

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



## Native American Heritage Month

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November is Native American Heritage Month, which was first declared by President George H.W. Bush in 1990. The month provides an opportunity to commemorate the rich and diverse cultures, traditions and histories and acknowledge the important contributions of Native American/Indigenous people. It is also an important time to educate the general public, as well as young people in schools, about the bias, discrimination and unique challenges faced by Native American/Indigenous people both historically and currently and the ways in which they have confronted these challenges.

In schools and classrooms, Native American Heritage Month is good time to explore Native American history and culture as well as the injustices faced by them and how that injustice has been and continues to be confronted and overcome. However, as with other similarly themed months, it is important not to isolate Native American history and culture into one month during the year. Below are curriculum and other educational resources to bring the themes of Native American Heritage Month to your classroom in November and throughout the year.

## Lesson Plans

### LESSON PLAN

#### **Columbus Day or Indigenous Peoples Day?**

HIGH SCHOOL

Should we change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day? Students reflect on primary source material to gain insight into why some cities and states have changed the holiday's name and consider their own points of view.



Mei Yin / CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

### LESSON PLAN

#### **Lewis and Clark: The Unheard Voices**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL

This multi-grade unit takes an in-depth look at the history of U.S. expansion and Indian policy, and present the voices and perspectives of Native Americans on the Lewis and Clark expedition.



George Littlechild

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LESSON PLAN

## **Privilege, Discrimination and Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System**

HIGH SCHOOL

In this lesson, high school students analyze race, privilege and power. They learn about racial disparities in the criminal justice system and reflect upon how whites and people of color have different experiences with law enforcement.





Thomas Altfather Good / CC BY-SA 2.5

#### LESSON PLAN

### Should Washington's NFL Team Change Their Name?

MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL

Why is the Washington Redskins' name controversial? Middle and high school students explore and reflect on different perspectives to understand and determine their own points of view.



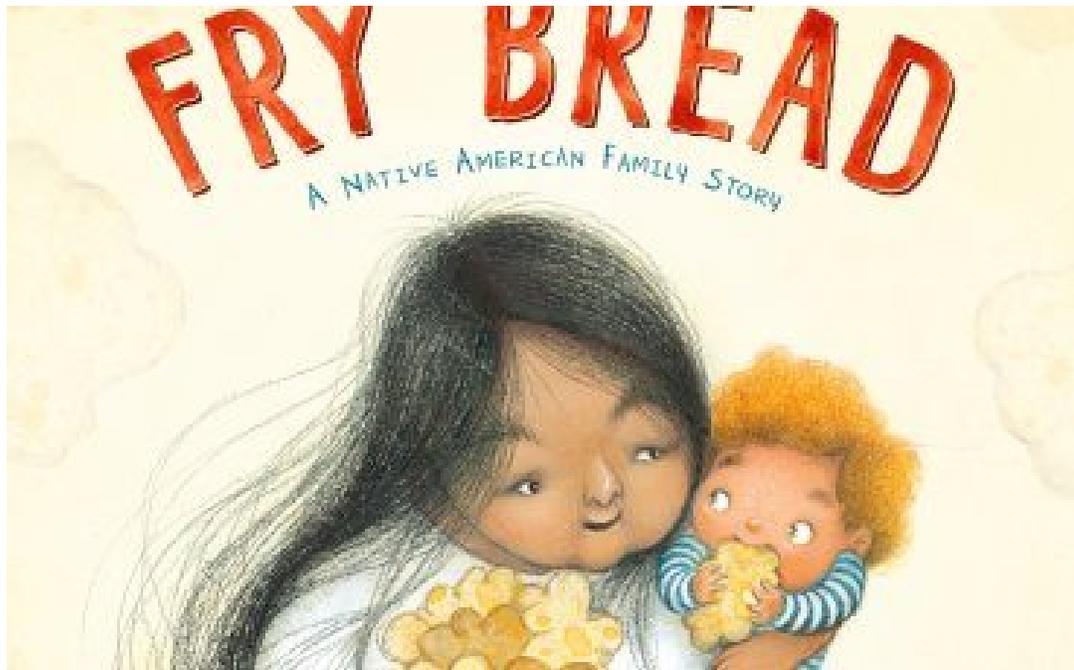
Keith Allison/CC BY-SA 2.0

## Children's and Young Adult Literature

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

## Fry Bread: A Native American Family Tradition

This book is a celebration of old and new, traditional and modern, similarity and difference—telling the story of a modern Native American family.



