



It's Not All Horses and Tepees

Love Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*? Try these other young adult novels! Follow these Native teens as they navigate friendships, relationships, and their own positions as Native Americans in the modern world. It's not all horses and tepees in the 21st century...and beyond.

Teens of Today

If I Ever Get Out of Here

By Eric Gansworth (2013) Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine; ISBN: 978-0-545-41730-3

Through an exquisite use of Beatles music, Gansworth connects with readers on multiple levels in this story of Lewis, an Onondaga teen, as he develops a friendship with George, a white teen from a nearby Air Force base. The family and community of both characters figure prominently throughout.

Rain Is Not My Indian Name

By Cynthia Leitich Smith (2001) HarperCollins; ISBN: 978-0-688-17397-5

Friendship, love, death, grieving, healing—such is the journey of Cassidy Rain, a 14-year-old mixed-blood teen. Smith seamlessly describes Native culture and community through the eyes of a witty protagonist who loves sci-fi and photography. References to the Internet, Web sites, and anime firmly situate this Native teen in the present day.

Son Who Returns

By Gary Robinson (2014) 7th Generation; ISBN: 978-1-939-05304-6

Fifteen-year-old Mark Centeno is of Chumash, Crow, Mexican and Filipino ancestry he calls himself four kinds of brown. When Mark goes to live with his Chumash grandmother on the reservation in central California, he discovers a rich world of family history and culture that he knows very little about. He also finds a pathway to understanding better a part of his own identity: powwow dancing. Riveted by the traditional dancers and feeling the magnetic pull of the drums, Mark begins the training and other preparations necessary for him to compete as a dancer in one of America's largest powwows.

Triple Threat

By Jacqueline Guest (2011) Lorimer; ISBN: 978-1-55277-690-2

A Native boy, his white stepsister, and his friend who is paralyzed from the waist down and plays basketball from his wheelchair comprise the “triple threat” on a team in a summertime league. Competition and perseverance are the themes in this fast-paced novel.

Crazy Horse's Girlfriend

By Erika T. Wurth (2014) Curbside Splendor Publishing; ISBN: 978-1940430430

Margaritte is a sharp-tongued, drug-dealing, sixteen-year-old Native American floundering in a Colorado town crippled by poverty, unemployment, and drug abuse. She hates the burnout, futureless kids surrounding her and dreams that she and her unreliable new boyfriend can move far beyond the bright lights of Denver that float on the horizon before the daily suffocation of teen pregnancy eats her alive.

Teens of the Future

Killer of Enemies

By Joseph Bruchac (2013) Lee & Low/Tu; ISBN: 978-1-62014-143-4

In this fascinating postapocalyptic page-turner, the 17-year-old Apache heroine has gifts similar to those of her namesake, Lozen, a Chiricahua Apache woman who fought alongside Geronimo. Generations later, Lozen and her family maintain the Apache ways that guide her as she fights to protect her family.

Robopocalypse

By Daniel H. Wilson (2011) Doubleday; 978-0-385-53385-0

A sci-fi thriller set in the near future pits humans against robots that have turned against humanity. A familiar plot with a smart analysis of technology and its limits, but with an added twist: the Osage Nation figures throughout the story and their sovereign nation status gives them an edge.