

October | 2019

# Jane Addams Peace Association



## *The Rights and Contributions of Indigenous Peoples*

**" We've all been living on broken ugly systems built on genocide and slavery. Strengthening and empowering others, in whatever capacity, also helps the self."**

**- Red Haircrow**

Indigenous Peoples' Day is this month. It is a holiday that celebrates and honors American Indians for their resistance and resilience in surviving genocide and oppression in the Americas. Although the ugly systems of the past still permeate our present, we find comfort and inspiration in the words of Red Haircrow, a Chiricahua Apache/Cherokee and African American writer, filmmaker, and psychologist, as he signals how we can change the ways those systems may impact our future. We stand in solidarity with Indigenous people and will work to strengthen our collective resistance against oppression and social injustices in our current sociopolitical context. For this month's newsletter, we selected two books that honor the culture, spirit, and humanity of American Indians. The themes in the books we highlighted this month reflect our commitment to community, compassion, peace, and dialogue.

**"Civilization is a method of living, an attitude of equal respect for all men"**

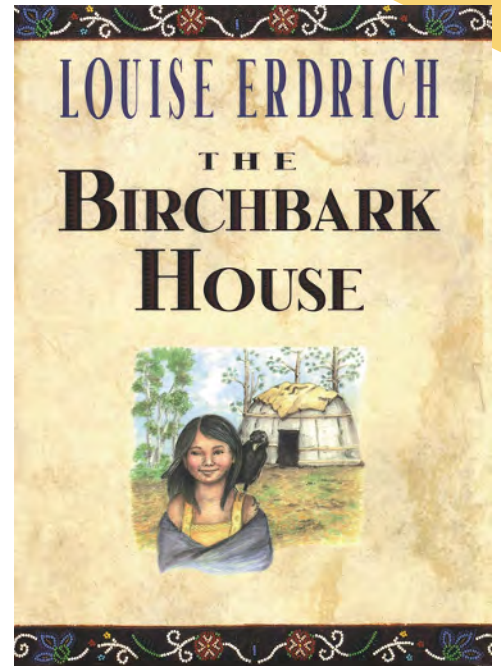
**-Jane Addams**



# Older Reader

## *The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich (2002) Hyperion Books for Children

This circular novel chronicles the daily life of Omakayas, a seven-year old Ojibwa girl who lives on the Island of Lake Superior during the mid-eighteen hundreds. Although Omakayas' family faces hardships and grief, Erdrich uses each opportunity to shed light on how their cultural ways of knowing nature and living in peace provide a sense of comfort for their community and hope for their future.



# Classroom Connection

Creating multimodal reading responses provides an opportunity to express layered and complex understanding of text that summaries, end of unit questions, or response journals do not always capture. Using the digital platform [StoryboardThat](https://www.storyboardthat.com/), Elizabeth Pedro demonstrates the potential of graphic panels to visualize vocabulary, create character profiles, and explore themes in the story. Try it out in your school community and share what you create with us!

Omakayas	Nokomis	Deydey	Yellow Kettle
 <p><b>Physical Character Traits:</b> • smiling, brown eyes • white parka, moccasins • brown hair • 7 years old • independent</p> <p><b>How does this character change over time?</b> • This character grows up quickly, she experiences death in her community, and has to take on adult responsibilities.</p> <p><b>What challenges does this character face?</b> • struggles with her family • Shesha and Tar Shesha also had to survive the wilderness • has to survive the wilderness</p>	 <p><b>Physical Character Traits:</b></p> <p><b>How does this character change over time?</b></p> <p><b>What challenges does this character face?</b></p>	 <p><b>Physical Character Traits:</b></p> <p><b>How does this character interact with the main character?</b></p> <p><b>What challenges does this character face?</b></p>	 <p><b>Physical Character Traits:</b></p> <p><b>How does this character interact with the main character?</b></p> <p><b>What challenges does this character face?</b></p>
Little Pinch	Neewo	Old Tallow	Fishtail
 <p><b>Physical Character Traits:</b></p> <p><b>How does this character interact with the main character?</b></p> <p><b>What challenges does this character face?</b></p>	 <p><b>Physical Character Traits:</b></p> <p><b>How does this character interact with the main character?</b></p> <p><b>What challenges does this character face?</b></p>	 <p><b>Physical Character Traits:</b></p> <p><b>How does this character interact with the main character?</b></p> <p><b>What challenges does this character face?</b></p>	 <p><b>Physical Character Traits:</b></p> <p><b>How does this character interact with the main character?</b></p> <p><b>What challenges does this character face?</b></p>

