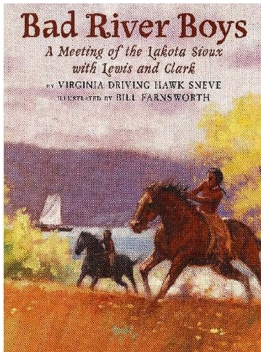


Recommended Books about Native Americans

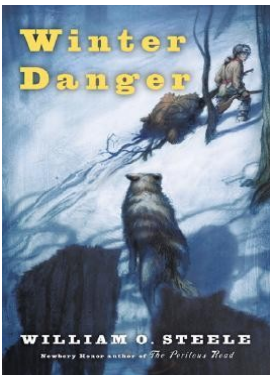
Prepared for Jeannine Mundy
Grade 5 - Huntingburg Elementary

Fiction



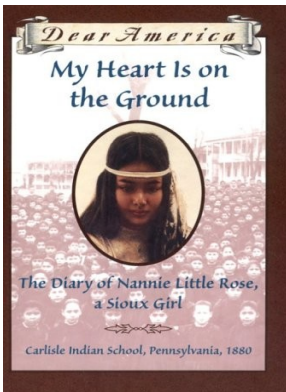
***Bad River Boys: A Meeting of the Lakota Sioux with Lewis and Clark* by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve**

Grade 3-6 – Based on William Clark's account, this fictionalized story is told from the perspective of three Lakota boys who are first to sight the Corps of Discovery expedition's boats on the river. Although the youngsters' tribe has had contact with traders, there is no interpreter present, and misunderstandings arise since both sides have to rely on the limited translation skills of one of the Corp's boatmen. The visit is fraught with uneasiness, weapons are drawn, and violence seems imminent. The tension eases with the appearance of the large black dog, Seaman, and the friendliness of the expedition's lone African American, York. The Lakota are relieved to see the boats sail on, but feel frustrated and uneasy with the encounter. Cloud asks his father why the Americans were so angry, and the man wisely responds: Because we were in their way.



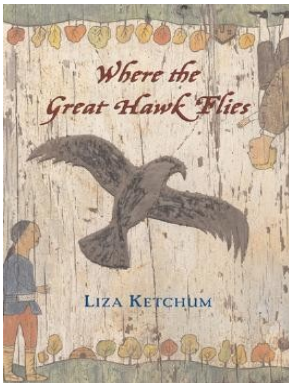
***Winter Danger* by William O. Steele**

Grade 4-8 – Eleven-year-old Cajé Amos learns to be part of a family and a safe home in Newbery Honor winner William O. Steele's historical novel. Cajé's taciturn father has raised him to be a woodsy, always on the move, hunting and trading, trying to stay alive. Jared Amos adamantly believes that neither he nor his son should be beholden to anyone, ever. When they're forced by the worst Tennessee winter on record to stay with Cajé's aunt and uncle, the boy is excited to have the opportunity of being warm and safe, well-fed, and on a farm. His father can only bear it for a short time before abandoning his son in the middle of one harsh winter night. There are plenty of exciting scenes involving Indians, bears, hungry wolves and a panther, illness and starvation due to the unusual weather. Cajé eventually realizes that he belongs with this family; being beholden just means that he'll be able to return the favor eventually. A good historical novel for reluctant readers, especially boys.



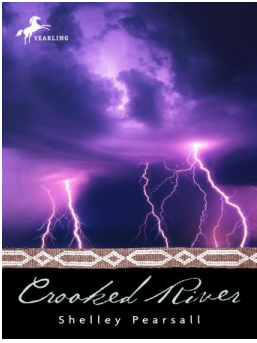
***My Heart is on the Ground: the Diary of Nannie Little Rose, a Sioux Girl, Carlisle Indian School, Pennsylvania, 1880* by Ann Rinaldi**

