

ANCESTOR APPROVED

*Intertribal Stories
for Kids*



EDITED BY
CYNTHIA LEITICH SMITH



Heartdrum

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First Edition

GLOSSARY

“FANCY DANCER” BY MONIQUE GRAY SMITH

Cree glossary

kisâkihitin: I love you.

kinânskomin: Thank you. I'm grateful to you.

“WARRIORS OF FORGIVENESS” BY TIM TINGLE

Choctaw glossary

pashofa (pa-SHO-fa): traditional and still popular

Choctaw corn chowder, a thick soup served as an
appetizer or main dish

yako (ya-ko-KE): thank you

halito (ha-li-TO): hello

hoke (ho-KE): all right, okay

luksi (LUK-si): turtle

achukma (a-CHUK-ma): good

Luksi Achukma (LUK-si a-CHUK-ma): Good Turtle, a
traditional Choctaw name

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“BROTHERS” BY DAVID A. ROBERTSON

Cree glossary

tansi (TAHN-sih): hello

“SECRETS AND SURPRISES” BY TRACI SORELL

Ojibwe glossary. Readers can go to this site for pronunciation guidelines: www.ojibwe.lib.umn.edu.

nimaamaa (nee-mah-mah): mother

imbaabaa (em-bah-bah): father

makwa (muh-KWAH): bear

makoons (mah-coonz): bear cub

nizigos (nee-zee-goos): paternal aunt

nookomis (no-koo-miss): my grandmother

boozhoo (boo-jhew): hello

aanii (ah-nee): greetings, hello, hi

mikinaak mnishenh (mee-kee-nak me-neeshen): Mackinac Island

noozhishenh (noo-zhah-shen): my grandchild

niibin (nee-bin): summer

nimishoome (nim-shwhoa-may): paternal uncle

miigwech (mee-gwetch): thank you

Gchi-Manidoo (gitch-chee mahn-eh-doo): the Creator

“WENDIGOS DON’T DANCE” BY ART COULSON

Cherokee glossary. Cherokee phonetics don’t generally use uppercase letters. Cherokee sentences also rarely use

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punctuation, since a native speaker will know when the thought is complete.

ᐃᐅᐅ (hawa, ha-WAH): a common exclamation meaning “okay” or “all right!”

skoden: a shortened version of “let’s go, then,” an expression used by Native people of many tribal nations

ᐅᐅᐅ (osiyo, oh-SEE-yoh): hello, often shortened to “siyo” in informal conversation

Vᐅᐅ (totsuwa, toh-JOO-hwa): redbird or cardinal

Rᐅᐅ (elisi, ay-LEE-see): my grandmother

Dᐅᐅ (atsutsa, ah-JOO-jah): boy or young man, often shortened to “chooch” or “choogie” as a nickname

Eᐅ (gvli, GUH-lee): raccoon

ii (vv, unh-unh): yes

ᐃᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ (halisdela, hals-DAY-la): help!

“INDIAN PRICE” BY ERIC GANSWORTH

Tuscarora/Haudenosaunee glossary. The six Haudenosaunee languages have no written versions of our languages, beyond linguistic diacritical symbols. “Nyah-whew” is one phrase consistent among the six. The spelling here is my invention, an attempt to make pronunciation easy. The first syllable is tough. English does not seem to have the sound “nyah” as it is used here. It is close to the Russian word for “no” (nyet), with the end sound of “law” instead. For the

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second syllable, the sound is like the word “when” but with no hard “n” at the end. It is more like the word trails off: “when . . .”

nyah-wheh: thank you

“SENECAVAJO: ALAN’S STORY” AND “SQUASH BLOSSOM
BRACELET: KEVIN’S STORY” BY BRIAN YOUNG

Navajo glossary

shiyazhi (she-YAZH-ih): my little one

ndaa’ (IN-daw): Enemy Way Ceremony

ye’ii bichei (YEH-ee bih-CHAY): literally “maternal
grandfather of the Holy Beings.” In context of this
story, refers to the Night Chant Ceremony.

Cherokee glossary

RPB (elisi, ay-LEE-see): my grandmother

“JOEY READS THE SKY” BY DAWN QUIGLEY

*Ojibwe glossary. Readers can go to this site for pronunci-
ation guidelines: www.ojibwe.lib.umn.edu.*

eya (EE-yuh): yes

gaawiin (GAH-ween): no

miigwech (mee-GWECH): thank you

makwa (muh-KWAH): bear

mikwam (mi-KWUM): ice

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mikwamiikaa (mi-kwum-EE-kah): hail

wese'an (way-say-UN): tornado

“THE BALLAD OF MAGGIE WILSON” BY ANDREA L. ROGERS

Cherokee glossary

ᎠᎩᎩ (osiyo, oh-SEE-yoh): hello, often shortened to
“siyo” in informal conversation