### VOCABULARY

**ENIGMATIC**



"Her smile was generous, enigmatic, slightly crooked, and kind."  
(Adj.): mysterious


**FEROCIOUS**



Leave Omakayas alone! This is your last warning. Touch her and you die!

"She was powerful, lean, and lived surrounded by ferocious animals more wolf than dog."  
(Adj.): violently cruel

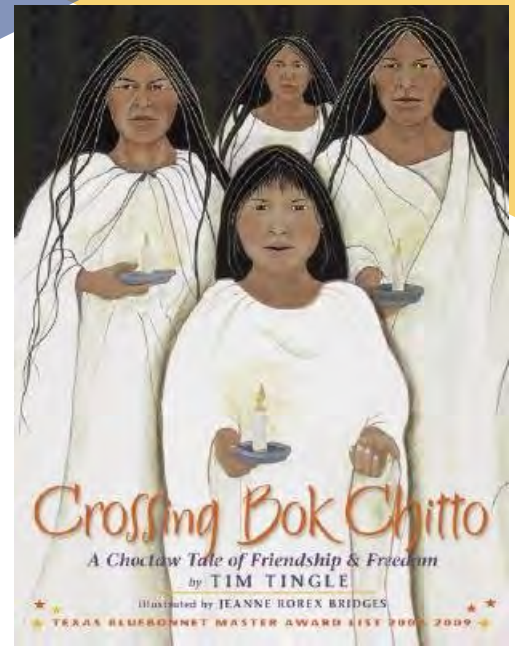
**KINNIKINNICK**



"... she stores her red mallow kinnikinnick."  
(N.): a mixture of bark, dried leaves, and sometimes tobacco

# Younger Reader Book Review

***Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship & Freedom* written by Tim Tingle and illustrated by Jeanne Rorex Bridges (2006) Scholastic**



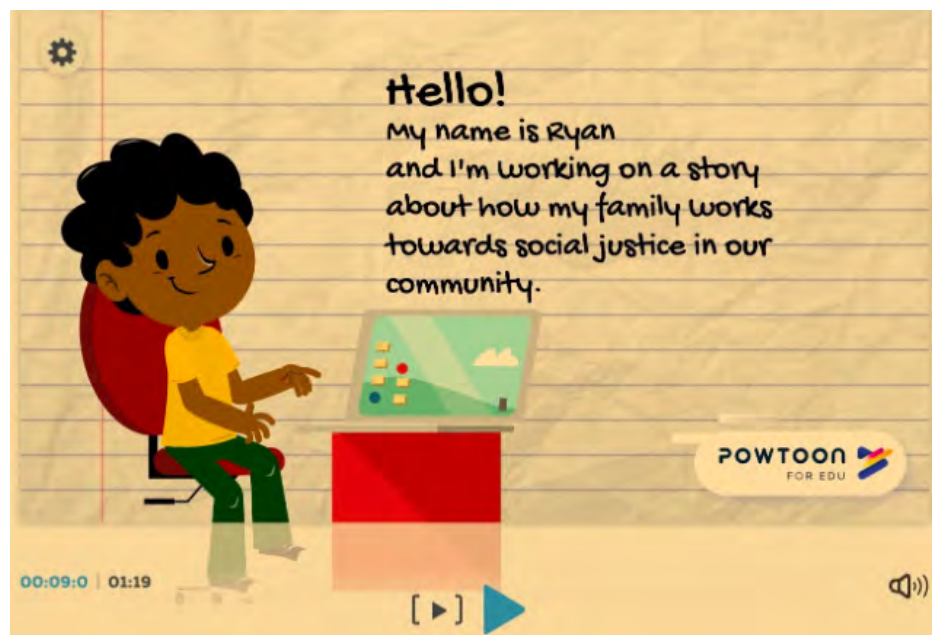
The Choctaw people live on one side of the River Bok Chitto; plantation owners and enslaved African Americans live on the other. A secret friendship between a Choctaw girl and an African American boy is the first link in a chain of humanity that spirits the boy's family across the river to freedom. This tale is a tribute to the Choctaws and Indians of every nation who aided African Americans running from slavery.

