canyons= Acaves and crevices.' The *Lesson of the Feather* is a story that will make you laugh while it teaches, softly, that children should respect tradition and the wisdom of their elders. Again, this *growing-up* story demonstrates the tradition that children can learn how to behave from listening to stories; if not, they will learn from experiences natural consequences.

AR Book: Tingle, Tim (**Choctaw**). *When Turtle Grew Feathers*. Illustrated by Stacey Shuett. Atlanta, GA: 2007. 978-0-87483-777-3 40 pp.

Essential Understandings #1, #3, #6
Traditional Story Picture Book 3 and up

Summary:

Tim Tingle is an author of young-adult fiction and picture books based on oral history. For this story, he has used *Myths of the Louisiana Choctaws* and two interviews with elders. A variant of Aesop's 'turtle and the Hare,' this story is illustrated with Schuett's acrylic paintings that portray the humor of the story, particularly in the expressions on the animal's faces. When Turkey tries on Turtle's shell, Rabbit comes along and challenges 'turtle,' to a race. As soon as they begin, the shell grows feet and wings (turkey's of course), and certainly wins the race, with Rabbit left totally befuddled and unable to speak. The lessons, according to the storyteller, are these: 'turtle learned you don't have to be the biggest, or the fastest, or the best. But it sure is nice to be friends with those that are.' It's a story about power, and trickery, and survival of the least.

AR Book: White, Ellen (**Coastal Salish/Kwalsulwut**). *Kwulasulwut: Stories from the Coast Salish*. Penticton, B.C.: Theytus Books Ltd., 1992 76 pp. ISBN: 0-010441-45-9

Grades 3 and up

Summary:

Written in memory of White's grandmother, Mary Rice, 'who never tired of telling us her stories,' this collection includes five stories. Each story demonstrates the ways the weak and small can help the strong, the ways individuals can overcome fears and learn from those who are different, the values of respect for all of nature and for the needs and feelings of others, negative consequences of selfishness and rewards of generosity.

Why Coyote Has The Best Eyes. Klamath-Trinity Curriculum Project, California.

In this roll-book with illustrations, Coyote tricks fish into trading eyes. The story belongs to the Hupa people of Northern California. They are Athabascan linguistic heritage. Teachers who use this book should explain the source of the story, locate the tribe on a map for their students. Although this is not from the Flathead Reservation tribes, the protagonist is still Coyote. Therefore, teachers should still respect the time of year that is appropriate for using Coyote stories.

Williams, Maria (**Tlingit**). (2001). *How Raven Stole the Sun*. Illustrated by Felix Vigil. New York: Abbeville Press and National Museum of American Indians.

Grades 3 and up

Summary:

This is the Tlingit version of the trickster, pure white Raven, who sets out to steal the stars, moon, and sun from a greedy Chief in order to save the people from total darkness. He begins by transforming himself into a pine needle that the chief's daughter eats. Nine months later, she gives birth to a baby boy who plays with the chief's boxes that hold the sun, moon, and stars and releases them. When the chief discovers the trickery, he traps the Raven inside a house. Raven escapes through the very small smoke hole, and his feathers turn completely

black.

'The Tlingits say Raven became a pine needle in the cup of the Chief's daughter, the Athabaskans believe Raven turned into a small fish. In the Inujit version, Raven transforms into a piece of moss.'(26) There is also a Glossary of Tlingit Words, photos of artifacts, background and photographs of the Tlingit People, and information about the author and illustrator.

Yamone, Linda (**Rumsien Ohlone**). *When the World Ended, How Hummingbird Got Fire, How People Were Made*. Told and Illustrated by Linda Yamone Berkley, CA: Oyate, 1995.. ISBN: 0-9625175-1-8

Grades 3 and up

Summary:

'This book is the result of several years of deciphering, translating and reconstructing the stories of the Rumsien Ohlone People of the Monterey, California area. The resurrection of this vital piece of indigenous culture is only a taste of what is possible to retrieve and keep alive for the future.' (Acknowledgments) Originally told in Spanish in the 1930s to an ethnographer and linguist, John P. Harrington, they had to be translated into English. Alex Ramirez, the grandson of Manuel Onesimo, the storyteller, remembered Harrington's visits to his grandparents' home, and he helped Linda Yamone and others reconstruct the stories to be as close to the original as possible.

The stories tell of sacrifice and hope and courage and most important, the strength of the spirit.

Zitkala-Ša (**Yankton Sioux**). *Dance in a Buffalo Skull*. Illustrated by S.D. Nelson (**Lakota**). Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 2007. ISBN: 978-0-9777955-2-9

Picture Book – Grades 3 and up

Summary:

Zitkala-Ša heard this story from her Dakota elders, and she translated it into English in 1901. A picture book with vibrant Nelson illustrations, *Dance in a Buffalo Skull* is the story of a group of mice, happily dancing and playing inside a buffalo skull. No one is keeping watch, so they are unaware of the dangers outside. The introduction provides background about Zitkala-Ša (Gertrude Simmons Bonnin) and the purpose of story to her people. 'The Sioux Indians, also known as the Dakota, Lakota, or Nakota Indians, told each other this story over and over. This way of teaching and sharing information is called oral history. The lessons always come through the listeners. Those lessons are still important today. We all need to pay attention to the world around us and not get too caught up in what we are doing.' (iii)