

Library Skills
for Today
and
Tomorrow



*North Dakota
State Library*

Native

American

Literature



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Overview

- stereotyping
- misinformation
- book selection and purchasing resources
- ND Native American authors

Stereotyping

“Bloodthirsty Savage” or “Red Man”

- ❖ quick to anger
- ❖ may kill with no remorse
- ❖ written to instill fear by non-Natives
- ❖ perceived as unattractive by Western ideals
- ❖ no interest in learning Western beliefs
- ❖ portrayed with aggressive animalistic personality traits





Noble Savage

Naive Noble

- viewed as friendly and submissive
- sees animals as friends and may talk to them
- wants to learn Western principles
- perceived as the Western ideal of what Native women should be
- seen as attractive by Western standards
- are sexualized

Wise Noble

- perceived as stoic, withholding, and all-knowing
- has a working relationship with animals
- viewed as being mysterious—hard to understand
- perceived as the Western ideal of what Native men should be
- no interest in or neutral about Western ideals

“There is no such thing as a good stereotype”

Tropes of Native Peoples in Media

Regulation to the Past~~presented as historical instead of contemporary figures

White Savior~~Native People are ignorant or naive and unable to care for themselves and must be rescued by kind-hearted white people, who are usually men

Mohican Syndrome~~non-Native leaves their contemporary lifestyle to live with the Native People...they succeed in appearing more Native than the Natives

Tonto-Speak~~Native people speak in broken English



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Indigenous Book Selection

- [How to Choose Indigenous Materials](#)
- [American Indians in Children's Literature](#)
- [Selecting Native American Literature Worksheet](#)
- [Diverse BookFinder](#)

North Dakota Native American Authors

Joelle Bearstail

Heid E. Erdrich

Lise Erdrich

Louise Erdrich

Laurel Goodluck

Denise Lajimodiere

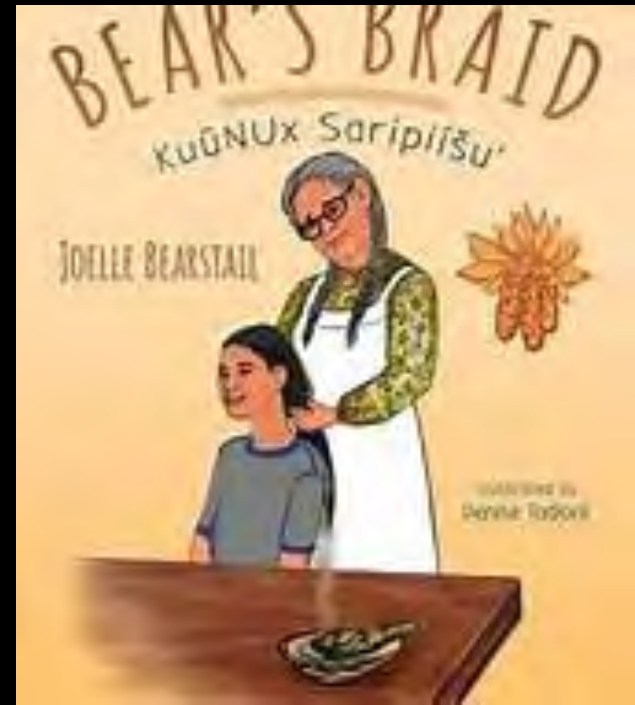
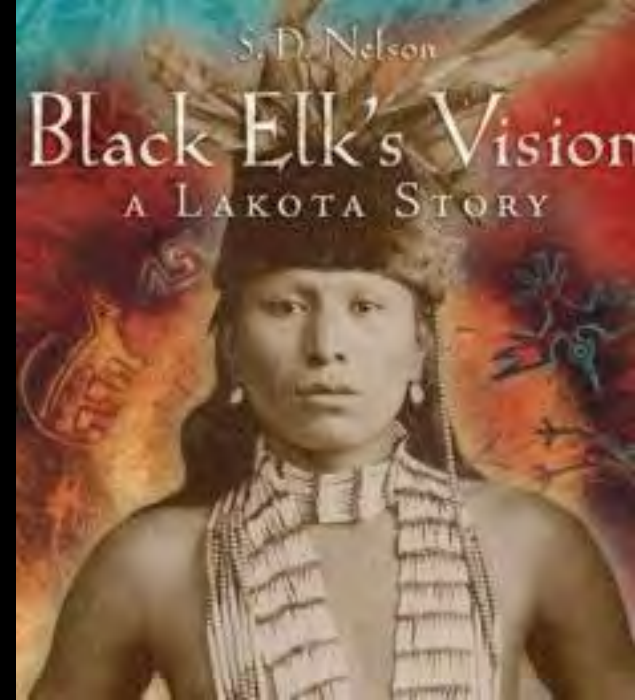
Carole Lindstrom

S.D. Nelson

Dawn Quigley

Michael Yellow Bird

Mona Susan Power



Purchasing Indigenous Literature

[List of Native Literature Awards, Publishers & More](#)

[Birchbark Books & Native Arts](#)

[North Dakota State University Press](#)

[Must-Read Books by Indigenous Authors \(Penguin Random House\)](#)

[Super Indian Comics](#)

[Indigenous Voices - Books for Kids and Teens | Penguin Random House Canada](#)

[ATCG Books and Comics - Keep Calm and Decolonize!](#)





Additional Resources

[The Best Native Studies Books of 2023](#)

[10 New Children's and YA Books with Indigenous Representation](#)

[10 New Books by Indigenous Authors](#)

[Indigenous Children's Book Authors Band Together](#)

[Authenticity and Sensitivity: Goals for Writing and Reviewing Books with Native American Themes](#)

[Anton Treuer \(Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians but Were Afraid to Ask\)](#)

[Native Governance Center - Terminology Style Guide](#)

[The History Behind The Phrase 'Don't Be An Indian Giver'](#)

[A Guide to Reliable Native American-Related Teaching Resources \(MN\)](#)



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Buckley |, P. M. (n.d.). *Tips for Building an Indigenous Children’s Literature Collection*. PublishersWeekly.com. Retrieved March 12, 2024, from <https://rb.gy/6rhm4h>

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