## Classroom Connection

The power of storytelling among enslaved and Choctaw people is a cultural practice embedded in both communities. To explore the themes in the book, we invite you to consider how digital tools can amplify this cultural practice through the layering of sound, color, image, and movement with content about the story.

Using [Powtoon](https://www.powtoon.com/), your students can create animated stories that explore their families' commitment to working for peace and social justice, just like the Choctaw community in the book.

To the right is a screenshot of a Powtoon animated video about *Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship & Freedom*.



## Theme Resources & Connections

### Resources to use with Children:

#### [Choctaw Nation](#)

[Native American Facts for Kids](#): Website created by non-profit, Native Languages of the Americas!, who focus on preserving and promoting American Indian Languages. This link is to the fact sheets they curated about American Indians.

[An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People](#) (Dunbar-Ortiz, adapted by Mendoza & Reese)

Newsela Collection of current events for classroom:

- [Native Americans Take Control of their Story](#)
- [History of US Government's Relationship with Native Americans](#)

### Resources for Educators:

#### [American Indian Library Association](#)

[American Indians in Children's Literature](#) by Debbie Reese

[Recorded Lecture](#): Dutch New York Histories sponsored by Schomburg Center

[Montana Indians: Their History and Location](#). Created by the Montana Office of Public Instruction

[Ojibwa](#) by Lorie Roy

[Legends of America](#): Website exploring history and legends in the US.

[Native American Oral Storytelling and History](#): Seth Fairchild

## In the News

October 18 [Jane Addams Children's Book Award Ceremony](#)



The Jane Addams Peace Association is delighted to invite you to our 67th Annual Award Ceremony of the Jane Addams Children's Book Award

October 18, 2019 • 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm  
777 United Nations Plaza, 2nd Floor (44th & 1st), NYC

Join us for a celebration of the 2019 Addams Award winners and honorees. Come meet and talk with the authors and illustrators of this year's commended books, including Jacqueline Woodson, Rafael López, Jewell Parker Rhodes, Wade Hudson, Cheryl Willis Hudson, Veera Hiranandani, and Jessica Love. Enjoy a reception and an opportunity for book signing after formal presentation of the awards. All the award books will be available for purchase. This event is free and open to all. Reservations are not needed. Please come and enjoy! *We gratefully acknowledge support for the Award and this ceremony from the Hastings Peace and Justice Fund.*

October 19 [BookFest Bank Street](#)

October 25-27 [13th Regional IBBY Conference](#)

**We would love to know how you are engaging students with these titles in your classrooms and schools. Please share artifacts using the hashtag #JACBA**



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# Upcoming Themes

## **November 2019: Exploring the History of Voting Rights**

Older Reader: *Lillian's right to vote* by Jonah Winter

Younger Reader: *With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman's Right to Vote* by Ann Bausum

## **December 2019: Kids as Agents of Social Change**

Older Reader: *The Color of My Words* by Lynn Joseph

Younger Reader: *Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909*, written by Michelle Markel and illustrated by Melissa Sweet

**Submit your curriculum connections for one of the books in the upcoming themed issues. Send materials with brief 1 paragraph explanation to [price-dennis@tc.edu](mailto:price-dennis@tc.edu)**

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## **Contributing Editors**

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