Grade 4-7 - As a potential translator and bridge between two cultures, Nannie Little Rose is assigned by her teacher at the Carlisle Indian School to keep a diary in order to practice and improve her English skills. Beginning in broken English, Nannie tells of her incredibly difficult first year at the school, including entries detailing her previous life as her ability to communicate in English grows. From December, 1879, to October, 1880, readers follow a remarkably resilient girl, uprooted from her home and culture, trying to find a place for herself in a rapidly changing world. Loyal, caring, and creative, she is able to see a spirit helper in a kitchen mouse and willing to defy regulations in mourning the death of her dearest friend. Rinaldi depicts widely divergent cultures with clarity and compassion. Captain Pratt, founder of a school that forcibly strips children of their native culture, also provides vocational training and field trips, and responds to his students as true individuals. The body of the text is followed by an epilogue telling of Nannie's later life, an extensive historical note, and black-and-white photos. The period, the setting, and Nannie herself all come to life. An excellent addition to a popular series.



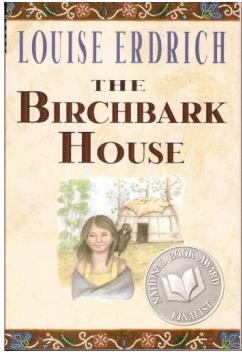
***Where the Great Hawk Flies* by Liza Ketchum**

Grade 5-8 – During the British-inspired, murderous Indian raid in Vermont in 1780, a hawk led 13-year-old Daniel Tucker, his Pequot mother, and his sister to the safety of a cave while his English-immigrant father fought with the local militia. The Coombs family, now back from refuge in Connecticut, lost nearly everything. Young Hiram Coombs and Daniel immediately dislike one another for Hiram is haunted by the sights and sounds of the raid. He steals from Daniel, and both boys resort to name-calling. Their fathers attempt cordiality, but Hiram's pregnant mother is disdainful of Daniel's mother, even though she is the only midwife in the area. With the arrival of Hiram's uncle (crazed from the treatment he endured as a captive of Canadian Indians) and Daniel's Pequot grandfather (a healer whose tribe has befriended Americans), each family is hurled toward danger. Interspersed with the customs and language of two cultures and narrated in turn by each boy, the story never bogs down. The dignity, tolerance, and humor Daniel's grandfather displays is uplifting, and the way he passes on to his grandchildren valuable insights into their heritage and future is touching. Most evocative is the lyrical and reconciliatory ending. This story demonstrates how prejudice can injure both individuals and nations. Readers will enjoy the well-motivated characters and the exciting plot.



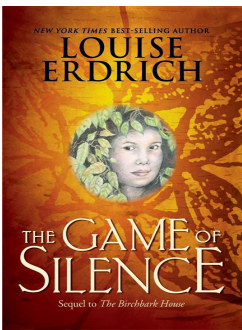
Crooked River by Shelley Pearsall

Grade 5-8 – Pearsall quickly engages readers with her captivating tale of fear, ignorance, and bravery on the Ohio frontier. The year is 1812 and 13-year-old Rebecca Carver is driven hard to help her older sister, Laura, make up for the loss of their mother. Terrified of their abusive and violent-tempered father, the girls care for the family silently and dutifully until a prisoner, an Indian who is accused of murder, is chained in their loft. Although surrounded by a family and town overflowing with an unabashed hatred of Indians, Rebecca slowly begins to believe in Amik's innocence and defies her Pa, her family, and her settlement in order to see justice done. The unique sharing of narration between Rebecca and Amik further opens the mind to the injustices and inhumanity suffered by this country's Native people. Packed with believable characters wrapped in a thoroughly researched plot, *Crooked River* is a must-read for fans of historical fiction.



