

# Native

# American

# Literature



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# Overview

- stereotyping
- misinformation
- book selection and purchasing resources
- ND Native American authors

# Stereotyping

## “Bloodthirsty Savage” or “Red Man”

- ❖ quick to anger
- ❖ may kill with no remorse
- ❖ written to instill fear by non-Natives
- ❖ perceived as unattractive by Western ideals
- ❖ no interest in learning Western beliefs
- ❖ portrayed with aggressive animalistic personality traits





# Nobel Savage

## Naive Nobel

- viewed as friendly and submissive
- sees animals as friends and may talk to them
- wants to learn Western principles
- perceived as the Western ideal of what Native women should be
- seen as attractive by Western standards
- are sexualized

## Wise Nobel

- perceived as stoic, withholding, and all-knowing
- has a working relationship with animals
- viewed as being mysterious—hard to understand
- perceived as the Western ideal of what Native men should be
- no interest in or neutral about Western ideals

“There is no such thing as a good stereotype”

# Tropes of Native Peoples in Media

**Regulation to the Past**~~presented as historical instead of contemporary figures

**White Savior**~~Native People are ignorant or naive and unable to care for themselves and must be rescued by kind-hearted white people, who are usually men

**Mohican Syndrome**~~non-Native leaves their contemporary lifestyle to live with the Native People...they succeed in appearing more Native than the Natives

**Tonto-Speak**~~Native people speak in broken English



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# Indigenous Book Selection

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- [How to Choose Indigenous Materials](#)
- [American Indians in Children's Literature](#)
- [Selecting Native American Literature Worksheet](#)
- [Diverse BookFinder](#)

# North Dakota Native American Authors

Joelle Bearstail

Heid E. Erdrich

Lise Erdrich

Louise Erdrich

Laurel Goodluck

Denise LaJimodiere

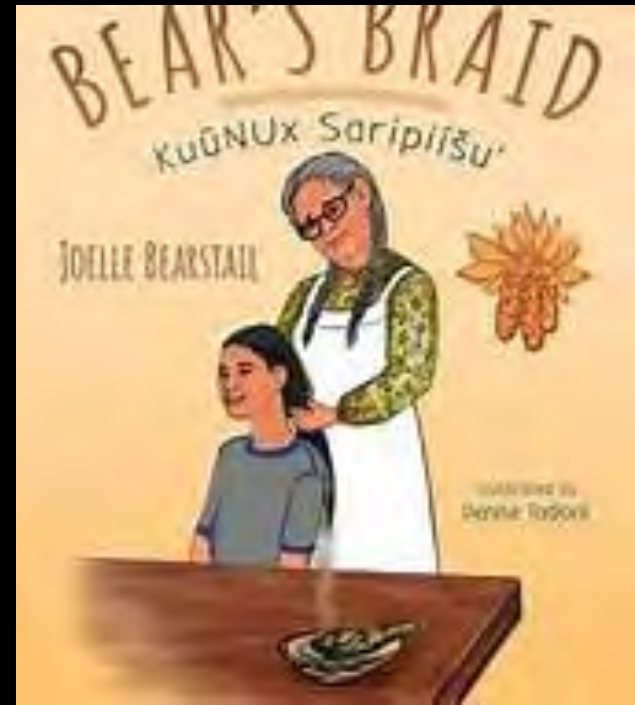
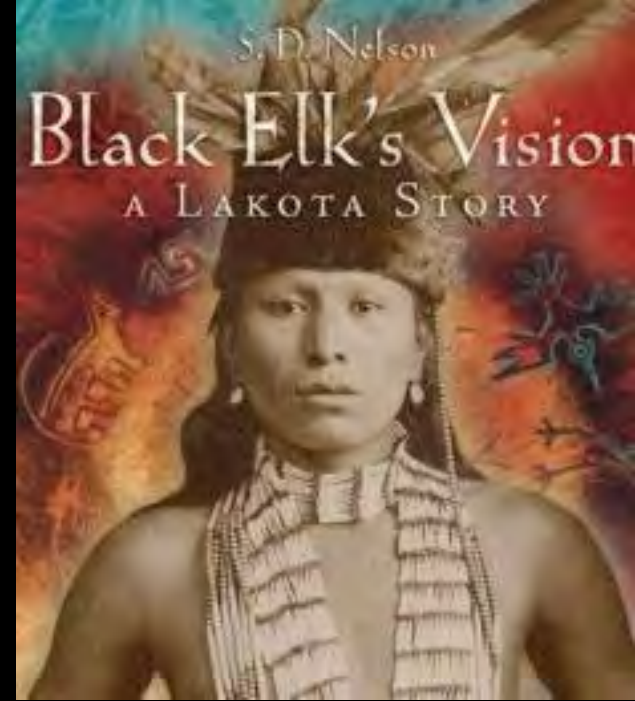
Carole Lindstrom

S.D. Nelson

Dawn Quigley

Michael Yellow Bird

Mona Susan Power



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## Purchasing Indigenous Literature

[List of Native Literature Awards, Publishers & More](#)

[Birchbark Books & Native Arts](#)

[North Dakota State University Press](#)

[Must-Read Books by Indigenous Authors](#) (Penguin  
Random House)

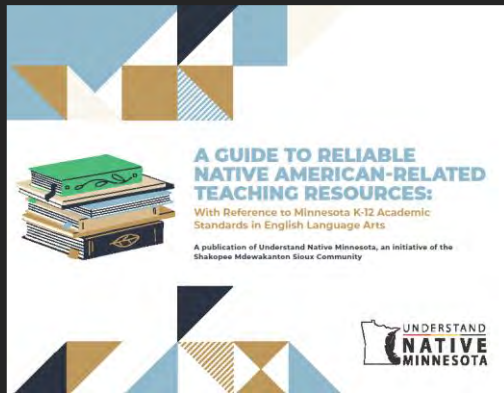
[Super Indian Comics](#)

[Indigenous Voices - Books for Kids and Teens](#) | Penguin  
Random House Canada





## Additional Resources



[The Best Native Studies Books of 2023](#)

[10 New Children's and YA Books with Indigenous Representation](#)

[10 New Books by Indigenous Authors](#)

[Indigenous Children's Book Authors Band Together](#)

[Authenticity and Sensitivity: Goals for Writing and Reviewing Books with Native American Themes](#)

[Anton Treuer \(Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians but Were Afraid to Ask\)](#)

[Native Governance Center - Terminology Style Guide](#)

[The History Behind The Phrase 'Don't Be An Indian Giver'](#)



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Buckley |, P. M. (n.d.). *Tips for Building an Indigenous Children’s Literature Collection*. PublishersWeekly.com. Retrieved March 12, 2024, from <https://rb.gy/6rhm4h>

*Native Knowledge 360°—Native American Literature in Your Classroom*. (n.d.). Americanindian.si.edu. <https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/informational/native-american-literature-in-your-classroom>