



Washington Tribes' Summer Reading List

Add these books by Native authors to your summer book list!

Book descriptions sourced from GoodReads.com.

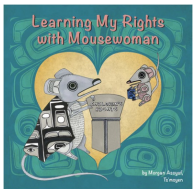
Books for Children, Tweens, and Teens



Herizon

Written by Daniel W. Vandever (Diné), Illustrated by Corey Begay (Diné)

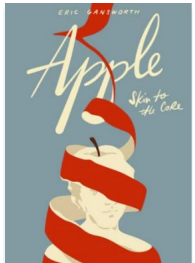
Herizon follows the journey of a Diné girl as she helps her grandmother retrieve a flock of sheep. Join in her venture across land and water with the help of a magical scarf that will expand your imagination and transform what you thought possible.



Learning My Rights with Mousewoman

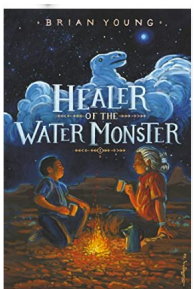
Written and illustrated by Morgan Asoyuf (Ts'msyen)

This book brings to life the timeless lessons of Mousewoman, a legendary figure in the oral and visual practices of Northwest Coast Indigenous cultures. A first of its kind, this book empowers children to become proudly aware of their rights.



Apple: Skin to the Core by Eric Gansworth (Onondaga)

This memoir in verse tells the story of Gansworth's life, of an Onondaga family living among Tuscaroras, and of Native people in America, including the damaging legacy of government boarding schools. It grapples with the slur common in Native communities, for someone "red on the outside, white on the inside," and reclaims it.



Healer of the Water Monster

Written by Brian Young (Diné), Cover art by Shonto Begay (Diné)

While visiting his grandma, Nali, at her mobile summer home on the Navajo reservation, Nathan finds a Holy Being from the Navajo Creation Story—a Water Monster—in need of help. Now Nathan must summon all his courage to save his new friend. With the help of other Navajo Holy Beings, Nathan is determined to save the Water Monster, and to help Uncle Jet heal from his own pain.



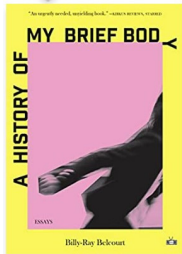
The Sea in Winter

Written by Christine Day (Upper Skagit), Cover art by Michaela Goade (Tlingit and Haida)

Maisie Cannon is a Native American girl struggling to find her joy again. She is not excited for their family road trip near the Makah community where her mother grew up. How can she keep pretending to be strong when on the inside she feels as roiling and cold as the ocean?

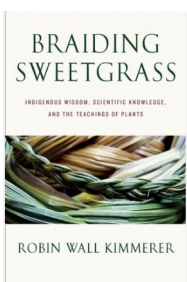


Non-Fiction



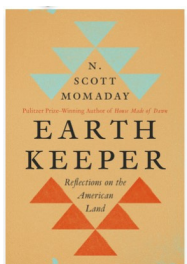
A History of My Brief Body by Billy-Ray Belcourt (Driftpile Cree)

The youngest-ever winner of the Griffin Prize mines his personal history in a brilliant new essay collection seeking to reconcile the world he was born into with the world that could be. Drawing on intimate personal experience this book is a meditation on grief, joy, love, and sex at the intersection of indigeneity and queerness.



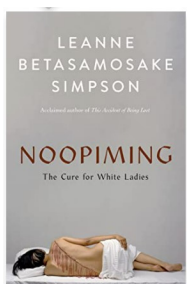
Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer (Citizen Potawatomi Nation)

As a botanist, Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In Braiding Sweetgrass Kimmerer brings these lenses of knowledge together to show that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world.



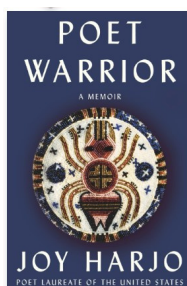
Earth Keeper: reflections on the American land by N. Scott Momaday (Kiowa)

In this moving and lyrical book, which includes original artwork by the author, Momaday offers an homage and a warning. He reminds us that the Earth is a sacred place of wonder and beauty; a source of strength and healing that must be protected before it's too late. As he so eloquently yet simply expresses, we must all be keepers of the earth.



Noopiming: the cure for white ladies by Leanne Betasamosake Simpson (Mississauga Nishnaabeg)

In fierce prose and poetic fragments, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson's Noopiming braids together humor, piercing detail, and a deep, abiding commitment to Anishinaabe life to tell stories of resistance, love, and joy. A bold literary act of decolonization and resistance, Noopiming offers a breaking open of the self to a world alive with people, animals, ancestors, and spirits—and the daily work of healing.