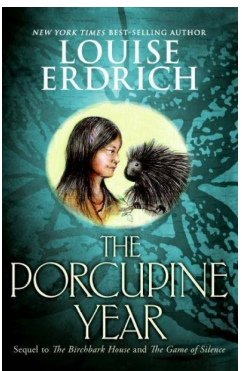
The Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich

Grade 3-5 - Nineteenth-century American pioneer life was introduced to thousands of young readers by Laura Ingalls Wilder's beloved *Little House* books. With *The Birchbark House*, award-winning author Louise Erdrich's first novel for young readers, this same slice of history is seen through the eyes of the spirited, 7-year-old Ojibwa girl Omakayas, or Little Frog, so named because her first step was a hop. The sole survivor of a smallpox epidemic on Spirit Island, Omakayas, then only a baby girl, was rescued by a fearless woman named Tallow and welcomed into an Ojibwa family on Lake Superior's Madeline Island, the Island of the Golden-Breasted Woodpecker. We follow Omakayas and her adopted family through a cycle of four seasons in 1847, including the winter, when a historically documented outbreak of smallpox overtook the island.



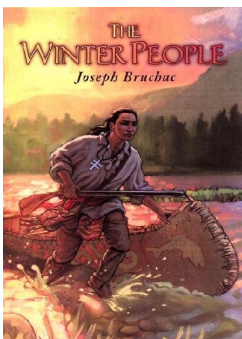
The Game of Silence by Louise Erdrich

Grade 5-8 - Omakayas's tale, begun in *The Birchbark House*, continues in this book. Older and more insightful, Omakayas begins to understand the elements of life more fully as she accepts her gift of telling dreams. Her sister falls in love with a warrior, strange and lost members of her tribe come to rely on her, and her people are threatened with certain eviction from their homes and food supply. But traditions are strong, and after Omakayas is sent off into nature to face the spirits and her dreams, she learns to accept the fate of her people and comes to see it as an adventure, "the next life they would live together on this earth." Although the story is set on an island in Lake Superior in 1850, readers will identify with the everyday activities of the Ojibwa, from snowball fights to fishing excursions, providing a parallel to their own lives while encouraging an appreciation for one that is very different.



The Porcupine Year by Louise Erdrich

Grade 5-8 —This sequel to *The Birchbark House* and *The Game of Silence* continues the story of Omakayas, an Ojibwe girl who in 1852 is now 12 winters old. She and her family have been displaced by the United States government and are looking for a new place to live. When Omakayas and her younger brother become separated from their family during a night hunting expedition, Pinch has a run-in with a porcupine that he decides to keep as his medicine animal. The little gag does indeed seem to bring them good fortune for a time, and Pinch is thereafter known as Quill. As Omakayas's extended family travels north toward Lac du Bois, where Mama's sister has settled, Erdrich's resonant descriptions of their day-to-day experiences give the narrative a graceful flow.



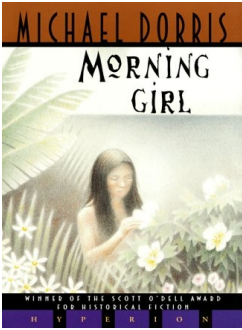
The Winter People by Joseph Bruchac

Grade 5-9 - A heartbreaking but exciting story. In a Quebec village during the French and Indian War, 14-year-old Saxso, an Abenaki, is caught in a struggle of survival and rescue when his mother and sisters are kidnapped during a massacre raid by the English Rangers. Bruchac has based this historical novel on an event that took place in the fall of 1759 when Major Robert Rogers of the English forces led a group of 200 men in an attack on St. Francis. For the Abenaki, the struggle to survive, rebuild, and continue throughout the generations was nearly lost. Through Saxso's own words, Bruchac leads readers through the boy's pursuit to save his family. He is also depicted as religious, with beliefs that are a mixture of Abenaki and Christian teachings. An excellent complement to Native American or French and Indian War units with high discussion potential.