Choctaw glossary

achukma (a-CHUK-ma): good

amafo (a-MA-fo): grandfather

“BAD DOG” BY JOSEPH BRUCHAC

Abenaki glossary

alnoba (AHL-no-bah): a person

kagwi (kah-GWEE): that

kia (kee-YAH): you

ktsi (ket-SEE): big

mdawela (me-DAH-wi-HLAH): loon

n'mahom (UN-ma-hom): my grandfather

nda (un-DAH): no

nda kagwi (un-DAH kah-GWEE): literally “not that”;
used to mean “don’t mention it” or “you’re welcome”

ndeliwizi (in-de-LEE-wee-zee): I am called

nidoba (nee-dun-ba): my friend

nosis (no-SES): my grandchild

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ôhô (unh-hunh): yes

paakwenogwesian (paA-ha-KWI-nun-GWE-see-AN):

You appear new to me

ta (dah): and

wliwini (Oo-lee-oo-NEE): thanks (literally, “good
returning”)

“BETWEEN THE LINES” BY CYNTHIA LEITCH SMITH

Cherokee glossary

ǻV (wado, wa-do): thank you

“CIRCLES” BY CAROLE LINDSTROM

Cree Glossary

kokum (kôhkom, KOOH-gom): grandmother

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

An enrolled member of the Nulhegan Abenaki Nation, **JOSEPH BRUCHAC** has been attending, performing at, vending at, and even putting on powwows for over forty years. Author of over 170 books, his newest titles are *Peacemaker* (Dial), a novel about an Onondaga boy's encounter with the founder of the Iroquois League of Peace; *One Real American* (Abrams), a biography of Ely Parker, a Seneca "Grand Sachem" and Union general in the Civil War; and *The Powwow Dog* (Reycraft), a contemporary graphic novel illustrated by Dale DeForest.

ART COULSON is Cherokee from Oklahoma and comes from a family of storytellers. Some of his earliest memories are of listening to stories on his grandmother's lap. He has been a writer his whole life and published his first two books in elementary school (he was a self-publishing early adopter). Art served as the first executive director of the Wilma Mankiller Foundation in the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma after a twenty-five-year career in

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journalism. Art is the author of *The Creator's Game* (Minnesota Historical Society Press), *Unstoppable* (Capstone), and *The Reluctant Storyteller* (Benchmark). He lives in Minneapolis.

CHRISTINE DAY (Upper Skagit) is the author of *I Can Make This Promise* and *The Sea in Winter*. *I Can Make This Promise* was an American Indian Youth Literature Award Honor Book, a Charlotte Huck Award Honor Book, and a best book of the year from *Kirkus Reviews*, *School Library Journal*, NPR, and the Chicago Public Library. Christine lives in the Pacific Northwest with her family.

ERIC GANSWORTH, S'ha-weñ na-sae' (enrolled Onondaga), writer and visual artist, was raised at the Tuscarora Nation. He is Lowery Writer-in-Residence at Canisius College. His most recent book is *Apple: Skin to the Core*, a memoir in words and images. His YA novels include *Give Me Some Truth* (Whippoorwill Award) and *If I Ever Get Out of Here* (YALSA Best Fiction for YA, AILA Honor Award), for both of which he also recorded audiobook performances. His others include *Extra Indians* (American Book Award) and *Mending Skins* (PEN Oakland Award). He's had numerous visual art shows, and his work has been widely published.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

CAROLE LINDSTROM is an Anishinaabe/Métis author, and an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe Indians. She writes books for children and young adults. Her debut picture book, *Girls Dance, Boys Fiddle*, based on Métis culture, was published by Pemmican Publishers. “Drops of Gratitude” is included in the anthology *Thank U: Poems of Gratitude* (Lerner/Millbrook), edited by Miranda Paul and illustrated by Marlena Myles. *We Are Water Protectors*, inspired by Standing Rock as well as the fight of all Indigenous peoples for clean water, was illustrated by Michaela Goade and published by Roaring Brook Press. Carole lives with her family in Maryland.

NICOLE NEIDHARDT (cover illustration) is Diné (Navajo) of Kiiyaa’áanii clan on her mother’s side and a blend of European ancestry on her father’s side, and is from Santa Fe, New Mexico. She has a bachelor of fine arts from the University of Victoria and is currently working on her master of fine arts at OCAD University in Toronto, Ontario. Nicole’s Diné identity is the heart of her practice, which encompasses Mylar stenciling, installation, digital art, painting, illustration, and large-scale murals.

DAWN QUIGLEY, PhD, is a citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe and an assistant professor of education. She taught English and reading for eighteen years in K–12

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schools along with being an Indian Education program codirector. In addition to her coming-of-age novel, *Apple in the Middle* (NDSU Press), and nonfiction picture book, *Native American Heroes* (Scholastic Press), she has a Native American chapter book series with Heartdrum/Harper-Collins about lovable and quirky Ojibwe first grader Jo Jo Makoons. Quigley also has published more than twenty-eight articles, essays, and poems. She lives in Minnesota with her family.

