

Amasani Book List

Picture Books

**Annie and the Old One; by Miles Miska, Illustrated by Peter Parnall; Little, Brown and Company, 1971; (Paperback—May 1985); “Young Navajo girl learns about life cycles and letting go through her grandmothers loom.”

Alice Yazzie’s Year; by Ramona Maher; Illustrated by Shonto Begay; Tricycle Press; P.O. Box 7123, Berkeley, CA 94707 (www.tenspeed.com); Hardcover, 2003. This story tells about each month of Alice’s life during her 11th year. It combines teachings of her Navajo culture with modern American culture on and off the reservation. (Notes about Navajo culture are on the last three pages of the book.)

Ashkii’s Journey; written and illustrated by Verna Clinton; www.salinabookshelf.com; “The story of a boy’s journey into manhood after the Long Walk.” Hardcover in Navajo and English

Askii and His Grandfather; by Margaret Kahn Garraway

Bidii, by Marjorie Thomas; www.salinabookshelf.com; “A young Navajo boy, Bidi or Greedy, learns to share and get along with others as his family travels to the annual sheep dip on the Navajo Nation.” Softcover in Navajo and English with CD

Charlie Needs a Cloak; story and pictures by Tomie dePaola, 1973; Aladdin Paperbacks; “A shepherd shears his sheep, cards and spins the wool, weaves and dyes the cloth, and sews a beautiful new red cloak.”

**The Chief’s Blanket; by Michael Chanin, illustrated by Kim Howard, 1997; H.J. Kramer, Inc.; P.O. Box 1082, Tiburon, CA 94920; “In the process of weaving her first Chief’s Blanket, Flower After the Rain discovers the meaning of giving and receiving.” Hardcover

Day and Night; by Nedra Emery; illustrated by Verna Clinton; 1996; Salina Bookshelf; Flagstaff, AZ; This Navajo tale explains how animals played a shoe game to decide if it would always be day or night. Softcover in Navajo and English

Father’s Boots; written and illustrated by Baje Whitehorne, Sr.; www.salinabookshelf.com; “This story shares three brothers’ journey to school and home for the holidays.” In Navajo and English

**A Goat in the Rug; by Geraldine, as told to Charles L. Blood and Martin Link; Aladdin Paperbacks; 1230 Avenue of the Americas, NY, NY 10020; Sept. 1990; “A book about weaving in the Navajo tradition told from the goat’s point of view.” Softcover

Knots on a Counting Rope; by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault; illustrated by Ted Rand; Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 115 West 18th Street, NY, NY 10011; “...the counting rope is a metaphor for the passage of time, and for the boy’s emerging confidence in facing his greatest challenge—his blindness.” Hardcover

Little Herder in Autumn; by Ann Nolan Clark; illustrated by Hoke Denetsosie; 1988; “Bilingual poems about the traditional Navajo homeland.”

**Little Man’s Family; by J.B. Enochs; illustrated by Gerald Nailor; Kiva Publishing Co., Walnut, CA; “Reprint from 1940’s reading text used by Navajo children who were taught to read with tasks, animals, and a lifestyle that was familiar to them.” This is a portrait of a Navajo family and their daily life in the 1940’s. Softcover—1999

Little Prankster Girl; by Martha Blue; Illustrated by Keith Smith; Navajo by Peter A. Thomas; www.salinabookshelf.com; 2003; “This warmhearted story follows Little Prankster Girl through an exasperating, but funny trial of her childhood. Readers will identify with her struggle to win recognition from her family and will gain courage to make their own bids for greater independence.”

The Magic of Spider Woman; by Lois Duncan; illustrated by Shonto Begay; 1996; Scholastic, Inc.; “This is the story of Wandering Girl, who came to be known as Weaving Woman, and of the terrible thing that happened to her when she disobeyed Spider Woman.”

The Magic Weaver of Rugs: 9 Tales of the Navajo; by Jerrie Oughton and Lisa Desimini; Houghton Mifflin Company, March 1994; Hardcover

The Mud Pony; retold by Caron Lee Cohen; illustrated by Shonto Begay; Scholastic; “A poor boy longed for a pony more than anything. So he made one out of mud. He had a dream that his pony was alive and speaking to him. When he awoke, his dream had come true.” Softcover

Nannabah’s Friend; by Mary Perrine; illustrated by Margaret Sanfilippo; 1970; “Nannabah lives with her grandparents. One day she is old enough to take the sheep to the mesa to feed and drink water. She overcomes her fears and meets another young girl like herself, and they become friends.”

