

# American Indians in Children's Literature

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## Books for Young Readers

### [Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship and Freedom](#)

by Tingle, Tim

**J PIC+**

*In the 1800s, a Choctaw girl becomes friends with a slave boy from a plantation across the great river, and when she learns that his family is in trouble, she helps them cross to freedom.*

### [Fox on the Ice=Maageesees maskwameek kaapit](#)

by Deines, Brian

**JEASY HIG**

*One winter afternoon, Joe and Cody went ice fishing with their papa, their mama, and Cody's little black dog, Ootsie. It was the perfect day to fish. The sky was clear, and the sun made the snow sparkle like diamonds. Brothers Joe and Cody are spending a chilly winter afternoon ice fishing with their parents. Cody is helping Papa fish, while Mama and Joe doze in the sled. Suddenly the sled dogs sit up and sniff. A fox is across the lake, her fur as bright as flames. The sled dogs give chase, pulling Mama and Joe along on a wild ride.*

### [SHI-SHI-ETKO](#)

by Campbell, Nicola

**J PIC+ CAM**

*Shi-shi-etko, a Native American girl, spends the last four days before she goes to residential school learning valuable lessons from her mother, father, and grandmother, and creating precious memories of home.*

### [Skysisters](#)

by Waboose, Jan Bourdeau

**JEASY WAB**

*As two young Ojibway sisters set off across the north country to Coyote Hill to see the SkySpirits dance, Grandmother Moon lights the way.*

### [The Good Luck Cat](#)

by Harjo, Joy

**JEASY HAR**

*Because her good luck cat Woogie has already used up eight of his nine lives in narrow escapes from disaster, a Native American girl worries when he disappears.*

### [When Turtles Grew Feathers: A Folktale from the Choctaw Nation](#)

by Tingle, Tim

**J 398.2 TIN**

*Maybe you think you know the story of the big race between Rabbit and Turtle. Think again! In this story from the Choctaw People, Tim Tingle shows that it was not being slow and steady that won Turtle the big race, it was those feathers!!!*

## Books for Middle Readers

### [Birchbark House](#)

by Erdrich, Louise

#### **J Fiction**

*Omakayas, a 7-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847.*

### [Chickadee](#)

**Series Title:** [Birchbark House #4](#)

by Erdrich, Louise

#### **J FICTION ERD**

*In 1866, Omakayas's son Chickadee is kidnapped by two ne'er-do-well brothers from his own tribe and must make a daring escape, forge unlikely friendships, and set out on an exciting and dangerous journey to get back home. Sequel to THE PORCUPINE YEAR.*

### [Hidden Roots](#)

by Bruchac, Joseph

#### **J FICTION**

*Although he is uncertain why his father is so angry and what secret his mother is keeping from him, eleven-year-old Sonny knows that he is different from his classmates in their small New York town.*

### [Skeleton Man](#)

by Bruchach, Joseph

#### **J FICTION**

*After her parents disappear and she is turned over to the care of a strange "great-uncle," Molly must rely on her dreams about an old Mohawk story for her safety and maybe even for her life.*

### [The Game of Silence](#)

by Erdrich, Louise

#### **J FICTION**

*Nine-year-old Omakayas and her family, members of the Ojibwa tribe, are forced to leave their island on Lake Superior in 1850 when white settlers move into the territory, and comes to realize that the things most important to her are her home and way of life. Sequel to THE BIRCHBARK HOUSE*

### [The Porcupine Year](#)

by Erdrich, Louise

#### **J FICTION**

*In 1852, forced by the United States government to leave their beloved Island of the Golden Breasted Woodpecker, 14-year-old Omokayas and her Ojibwe family travel in search of a new home. Sequel to THE GAME OF SILENCE.*

## Books for Teens

### [Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian](#)

by Alexie, Sherman

#### **YA Fiction**

*Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.*