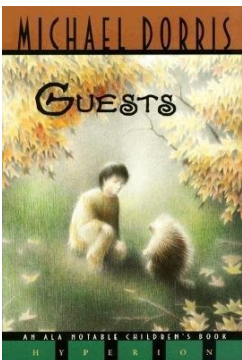
Geronimo: A Novel by Joseph Bruchac

Grade 5-9 – Starting in 1886 with Geronimo's final surrender, this novel is told from the perspective of his adopted grandson Little Foot, and follows the Chiricahua Apaches from their home in Arizona to Florida. At Fort Marion, the group dwindles, losing children to the Carlisle Indian School, where those who contract tuberculosis are sent home to die and spread the disease. Little Foot escapes this fate and eventually joins the U.S. Infantry. Bruchac's narrative meanders and shifts, but he sprinkles the trail with excitement and humor. Little Foot himself points out, I know that most White Eyes readers are less patient than Indians and prefer short stories that are easy to understand, and some young people will find this one difficult. But fans of history, or of themes of survival and freedom, will find it fascinating—and certainly different from other fare about the man. The fictional Little Foot affords Bruchac the perfect point of view to observe and interpret Geronimo's life, explaining where the history books got it wrong, and offering insights that won't be found there.



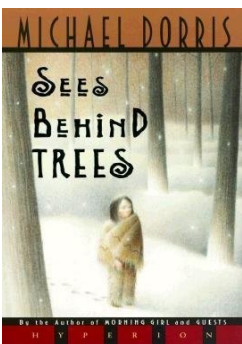
Morning Girl by Michael Dorris

Grade 3-6 - A peaceful, tropical world is the setting for *Morning Girl*, a simple yet rich glimpse into the lives of a young sister and brother. Morning Girl and Star Boy grapple with timeless, universal issues such as experiencing anger and love toward family members and the quest to discover the true self. Precisely where Morning Girl and Star Boy are growing up is not revealed, but it's clearly a place where the residents have no modern amenities. Living in harmony with nature is a necessary priority here, and—given the descriptive names of the characters—a Native Indian culture seems likely. But not until the end do readers discover that the story takes place in 1492. Suddenly we realize that the strange-looking visitors Morning Girl welcomes to shore are not as harmless as they may appear. The excerpt from Christopher Columbus's journal provides an ominous footnote: these gentle people, who seem so much like us, will not be permitted their idyllic existence much longer.



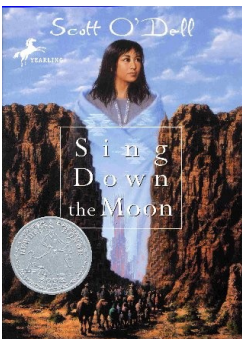
Guests by Michael Dorris

Grade 3-6 - Moss's father extends his hospitality to a group of strangers who speak an entirely different language and who make the boy "uncomfortable with their oddness." When his efforts to convince his parents that the guests should not participate in his people's harvest feast are rebuked, Moss runs away into the nearby forest. There he meets Trouble, a distant relative, and in trying to impress her, finds himself forced into his "away time." Lost in the woods, he learns to look and listen, and begins to realize what it means to be a man during an encounter with a porcupine. He also finds solace in his conversations with Trouble, who eventually helps him find his way out of the forest. Though she is struggling with the strictures placed upon young women in her clan, they share universal early adolescent emotions about the lack of understanding their families afford them.



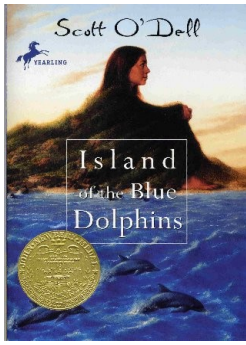
Sees Behind Trees by Michael Dorris

Grade 3-6 —Michael Dorris tells the story of Walnut, a young Native American boy. Because Walnut can't see well, he has difficulty meeting the challenges, especially feats of skill with bow and arrow, that prove he is ready to receive a new name and become an adult. When a sympathetic uncle invents a new contest to "see what can't be seen," the boy's other senses bring success and earn him the name Sees Behind Trees. Dorris could easily stop there, but he nudges the youngster onward through a series of trials that show adulthood is about more than getting there.



