

marrow which carries the key to recovering something non-indigenous people have lost: the ability to dream.

**Jones, Adam Garnet. *Fire Song*.**

Shane is grieving for his sister Destiny, who committed suicide, along with his realization that he is gay.

**Little Badger, Darcie. *Elatsoe*.**

Indigenous myths and the supernatural blends to build a fast paced murder mystery. Seventeen year old Ellie battles ghosts, vampires, and exorcists, as she investigates the death of her cousin who came to her in a dream and asked her to protect his family.

**Little Badger, Darcie. *A Snake Falls to Earth*.**

A tale of monsters, magic, and family drawn from traditional Lipan Apache storytelling.

**Smith, Cynthia Leitich. *Hearts Unbroken*.**

Louise Wolfe and Joey Kairouz are paired to work on the school newspaper's coverage of the inclusive casting of the school musical, which has received backlash from their mainly white Kansas town.

## YOUNG ADULT NON-FICTION

**Dunbar-Ortiz, Roxanne. *Indigenous People's History of the United States for Young People*.**

Depicts the colonialism and genocide of the Indigenous people adapted for young people by leading curriculum experts.

**Jonnie, Brianna. *If I Go Missing*.**

A graphic novel about indigenous people that go missing, combining non-fiction elements in the graphic novel.

**Loewen, James W. *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything American History Textbooks Got Wrong*.**

Criticizes the way history textbooks have been written and advocates for a more accurate approach to history.

## CHILDREN'S FICTION

### Middle Grade

**Day, Christine. *I Can Make This Promise*.**

Twelve year old Edie finds letters in her attic that help her find her identity.

**Day, Christine. *The Sea in Winter*.**

After an injury sidelines her dream of becoming a ballet star, Maisie is not excited for her blended family's midwinter road trip along the coast, near the Makah community where her mom grew up.

**Smith, Cynthia Leitich. *Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids*.**

A collection of intersecting stories by new and veteran Native writers filled with hope, resilience, strength, and pride.

### Picture Books

**Jordan-Fenton, Christy. *Not My Girl*.**

Margaret left her arctic home 2 years ago for the outsiders' school. She is so happy to come home and see her family, but her mother says "not my girl" because Margaret has changed so much and has forgotten her language and skills to hunt and fish. She eventually regains her language and her place in the family.

**Jordan-Fenton, Christy. *When I Was Eight*.**

The prequel to *Not My Girl* follows the unbreakable spirit of an Inuit girl while attending an Arctic residential school.

**Maillard, Kevin. *Fry Bread*.**

As children help a Native American grandmother make fry bread, they learn the history, culinary, and politics of America's 573 recognized Indian tribes.

**Sorrell, Traci. *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*.**

Otsaliheliga is a Cherokee word used to express gratitude. A look at Native American life and their celebrations big and small.

## INDIGENOUS HERITAGE: Recommended Books



Belmont Public Library  
366 Concord Avenue  
Belmont, MA 02478  
617-489-2000  
belmontpubliclibrary.net

## ADULT FICTION

**Erdrich, Louise. *Future Home of the Living God.***

A dystopian novel in which evolution has reversed itself as women keep giving birth to primitive humans. An authoritarian government confines pregnant women under martial law. A young pregnant woman who was adopted from infancy seeks to find her biological Ojibwe mother to understand her origins.

**Jones, Stephen Graham. *The Only Good Indians.***

Four American Indian men from Blackfoot Nation, who were childhood friends, find themselves in a desperate struggle for their lives against a group that wants revenge for what they did during an elk hunt 10 years earlier.

**Moreno-Garcia, Sylvia. *Gods of Jade and Shadow.***

The Mayan God of Death sends a young woman on a harrowing, life-changing journey in this dark fairy tale.

**Orange, Tommy. *There, There.***

The story of twelve Native Americans attending a Big Oakland Powwow for different reasons. A depiction of beauty and despair woven into the Native history.

**Silko, Leslie Marmon. *Ceremony.***

The story of a young Native American who comes home after his experience as a POW in Japan during WWII. His terrible experience draws him back to his Native American past, embracing its traditions in search for comfort and resolution.

## ADULT NON-FICTION

**Brown, Dee. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee.***

A gripping chronicle of 30 years of conflict between Native Americans and whites in the last half of the 19th century.

**Dunbar-Ortiz, Roxanne. *An Indigenous People's History of the United States.***

Challenges the founding myth of the United States and shows how policy against indigenous peoples was colonialism and designed to seize territories of the original inhabitants, displacing or eliminating them.

**Grann, David. *Killers of the Flower Moon.***

Presents a true account of the early 20th century murders of dozens of oil wealthy Osage and law enforcement officials, citing the contributions and missteps of a fledgling FBI that eventually uncovered one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history.

**Harjo, Joy. *An American Sunrise: poems.***

Poems by the first Native American poet Laureate in the United States.

**Harjo, Joy. *Crazy Brave.***

A memoir that describes her youth with an abusive father and as a teenager mother.

**Jenkins, Sally. *The Real All-Americans: the Team that Changed a Game, a People, a Nation.***

The story of the Native American football team at Carlisle Indian Industrial School that defeated their Ivy League opponents in 1911-1912.

**Kimmerer, Robin Wall. *Braiding Sweetgrass.***

A Native American biologist illustrates that she learned from her elders, family, and the history of the Potawatomi people that plants and animals have always been our greatest teachers.

**Loewen, James W. *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything That American History Textbooks Got Wrong.***

Criticizes the way history was written in textbooks, and looks at the racism that was perpetrated.

**Mailhot, Terese Marie. *Heart Berries.***

A memoir of an Indian from the Pacific Northwest that has a dual diagnosis of PTSD and bipolar II disorder. She discovers her voice when she writes and reestablishes her connection to her family.

**Moraga, Cherrie. *Native Country of the Heart.***

A memoir of a Mexican American woman that illustrates her discovery as a lesbian and Moraga's illustration of the U.S. Mexican Diaspora and its indigenous origin.

**Tallchief, Maria. *Maria Tallchief: America's Prima Ballerina.***

Memoir of a ballerina for the New York Ballet.

**Treuer, David. *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee.***

Story of the Native American people's resilience and reinvention.

## TEEN FICTION

**Boulley, Angeline. *Firekeeper's Daughter.***

Eighteen year old Daunis Fontaine witnesses a shocking murder, thrusting her into an FBI investigation of a lethal new drug. She learns to be a strong Anishinaabe kwe (Ojibwe woman) and helps her community.

**Dimaline, Cherie. *The Marrow Thieves.***

The Indigenous people of North America are being hunted for their bone