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CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

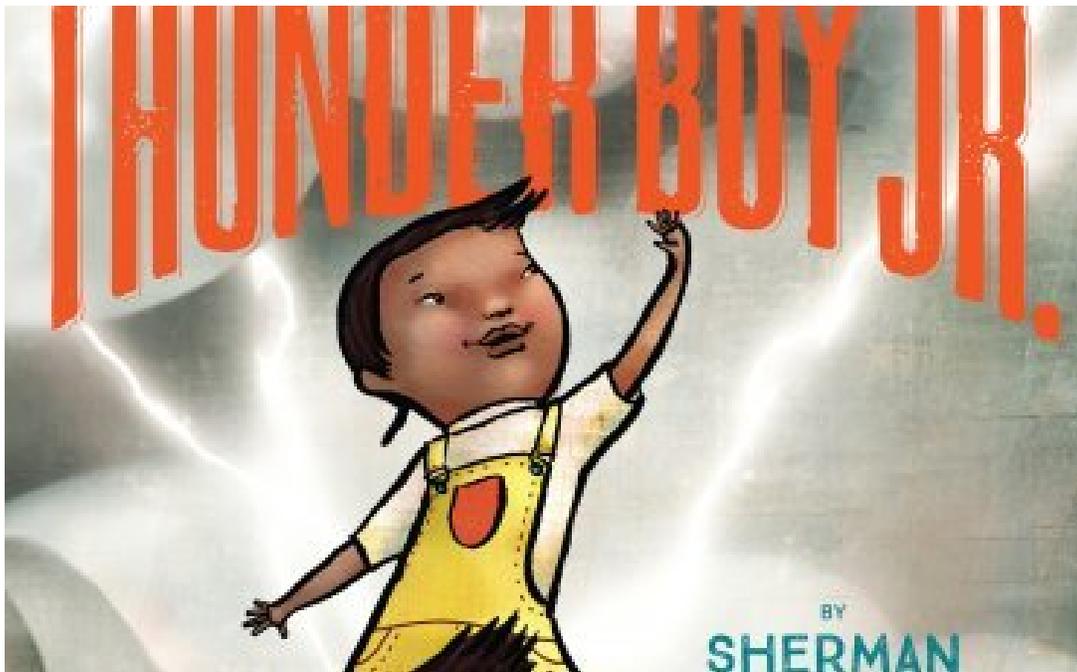
## Shin-chi's Canoe

When Shi-shi-etko and Shin-chi arrive at the Indian Residential School, Shi-shi-etko reminds her younger brother that they can only use their English names and that they are not allowed to speak to each other.



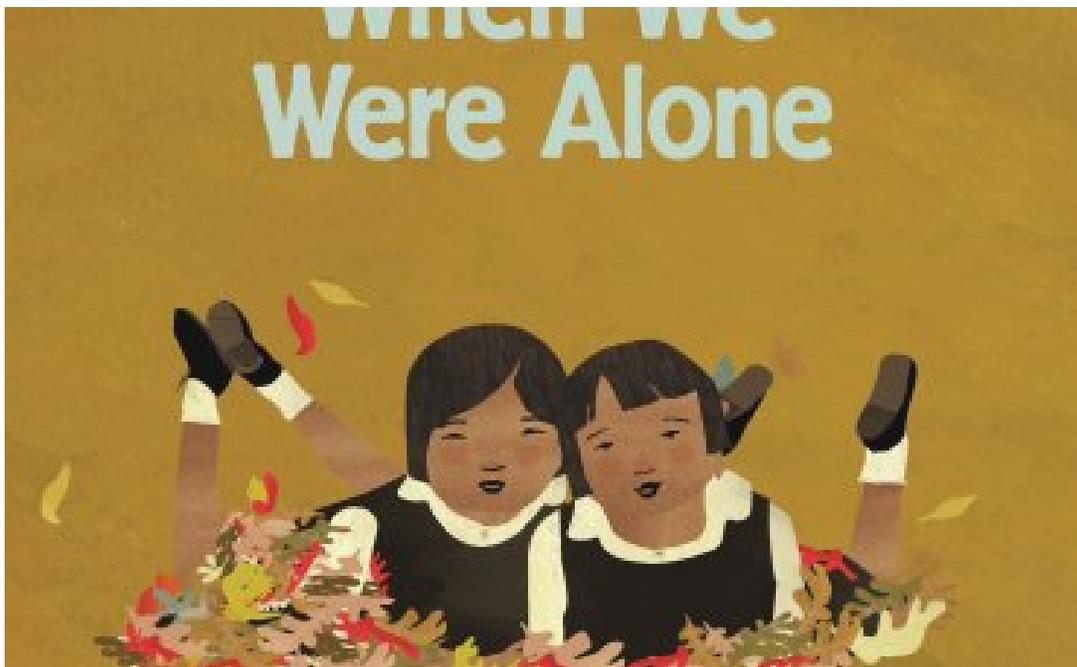
## Thunder Boy Jr.

Thunder Boy Jr. is named after his dad, but he wants a name that's all his own.



## When We Were Alone

This book tells the story about a difficult time in history and one of empowerment and strength.



## Other Resources

### TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

#### **Sports, Mascots and Bias**

The Washington D.C's football team's name continues to spark controversy. Here are tips and strategies for family conversations with young people about mascots, sports team names, slurs and epithets. *(Ages 10 and up)*



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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Adidas Applauded for Offering to Assist Schools in Moving Away from Offensive Native American Nicknames and Mascots**

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **ADL Welcomes Patent Office Decision Deeming Redskins Name 'Disparaging' to Native Americans**