Navajo: Visions and Voices Across the Mesa; by Shonto Begay; poetry

Red is Beautiful; by Roberta John and illustrated by Jason David; www.salinabookshelf.com; 1-877-0070; A Navajo story of a young girl facing peer pressure, teasing, and discrimination at school. Hardcover in Navajo and English.

**The Old Hogan; by Margaret Kuhn Garaway; illustrated by Andrew E. Bia; Booksmith, P.O. Box 7425, Tucson, AZ 85725; Paperback, 1993; “The reader will be moved by this poignant story of change as seen through the eyes of an old hogan.” Softcover

Sunpainters: Eclipse of the Navajo Sun; by Baje Whitehorne; www.salinabookshelf.com; A Navajo story of the Solar Eclipse; Hardcover in English.

White Nose the Sheep Dog; by Marjorie Thomas; “A little puppy named White Nose gets separated from his mother and wanders lost in the desert until he is found and adopted by a Navajo family who takes him in and teaches him to be a sheep dog.” www.salinabookshelf.com; Paperback in Navajo and English.

Zinnia: How the Corn Was Saved; by Patricia Powell and illustrated by Kendrick Benally; www.salinabookshelf.com; A Navajo story about a boy, Red Bird, who is sent to ask Spider Woman for her help. Hardcover; Navajo and English.

Upper Grades Fiction

**The Girl Who Chased Away Sorrow; The Diary of Sarah Nita, A Navajo Girl, New Mexico, 1864; by Ann Turner; Scholastic Inc., NY.; “From the ‘Dear America’ historical fiction diary series, written about the Long Walk.” Hardcover in English

**Navajo Summer; by Jennifer Owings Dewey; Paperback-2000; “A girl runs away from family problems and ends up spending the summer at Canyon de Chelly with Navajo friends.”

**Racing the Sun; by Paul Pitts; Paperback-1988; Chapter book. “Story of a modern, Navajo boy rediscovering his family’s culture through visiting his grandfather.”

**Sing Down the Moon; by Scott O’Dell; Paperback-1999; “Chapter book about the Long Walk in 1864.”

Folktales

Day and Night: Ji doo Tl ee; by Nedra Emery; illustrated by Verna Clinton; www.salinabookshelf.com; “A Navajo tale about the animals of the night and the day they meet to play the first shoe game.” Hardcover in Navajo and English

How Can One Sell the Air? by Ted Perry; Chief Seattle’s Vision, Native Voices; The Book Publishing Co., P.O. Box 99, Summertown, TN 38483.

How the Stars Fell into the Sky: A Navajo Legend; by Jerrie Oughton, illustrated by Lisa Desimini; “A lyrical retelling of a potent myth that details mysteries of Earth in the beginning, told to the Navajo Indians by Hosteen Klah at the turn of the twentieth century.”

**The Magic of Spider Woman; by Lois Duncan and Shonto Begay; Softcover; Oct. 2000

Monster Slayer: A Navajo Folktale; retold by Vee Browne; 1991

**Navajo Coyote Tales; compiled by William Morgan; “Coyote Tales make for great elementary classroom reading.” Softcover-1989

Turkey and Giant; by Nedra Emery; 1996; www.salinabookshelf.com; “Horned Toad rescues Turkey from Gray Giant by lending Turkey his helmet, the only thing Gray Giant fears.” Hardcover in Navajo and English

**Turquoise Boy: A Navajo Legend; written and adapted by Terri Cohlene; illustrated by Charles Reasoner; 1990; Waterhill Press; “This is one in a series of stories retold from Native America about a young Navajo boy who wants to help ease the burden of his people. His adventures lead him to the gift of horses. Educational, multi-cultural and entertaining.”

Who Wants to be a Prairie Dog? CD narrated in Navajo and English by Maybelle Little; www.salinabookshelf.com; A boy falls down a prairie dog hole and decides if he wants to live with the prairie dogs or go back to his family. Softcover in Navajo and English.

Non-Fiction

**Canyon De Chelly: The Story Behind the Scenery; by Charles Supplee; Paperback-2003; “Wonderful photos of Canyon de Chelly. Text for older students and adults.”