REBECCA ROANHORSE is a speculative fiction writer of Black and Indigenous (Ohkay Owingeh) descent. She is a *New York Times* best-selling author and has won multiple awards, including the Nebula, Hugo, and Locus Awards. Her middle grade work includes *Race to the Sun* and a short story in the *Star Wars: Clone Wars* anthology. Her adult novels include *Trail of Lightning*, *Storm of Locusts*, *Star Wars: Resistance Reborn*, and *Black Sun*. She lives with her husband and daughter in northern New Mexico.

DAVID A. ROBERTSON is the author of numerous books for young readers, including *When We Were Alone*, which won the Governor General's Literary Award and was nominated for the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award. *Strangers*, the first book in his Reckoner trilogy, a young adult supernatural mystery series, won the Michael Van

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Rooy Award for Genre Fiction (Manitoba Book Awards). A sought-after speaker and educator, Dave is a member of the Norway House Cree Nation and currently lives in Winnipeg.

ANDREA L. ROGERS writes in a variety of genres, centering Cherokee people. She is the author of the book *Mary and the Trail of Tears: A Cherokee Removal Survival Story* and an essay titled “My Oklahoma History” in *You Too? 25 Voices Share Their #MeToo Stories* (edited by Janet Gurtler). She is an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation and grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in the former Indian Territory. She graduated from the Institute of American Indian Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with an MFA in creative writing. She currently commutes between Fort Worth, Texas, and Fayetteville, Arkansas.

KIM ROGERS writes books, short stories, and poems across all children’s literature age groups. Her work has been published in *Highlights for Children*, the Chicken Soup for the Soul series, and many other publications. Kim is an enrolled member of Wichita and Affiliated Tribes and the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. Much of her current writing highlights her Wichita heritage. She lives in Oklahoma with her husband, two boys, and one ornery but very cute Chiweenie dog named Lucky.

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CYNTHIA LEITICH SMITH is a *New York Times* best-selling author of books for young readers. Her debut book, *Jingle Dancer*, is widely considered a modern classic. She was named Writer of the Year by Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers for *Rain Is Not My Indian Name* and won the American Indian Youth Literature Award (young adult category) for *Hearts Unbroken*. She also serves as the Katherine Paterson Chair on the faculty of the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA program in Writing for Children and Young Adults. Cynthia is a citizen of the Muscogee Creek Nation. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Kansas and a JD from the University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor, where she served as president of the Native American Law Students Association.

MONIQUE GRAY SMITH is a proud mom of Cree, Lakota, and Scottish ancestry. She is an award-winning and best-selling author of both children's books and adult novels. Her works include *My Heart Fills with Happiness*, *You Hold Me Up*, *When We Are Kind*, and *Tilly and the Crazy Eights*. Monique is well known for her storytelling and spirit of generosity and believes love is medicine. She is blessed to live with her family on the traditional territory of the WSÁNEĆ people, also known as Victoria, Canada.

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TRACI SORELL writes fiction and nonfiction books as well as poems for children. Her debut nonfiction picture book, *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*, won an American Indian Youth Literature (AIYLA) Honor, a Sibert Honor, a Boston-Globe-Horn Book Honor, and an Orbis Pictus Honor. The audiobook edition won an Odyssey Honor. *At the Mountain's Base*, her first fiction picture book, won an AIYLA Honor. *Indian No More*, her middle grade novel with Charlene Willing McManis, won the AIYLA Middle School Book Award. Traci is an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation and lives in northeastern Oklahoma, where her tribe is located.

TIM TINGLE is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and an award-winning author and storyteller. His great-great-grandfather John Carnes survived the Trail of Tears, and in 1993 Tingle returned to Choctaw homelands in Mississippi and began recording stories of tribal Elders. The author of twenty books, he was awarded the Ariel Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to literature in the state of Oklahoma. Tingle was a featured speaker at the National Book Festival, based on critical acclaim for *How I Became a Ghost*. His YA novel *House of Purple Cedar* won the American Indian Youth Literature Award.

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ERIKA T. WURTH's publications include two novels, two collections of poetry, and a collection of short stories. A writer of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, she teaches creative writing at Western Illinois University and was a guest writer at the Institute of American Indian Arts. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in publications including *Buzzfeed*, *Boulevard*, the *Writer's Chronicle*, *Waxwing*, and the *Kenyon Review*. She has been on the faculty at Breadloaf, is a Kenyon Review Writers Scholar, attended the Tin House Summer Workshop, and has been chosen as a narrative artist for the Meow Wolf Denver installation. She is Apache/Chickasaw/Cherokee and was raised outside of Denver.

Author and filmmaker **BRIAN YOUNG** is a recipient of the prestigious Sundance Ford Foundation Fellowship (2008) and is a graduate of Yale University with a degree in film studies and Columbia University with a master's in creative writing (fiction). An enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, Brian co-directed *A Conversation with Native Americans on Race* with the *New York Times*. He is currently working on two middle grade novels for Heartdrum; the first is *Healer of the Water Monster*.