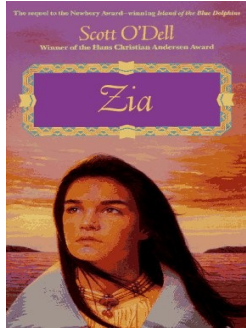
Sing Down the Moon by Scott O'Dell

Grade 3-6 - The promise of a rich harvest was shattered in the Canyon de Chelly when the Spanish slavers came and later when the white soldiers burned the crops, destroyed the orchards, and forced the Navajos from their homes. Through the eyes of Bright Morning, a young Navajo girl, we see what happens to human beings who are uprooted from the life they know. She is first captured by slavers, then forced with her people on the "Long Walk." The walk covered more than 200 miles, ending at Bosque Redondo—a reservation that was little more than a prison camp. *Sing Down the Moon* is also the story of proud and able Tall Boy, who is maimed not only by a physical wound but by a spiritual wound as well.



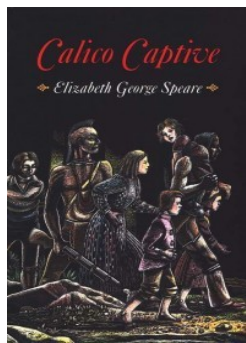
***Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell**

Grade 5-8 – The Newberry Medal-winning story of a 12-year old girl who lives alone on a Pacific island after she leaps from a rescue ship. Isolated on the island for eighteen years, Karana forages for food, builds weapons to fight predators, clothes herself in a cormorant feathered skirt, and finds strength and peace in her seclusion. A classic tale of discovery and solitude. A story of survival, based upon the true story of a girl who was left upon an island near the coast of Southern California. She lived there for 18 years, alone. While she waited for rescue, she kept herself alive by building shelter, finding food, and fighting her enemies--the wild dogs.



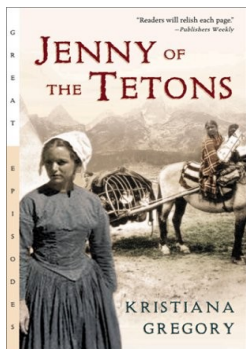
***Zia* by Scott O'Dell**

Grade 5-8 - The fate of Karana, heroine of *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, is revealed in this moving story of her niece Zia. Finding her aunt is the strongest force in Zia's life, and in the hope of doing so, Zia moves to the Santa Barbara Mission, where she plans to go the Island where someone has seen her aunt--still alive after 18 years. Zia and her brother attempt the voyage in a small boat, but are forced to turn back. Karana's eventual rescue makes a profound effect on Zia, who is caught between two worlds--the world of her mother's tribal past and the strange present world of the California missions. Although Karana's years of isolation have made it impossible for her to speak with anyone, she manages to give Zia what the girl needs most, the precious gift of freedom.



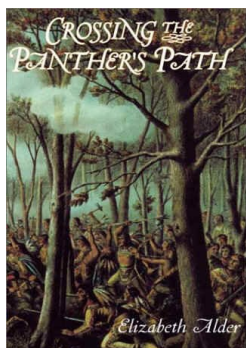
***Calico Captive* by Elizabeth George Speare**

Grade 3-6 - Early one morning in the year 1754 the stillness of Charlestown, New Hampshire, was shattered by shrill war whoops and the terror of an Indian raid. Young Miriam Willard, on a day which had promised new happiness, found herself instead a captive on a forest trail, caught up in the ebb and flow of the French and Indian War. Based on an actual narrative diary, this is the story of a young girl captured by Indians, sold to the French for ransom, and eventually returned home.



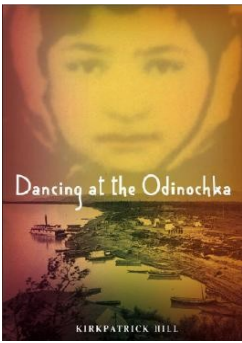
***Jenny of the Tetons* by Kristiana Gregory**

Grade 3-6 —Carrie hates the Indians for killing her parents and stealing her brothers. But when she is taken in by an Englishman named Beaver Dick to help with his children, Carrie quickly learns the gentle, reverent ways of his Indian wife, Jenny. Like them, Carrie learns to respect and work with the land. When smallpox spreads through the country, neither Jenny nor any of her children are spared, and Carrie learns just how deeply she had come to love her adopted family. Gregory's story is dotted, chapter by chapter, with excerpts from the journal of the real Beaver Dick. His spelling and grammar make the story authentic, and leave readers with a vivid account of the hardship and beauty of living in the new land.