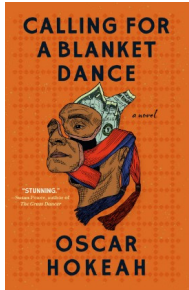


Poet Warrior: a memoir by Joy Harjo (Muscogee Creek)

In the second memoir from the first Native American to serve as US poet laureate, Joy Harjo invites us to travel along the heartaches, losses, and humble realizations of her "poet-warrior" road. A musical, kaleidoscopic meditation, Poet Warrior reveals how Harjo came to write poetry of compassion and healing, poetry with the power to unearth the truth and demand justice.

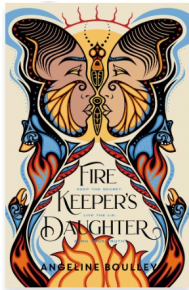


Fiction



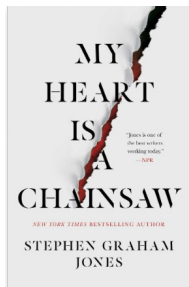
Calling for a Blanket Dance by Oscar Hokeah (Cherokee and Kiowa)

This moving and deeply engaging debut novel is about a young Native American man struggling to find strength in his familial identity. How will he visualize a place for himself when the world hasn't given him a place to start with? Honest, heartbreaking, and ultimately uplifting, *Calling for a Blanket Dance* is the story of how Ever Geimausaddle found his way to home.



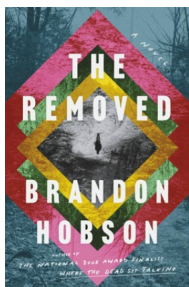
Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians)

As a biracial, unenrolled tribal member and the product of a scandal, Daunis Fontaine has never quite fit in—both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. When her family is struck by tragedy, Daunis puts her dreams on hold to care for her fragile mother. The only bright spot is meeting Jamie, the charming new recruit on her brother's hockey team.



My Heart is a Chainsaw by Stephen Graham Jones (Blackfoot)

Jade Daniels is an angry, half-Indian outcast with an abusive father, an absent mother, and an entire town that wants nothing to do with her. She lives in her own world in which protection comes from an unusual source: horror movies. But when blood actually starts to spill into the waters of Indian Lake, she pulls us into her dizzying, encyclopedic mind of blood and masked murderers, and predicts exactly how the plot will unfold.



The Removed by Brandon Hobson (Cherokee)

Steeped in Cherokee myths and history, a novel about a fractured family reckoning with the tragic death of their son long ago. *The Removed* seamlessly blends the real and spiritual to excavate the deep reverberations of trauma—a meditation on family, grief, home, and the power of stories on a personal and ancestral level.

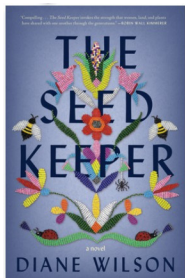


Robopocalypse by Daniel H. Wilson (Cherokee Nation)

In the near future, at a moment no one will notice, all the dazzling technology that runs our world will unite and turn against us. Taking on the persona of a shy human boy, a childlike but massively powerful artificial intelligence known as Archos comes online and assumes control over the global network of machines.



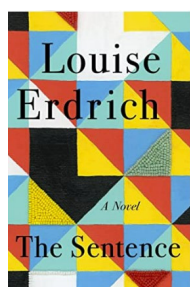
Fiction (continued)



The Seed Keeper

by Diane Wilson (Mdewakanton, Rosebud Reservation)

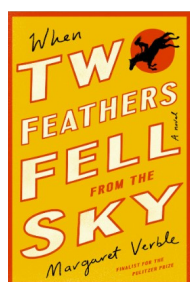
A haunting novel spanning several generations, *The Seed Keeper* follows a Dakota family's struggle to preserve their way of life, and their sacrifices to protect what matters most. Weaving together the voices of four indelible women, *The Seed Keeper* is a beautifully told story of reawakening, of remembering our original relationship to the seeds and, through them, to our ancestors.



The Sentence

by Louise Erdrich (Anishinaabe)

The Sentence asks what we owe to the living, the dead, to the reader and to the book. A small independent bookstore in Minneapolis is haunted, beginning on All Souls' Day 2019 and ending on All Souls' Day 2020. Its mystery and proliferating ghost stories during this one year propel a narrative as rich, emotional, and profound as anything Louise Erdrich has written.



When Two Feathers Fell From the Sky

by Margaret Verble (Cherokee)

Louise Erdrich meets Karen Russell in this deliciously strange and daringly original novel from Pulitzer Prize finalist Margaret Verble: set in 1926 Nashville, it follows a death-defying young Cherokee horse-diver who, with her companions from the Glendale Park Zoo, must get to the bottom of a mystery that spans centuries.

Thank you to the following contributors for the book recommendations!

- *The staff at the Little Boston Branch of Kitsap Regional Library; Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe House of Knowledge*
- *DeAnn Dillon, MPA, EdD student at University of Washington, Tacoma/ Muckleshoot Program*