

ANCESTOR APPROVED

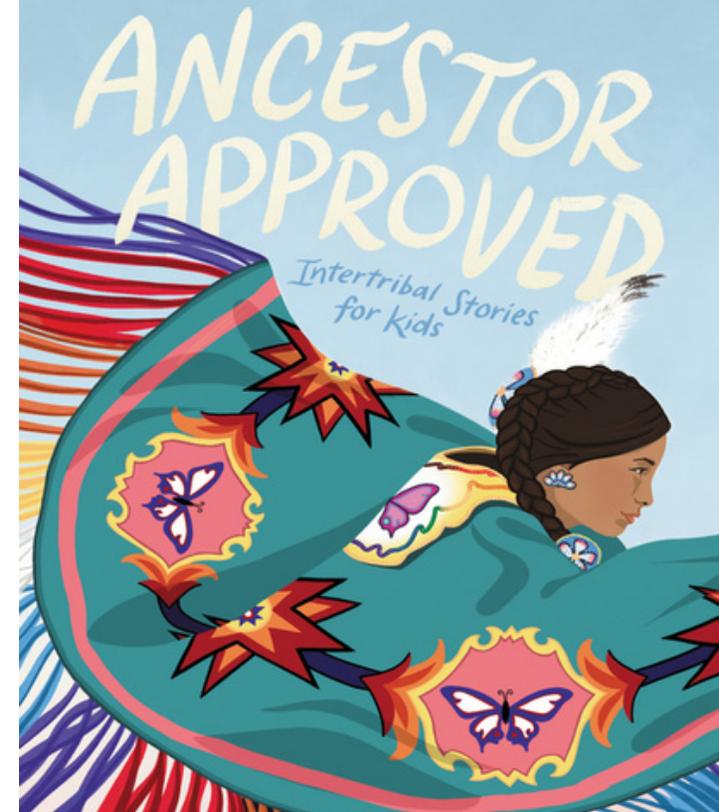
EDITED BY CYNTHIA LEITCH SMITH

This collection of stories by both new and veteran Indigenous writers bursts with hope, joy, resilience, the strength of community, and pride. In a high school gym full of color and song, people dance, and celebrate friendship and heritage. Youths will meet relatives from faraway and mysterious strangers. They are the heroes of their own stories.

HEALER OF THE WATER MONSTER

BRIAN YOUNG

When Nathan goes to visit his grandma on the Navajo reservation, he knows he's in for a pretty uneventful summer, with no electricity or cell service. Still, he loves spending time with Nali and with his uncle Jet. One night, while lost in the nearby desert, Nathan finds someone extraordinary: a Water Monster in need of help.



INDIGENOUS STORIES

For ages 9-12

I CAN MAKE THIS PROMISE

CHRISTINE DAY

All her life, Edie has known that her mom was adopted by a white couple. So, no matter how curious she might be about her Indigenous heritage, Edie is sure her family doesn't have any answers.

Until the day when she and her friends discover a box hidden in the attic--a box full of letters signed "Love, Edith," and photos of a woman who looks just like her.

I AM NOT A NUMBER

JENNY KAY DUPUIS AND KATHY KACER

When eight-year-old Irene is removed from her family to live in a residential school she is confused, frightened, and terribly homesick. She tries to remember who she is and where she came from despite the efforts of the nuns to force her to do otherwise. Based on the life of Jenny Kay Dupuis' own grandmother

THE BIRCHBARK HOUSE

LOUISE ERDRICH

Omakaysas, a seven-year-old Ojibwe girl, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior until a visitor brings an invisible enemy that changes things forever.

FATTY LEGS

CHRISTY JORDAN-FENTON & MARGARET POKIAK-FENTON

Taunted and humiliated by Raven, the unkind nun in charge of the young Inuit girls at her residential school, Margaret is willing to endure almost anything as long as she can learn to read. When she is the only girl forced to wear ugly red stockings, however, Margaret has enough, and fights back.

THE BARREN GROUNDS

DAVID A. ROBERTSON

Morgan and Eli struggle to fit in at school and their new foster home until they find a portal in the attic that takes them to another world. They meet Oчек, the only hunter supporting his starving community, Misewa. As food becomes desperate, they must embark on a dangerous mission to try to save Misewa before the icy grip of winters freezes everyone.

THESE ARE MY WORDS

RUBY SLIPPERJACK

Violet Pesheens is struggling to adjust to her new life at residential school. She misses her Grandma, and everything she brought has been taken from her, including her name--she is now just a number. But worst of all, she has a fear. A fear of forgetting the things she treasures most and forgetting who she was.