

## Additional Resources

Early Risers: Dianne Haulcy & Vanessa Goodthunder (Lower Sioux Indian Community)

[Debra S. Fish Library](#) (A St. Paul Public Library)

### Books for Children:

1. [1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving](#) written by Catherine O'Neill Grace & Margaret M. Bruchac (Abenaki)
  - Recommended Gr. 4 – Gr. 7
  - From the publisher: Thanksgiving, the myth, surrenders to Thanksgiving, the real story, in this collaboration of historians, scholars, and descendants of the Wampanoag people.
2. [Birchbark House series](#) written by Louise Erdrich (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians)
  - Recommended Gr. 2 – Gr. 7
  - From the publisher: The Birchbark House Series is a critically acclaimed series that tells the story of one Ojibwe family's journey through one hundred years in America.
3. [Fall in Line, Holden!](#) written by Daniel W. Vandever (Diné / Navajo)
  - Recommended PreK – Gr. 2
  - From the publisher: *Fall in Line, Holden!* follows Holden, a young Navajo boy, through his day at boarding school. Although Holden is required to conform to a rigid schedule and strict standards of behavior, his internal life is led with imagination and wonder. Whether he is in art class, the computer lab, or walking the hall to lunch, Holden's vivid imagination transforms his commonplace surroundings into a world of discovery and delight.
4. [Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message](#) written by Chief Jake Swamp (Mohawk Iroquois)
  - Recommended PreK – Gr. 5
  - From the publisher: Giving Thanks is a special children's version of the Mohawk Thanksgiving Address, a message of gratitude that originated with the Native people of upstate New York and Canada and that is still spoken at ceremonial gatherings held by the Iroquois, or Six Nations. A basic Mohawk language version of the text appears at the end of the book.
5. [Red Bird Sings: the Story of Zitkala-Sa, Native American Author, Musician, and Activist](#) adapted by Gina Capaldi and Q.L. Pearce
  - Recommended Gr. 3 – Gr. 6
  - From Publisher's Weekly: Capaldi and Pearce document the life of Gertrude Simmons, an author, musician, and activist best known by her pen name, Zitkala-Sa (Red Bird). Drawing from semiautobiographical stories that Zitkala-Sa wrote for the Atlantic Monthly in the early 1900s, Capaldi and Pearce eloquently describe her experience at a Quaker boarding school, where she laments the loss of her culture, but also develops passions for violin and women's suffrage. Reconciling her new identity with her roots, she writes and stages "The Sun Dance Opera" and advocates for Native American rights
6. [We Are Still Here: Native American Truths Everyone Should Know](#) written by Traci Sorell (Cherokee)
  - Recommended Gr. 1 – Gr. 4

- From the publisher: This companion book to the award-winning [\*We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga\*](#) offers readers everything they never learned in school about Native American people's past, present, and future. Twelve Native American kids present historical and contemporary laws, policies, struggles, and victories in Native life, each with a powerful refrain: We are still here! Precise, lyrical writing presents topics including forced assimilation, land allotment and Native tribal reorganization, termination, relocation, self-determination, Native civil rights, the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), religious freedom, economic development, Native language revival efforts, cultural persistence, and nationhood.
7. [\*Young Water Protectors: A Story about Standing Rock\*](#) written by Aslan Tudor (Lipan Apache)
    - Recommended Gr. 3 – Gr. 5
    - From the publisher: 8-year-old Aslan arrived in North Dakota to help stop a pipeline. A few months later he returned -- and saw the whole world watching. Read about his inspiring experiences in the Oceti Sakowin Camp at Standing Rock. Learn about what exactly happened there, and why.

#### **Books for Educators:**

1. [\*An Indigenous People's History of the United States\*](#), written by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz
  - From the publisher: Acclaimed historian and activist Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz offers a history of the United States told from the perspective of Indigenous peoples and reveals how Native Americans, for centuries, actively resisted expansion of the US empire.
2. [\*Building Trauma-sensitive Schools: Your Guide to Creating Safe, Supportive Learning Environments for All Students\*](#) written by Jen Alexander
  - From the publisher: A comprehensive framework for building a safe, supportive school environment that helps all students learn and thrive. With this engaging, highly practical guide to what works and why, your school team will gain insights and develop action plans that make a real difference in the lives of all kids, including our most vulnerable youth.
3. [\*Celebrate! An Anti-bias Guide to Including Holidays in Early Childhood Programs, 2nd edition\*](#) written by Julie Bisson
  - Since demographics have changed in early childhood programs, questions of how, when, and which holidays to celebrate have also become more complex and controversial. This guide provides educators with a toolbox for:
    - Developing inclusive policies
    - Evaluating holiday activities for appropriateness
    - Addressing commercialism and stereotypes
    - Involving families
4. [\*Lessons from Turtle Island: Native Curriculum in Early Childhood Classrooms\*](#) written by Guy Jones (Hunkpapa Lakota, member of Standing Rock Sioux Nation)
  - From the publisher: The first complete guide to exploring Native American issues with children. The authors—one Native, one white, both educators—show ways to incorporate authentic learning experiences about Native Americans into your curriculum. This book is organized around five cross-cultural themes—Children, Home, Families, Community, and the Environment. The authors present activities, from

children's books they recommend, to develop skills in reading and writing, science, math, make-believe, art, and more. The book provides helpful guidelines and resource lists for selecting appropriate toys, children's books, music, and art, and also includes a family heritage project.

5. [Dakotah Curriculum Kit: With the language, with the heart of the people, a nation flourishes](#) developed by MnTRECC & Association of Indian Affairs

**Additional Resources:**

1. [American Indians in Children's Literature](#): A highly regarded blog that examines the portrayal of Native Americans in children's literature and provides insightful recommendations and rejections of books. The blog was founded by Debbie Reese, a Nambé Pueblo scholar and educator.
2. [American Indian Perspectives on Thanksgiving](#): A free teaching resource geared toward students in grades 4-6 available through the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian
3. [BrainPOP's Thanksgiving](#): Appropriate for elementary students, this short, animated film tells the real story of the first Thanksgiving and includes primary source materials, related readings, and activities for children to learn more.
4. ["Deconstructing the Myths of 'The First Thanksgiving'"](#) written by Judy Dow (Abenaki) for [Oyate](#): Research backed article presenting the many myths and facts surrounding the 'first Thanksgiving' "intended to assist students, parents and teachers in thinking critically about this holiday and deconstructing what we have been taught about the history of this continent and the world."
5. [National Day of Mourning, November 25, 2021](#): Learn more about the annual National Day of Mourning, observed by many Native Americans in New England and held each year to coincide with Thanksgiving.
6. [A Wampanoag Retelling of Thanksgiving](#): In an interview for [Indian Country Today](#), Steven Peters, a Wampanoag citizen who serves as creative director of Smoke Signals, shares how his work aims to advance the true narrative of his tribal nation. The interview begins at 7:38.

Contact Jennie with any questions: [librarian@thinksmall.org](mailto:librarian@thinksmall.org) or (651) 641-3544

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