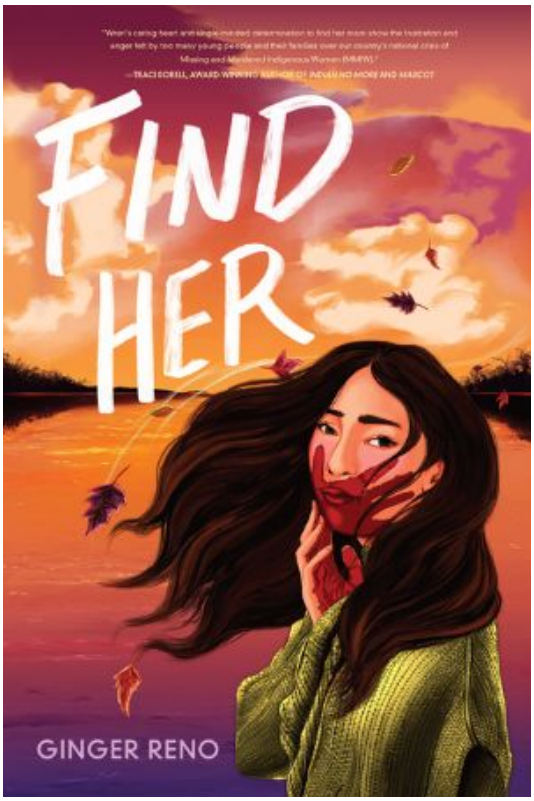
Every November, National Native American Heritage Month is observed to celebrate the rich legacy of culture, language, stories, and traditions of Native American communities.

Indigenous communities continue to shape the past, present, and future of the societies they inhabit. The Jane Addams Peace Association has honored many books written by Native authors that contain vivid descriptions of both the histories and present issues that pertain to Native American communities.

Learn More About Native American Heritage Month

Booklist for National Native American Heritage Month



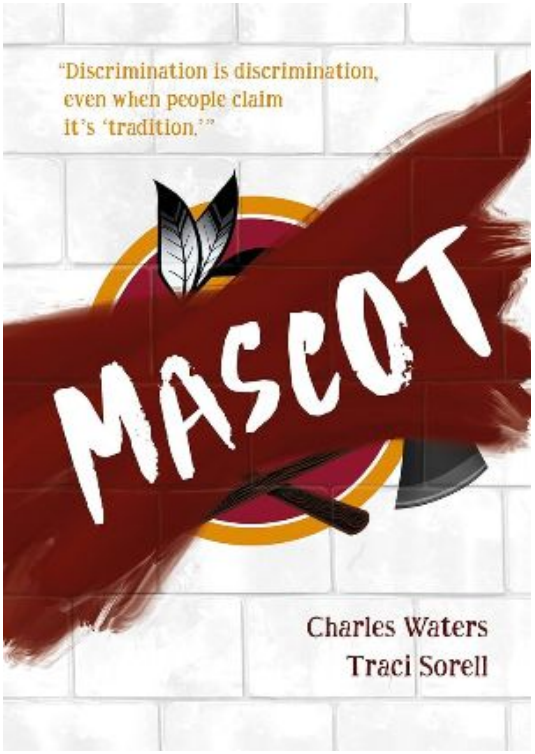
Find Her, by Ginger Reno

Wren's mother is one of the many Indigenous Americans that are considered missing or murdered in Oklahoma. Her father isn't willing to discuss her mother's disappearance, and sometimes it seems like Wren and her grandmother are the only ones who really care. Wren decides to hone her detective skills and never give up on the prospect of finding her mother.

2025 Jane Addams Award Finalist

Learn More

Mascot, by Charles Waters and Traci Sorell

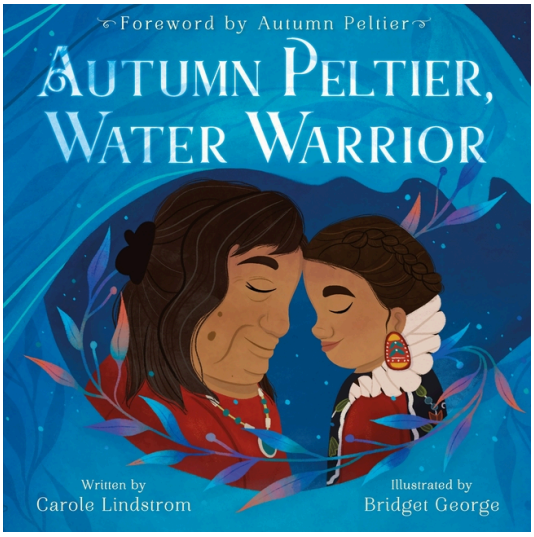


It's hard enough being the new kid in school, but for Callie, speaking up against its mascot – a caricature of Native Americans – is more important than fitting in. The entire class gets involved in the debate of whether the mascot is racist, and if its prominent use in the town's highly popular football games is unifying or damaging. Through research, dialogue, shifting friendships, and plenty of good (and bad) advice from adults, the students learn what can be gained by working together to change harmful systems, and how

letting go of the status quo might be what is truly brave.