**Colors of the Navajo; by Emily Abbink; illustrated by Janice Lee Porter; First Avenue Editions, www.firstavenueeditons.com; “Relates colors with Navajo words with the Dine homeland.” Paperback

Dine Bizaad: Speak, Read, Write Navajo; by Irvy W. Goossen; Salina Bookshelf, Inc.; 1254 W. University Ave. Suite 130, Flagstaff, AZ 86001; 1-877-527-0070 (Toll Free); ISBN 0-9644189-1-6; Softcover with three cassettes.

The Hogan: the Traditional Navajo Home; by Scott Thybony; Published by Western National Parks Assn., 12880 N. Vixtos Dr., Tucson, AZ 85737; 1999; “A brief history with descriptions of cultural life and construction techniques. A lot of information packed into 15 pages.”

**Kinaalda: A Navajo Girl Grows Up; by Monty Roessel, photographer; Michael Dorris; Paperback-1993; “Celinda McKelvey, a Navajo girl, participates in the Kinaalda, the traditional coming-of-age ceremony of her people.”

Learn Along with Ashkii; Workbooks essential to reading and writing skills for beginning learners of Navajo; www.salinabookshelf.com; First through third grade levels, two levels per grade.

Miracle Hill: The Story of a Navajo Boy; by Blackhorse Mitchell; Paperback—2004; The University of Arizona Press; Tucson, Arizona 85721; www.uapress.arizona.edu; As a high school student, Blackhorse Mitchell wrote a series of essays for his teacher which she published in his original writing with spelling and grammatical errors. It reads as sheer poetry.

**Navajo ABC: A Dine Alphabet Book; by Luci Tapahonso and Eleanor Schick; Paperback-1999; “After introducing the Navajo people’s name for themselves, T ‘aa Dine, the authors present a Dine alphabet book using objects and words familiar to the Navajo culture.”

**The Navajo (New True); by Alice Osinski; “A non-fiction, New True Book, great for grades 3-5.”

**Navajo Code Talkers; by Nathan Aaseng and Roy O. Hawthorne; Softcover; January 1994

**Navajo Rugs and Blankets: A Coloring Book; by Chuck Mobley; Paperback-1994; “A fun and informative coloring book featuring different Navajo rug patterns and a brief history of how they are made.”

**The Navajos; by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve; 1993

**The Navajo (True Books: American Indians); by Andrew Santella; Softcover; March 2003

**Navajo Long Walk: Tragic Story of a Proud Peoples Forced March from Homeland; by Joseph Bruchac; Hardcover; April 2002

Navajo Weaving Way; by Noel Bennett and Tiana Bighorse; 1997; “An in-depth on all aspects of learning weaving and spirituality behind it.”

A Rainbow at Night: The World in Words and Pictures by Navajo Children; by Bruce Hucko; 1996; Chronicle Books, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94105; “Uses pictures in various mediums created by Navajo children to help explain Navajo culture and history. Suggests activities for the reader to do relating to family and feelings.”

The Song of the Loom: New Traditions in Navajo Weaving; by Frederick H. Dockstader; 1987; Color prints of traditional patterns with traditions and spirituality.

**Songs from the Loom; by Monty Roessel, photographer; Lerner Publications Company, Minneapolis; Paperback-1995; “Non-fiction about a Navajo girl learning the stories and techniques of weaving from her grandmother. Plenty of photos and drawings.”

Time Among the Navajo: Traditional Lifeways on the Reservation; by Kathy Eckles Hooker and Helen Lau Running; Salina Bookshelf, Inc.; www.salinabookshelf.com; An unfolding of individual stores of people on the reservation. Softcover in English

**Unbreakable Code; by Sara Hoagland Hunter, and Julia Miner; Hardcover; May 1996

**Unsung Heroes of World War II: The Story of the Navajo Code Talkers; by Deanee Durrett; Hardcover; June 1998.

Baby Book Series: Baby’s First Laugh; Baby Learns to Count; Baby Learns About Colors; Baby Learns About Animals; www.salinabookshelf.com; Hard books in Navajo and English.

**Navajo Code Talkers (by Nathan Aaseng) For Older Readers

**Unbreakable Code (by Sara Hoagland Hunter) Picture Book

** Indicates that this book can be found at www.amazon.com. There are many other books about the Navajo including dictionaries and stories about Code Talkers for older students on this website. Go to www.amazon.com, click on books, and then in the search box, type in Navajo Stories.

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