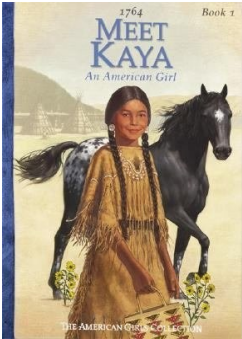
***Crossing the Panther's Path* by Elizabeth Alder**

Grade 4-8 - A novel based on the true story of Billy Calder, Tecumseh's translator and aide during the War of 1812. The teen is half Irish and half Mohawk, educated by the Jesuits, fluent in many languages, falling in love, and fiercely dedicated to the cause of the Indians and the British in the war. Once initiated into his mind and culture, readers will be walking trails, canoeing streams, riding horses, and fighting battles along with him. Throughout, he clearly matures and develops, but only as an idealized character, which accomplishes the author's apparent aim of raising him to heroic status. The valuable Native American perspective is important: William Henry Harrison is cast in an extremely negative light that rarely is illuminated in textbooks, and the generalized American ambition is shown to do what it indeed did, that is, destroy the homeland and much of the culture of the native peoples.



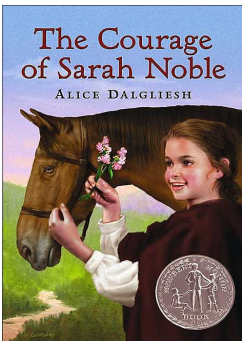
***Dancing at the Odinochka* by Kirkpatrick Hill**

Grade 5-8 – In the 1860s in what is now Alaska, Erinia Pavaloff, her parents, and seven others live at the Nulato *odinochka*, where Indians and Eskimos trade furs for Russian goods such as tobacco and tea. The life of these settlers is described—their daily routines, their search for food, making clothing, housing, and their survival on the land. Erinia's life is described as she experiences hunting season, winter, spring thaw, festivals, and visiting tribes of traders. As she grows, she learns the skill of survival in this remote land, using tools made by the natives and how to measure goods in the store. She is amazed when the telegraph men come to this remote area and discovers the items they bring, such as photographs, toothbrushes, and scissors. At first, the changes are for the good. Then, after the United States purchases the land from Russia, they all become American Alaskans and new ways begin to conflict with the old.



***Meet Kaya: An American Girl* by Janet Beeler Shaw**

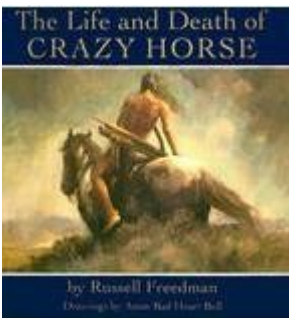
Grade 3-5 - In 1764, nine-year-old Kaya lives in the traditional homeland of the Nez Perce tribe (present-day Idaho, Washington, and Oregon) with her parents, siblings, and Speaking Rain, a blind girl. In *Meet Kaya*, she neglects her duties and, when the other children find out, she wonders if she will ever live it down. Nez Perce words are used throughout, and a glossary is appended. A closing section provides cultural and historical information as well as pictures of the Nimiipuu, known today as the Nez Perce. The editorial staff of Pleasant Company worked with the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Council to create an advisory board that supervised all aspects of the project, including the decision to set the story before contact with white explorers and settlers.



***The Courage of Sarah Noble* by Alice Dalgliesh**

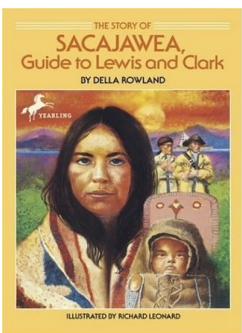
Grade 3-5 - In 1707, young Sarah Noble and her father traveled through the wilderness to build a new for their family. "Keep up your courage, Sarah Noble," her mother had said, but Sarah found that it was not always easy to feel brave inside. The dark woods were full of animals and Indians, too, and Sarah was only eight! The story of Sarah's journey is inspiring. And as she cares for her father and befriends her Indian neighbors, she learns that to be afraid and to be brave is the greatest courage of all.