2024 Jane Addams Award Honor

Learn More



Autumn Peltier, Water Warrior, by Carole Lindstrom and Bridget George

Grandma Josephine and her great-niece Autumn Peltier are both water activists within the Anishinaabe tribe. After Grandma Josephine dies, Autumn begins to speak out about the importance of sustaining clean water for the future of the environment.

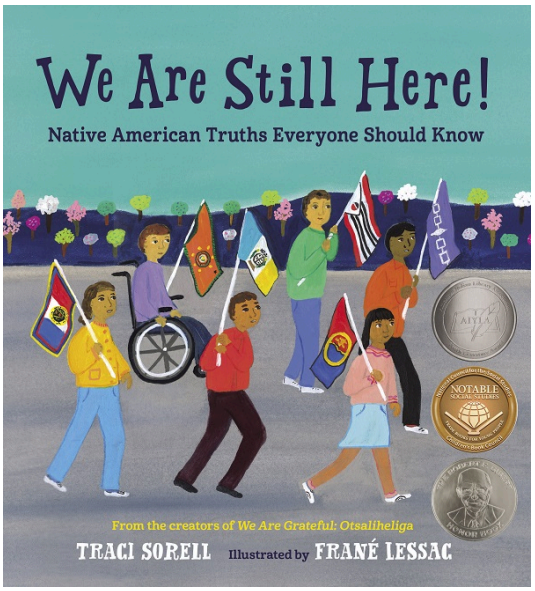
2024 Jane Addams Award Finalist

Learn More

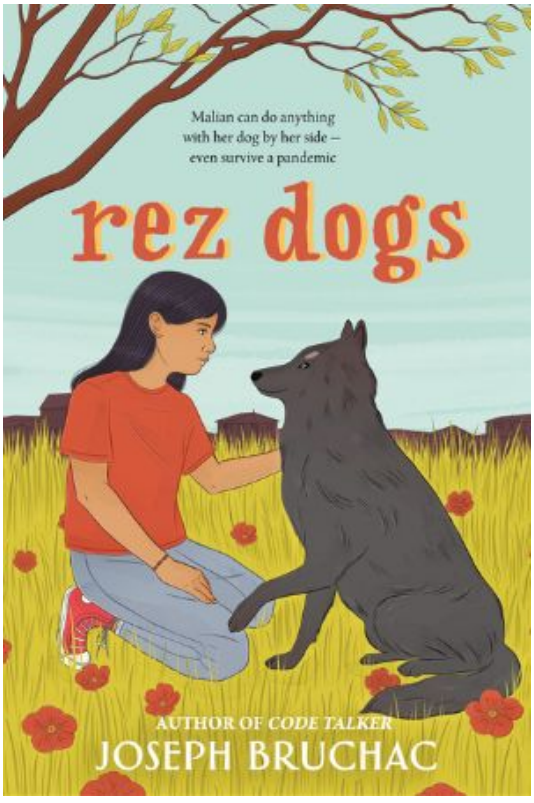
We Are Still Here!: Native American Truths Everyone Should Know, by Traci Sorell and Frané Lessac

A class of Native American students are tasked with presenting on topics related to Native American history and modern experiences for Indigenous People's Day. This book explores the complicated and violent struggles that Indigenous people have undergone, but also emphasizes the resilient power of Native American groups.

2022 Jane Addams Award Finalist



Learn More



Rez Dogs, by Joseph Bruchac

Rez Dogs is a timely verse novel set during the coronavirus pandemic on the Wabanaki reservation about a girl named Malian, her grandparents, and a dog that becomes her best friend. Malian is vocal and confident in her indigenous identity, thinks deeply, and makes hard choices. She challenges her teacher to recognize her own racist beliefs, providing a clear and hopeful message that all people can change when they acknowledge their own biased beliefs and commit to rejecting bigotry and embracing diversity.

2022 Jane Addams Award Honor

Learn More

We Are Water Protectors, by Carole Lindstrom and Michaela Goade

A young Indigenous girl grapples with the future of her community's water supply when a venomous snake threatens to poison it. This book is inspired by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline and underscores the importance of Indigenous views of water and environmental activism.

2021 Jane Addams Award Winner

Learn More

Community Highlight

Talking Leaves Indigenous Bookstore

1655 Acquoni Rd Suite 5 Cherokee, NC 28719

Talking Leave Indigenous Bookstore is a bookstore in North Carolina that has over 1,500 titles by Indigenous authors and on Indigenous subjects. They also have an online storefront that can ship Indigenous books directly to your door!

Check Out Their Website!

Apply to Our Selection Committee

The Jane Addams Children's Book Award titles are carefully selected by a diverse set of activists, educators, parents, and teachers. Be a part of this amazing team for the 2026 award cycle! Applications are due November 30th, 2025.

Apply Here

Support Our Work

Author Carole Boston Weatherford with elementary school students in Minnesota.

The Jane Addams Peace Association perpetuates the spirit of activist and pacifist Jane Addams, her love for children and humanity, her commitment to freedom and democracy, and her devotion to the cause of world peace.

Your donation to the Jane Addams Peace Association, a 501(c)(3) organization, is tax-deductible and helps us support authors, illustrators, parents, teachers, and librarians as they “deepen understanding of peace and justice for children and their adults through reflection, dialogue, and social action.”

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