Nonfiction



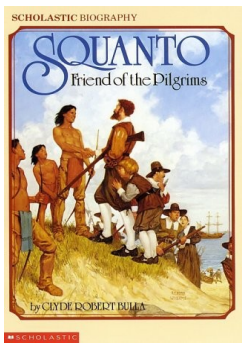
***The Life and Death of Crazy Horse* by Russell Freedman**

Grade 5 & Up —An account of the Oglala Sioux leader's life, written with the attention to detail of a historian and the language of a storyteller. Freedman paints the famous warrior's story on a broad canvas, describing the forces (desire for farmland, gold, railroads) that brought increasing numbers of white settlers to the Indian lands. The divisions among and within the tribes in the face of the ever-growing problem are explained, as is Crazy Horse's adamant refusal to give in to either the threats or the treaty offers of the U.S. Army and the government. The climactic battle of the Little Big Horn is described and shown to be the last triumph of the Sioux before they were herded onto reservations, and the last great victory of Crazy Horse before he was pushed to surrender and face his own violent death.



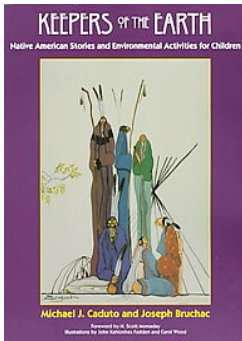
***The Story of Sacajawea, Guide to Lewis and Clark* by Della Rowland**

Grade 5-8 - Sacajawea has long been seen as a figure of courage, daring, and adventure to youngsters. In this biography--by far the most thorough and straightforward available--Rowland covers what little is known, or can be surmised, about Sacajawea's childhood and discusses her role in the famous expedition of 1804-05.



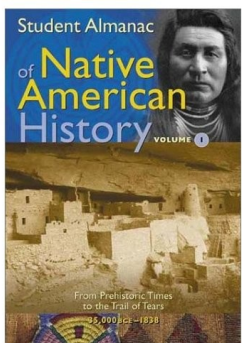
***Squanto: Friend of the Pilgrims* by Clyde Robert Bulla**

Grade 3-6 – The setting of this biography is the early 1600's. Squanto who is always on the lookout for the ships that bring white men to the shores of Massachusetts, is anxious to befriend them and to find out about their cultures and homelands. His friendship with the English brings him to England where everything is new and strange, frightening and wonderful. His encounter with slave traders leads him to Spain and enslavement until he regains his freedom with the help of Brother Luis and Brother Diego. After many years, he returns to America to discover that his family and tribe have been devastated by illness. Also, he finds a home on the land that was once his village. He befriends the Pilgrims, helping them to settle the new land.



***Keepers of the Earth: Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children* by Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac**

Grade 3-5 - The flagship book in the Keepers of the Earth series is an environmental classic for teaching children to respect the Earth. The meat of this set is the fine selection of Native American stories from the US and Canada in the main volume, but the soul is in the slim teacher's guide, where the authors discuss the meaning of stories in Native American cultures and talk about environmental education as necessarily including feelings and values, as well as information.



***Student Almanac of Native American History* by Media Projects Incorporated**

Grade 5-9 - An exploration of the history and culture of various Native American groups from 35,000 B.C.E. to the present. Each volume is divided into three chapters, such as "A Clash of Worlds" and "Exiled at Home." Chapters consist of an essay and alphabetical entries pertaining to that subject and time period. The entries are rather brief, with none more than two pages in length. They cover people, concepts, and events. Students can find a definition of the Cree or Modoc tribes in the first book or an explanation of the Wounded Knee Massacre in the second. Numerous sidebars feature lists of treaties; the writings or speeches from people such as Shawnee Chief Tecumseh, tribal leader George W. Harkins, and Bartolom, de Las Casas; and an entry from the log of Christopher Columbus. Graphs, maps, illustrations, and black-and-white photos add depth.