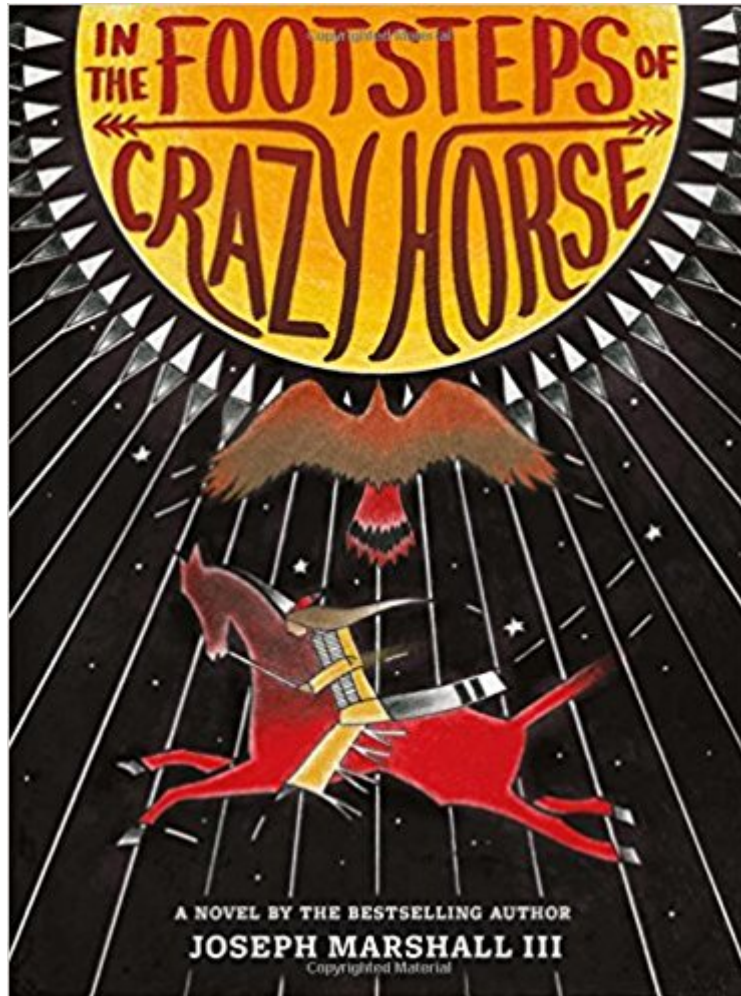




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In The Footsteps Of Crazy Horse



Synopsis

Jimmy McClean is a Lakota boy—though you wouldn't guess it by his name: his father is part white and part Lakota, and his mother is Lakota. When he embarks on a journey with his grandfather, Nyles High Eagle, he learns more and more about his Lakota heritage—in particular, the story of Crazy Horse, one of the most important figures in Lakota and American history. Drawing references and inspiration from the oral stories of the Lakota tradition, celebrated author Joseph Marshall III juxtaposes the contemporary story of Jimmy with an insider's perspective on the life of Tasunke Witko, better known as Crazy Horse (c. 1840–1877). The book follows the heroic deeds of the Lakota leader who took up arms against the US federal government to fight against encroachments on the territories and way of life of the Lakota people, including leading a war party to victory at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Along with Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse was the last of the Lakota to surrender his people to the US army. Through his grandfather's tales about the famous warrior, Jimmy learns more about his Lakota heritage and, ultimately, himself. American Indian Youth Literature Award

Book Information

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Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

Customer Reviews

Gr 4—8 • In this novel that seamlessly integrates Lakota history and oral tradition,

Marshall takes readers along for a road trip with Jimmy and his maternal grandfather as they embark on a "vision journey," visiting famous landmarks, monuments, and landscapes integral to the life of the great warrior and leader Crazy Horse. Jimmy, a young Lakota boy, struggles with fitting in on his reservation because he does not look like the other Lakota boys; he has light hair, blue eyes, and his father is of Scottish decent. Grandpa Nyles sees an opportunity to introduce Jimmy to another Lakota who had fair hair and light skin—the famous Crazy Horse. Over the course of their trip, Grandpa Nyles recounts history and stories about the life of the Lakota hero and the events that shaped him into a powerful leader, including famous battles and standoffs against the white settlers. Although many books have been written about Crazy Horse, Marshall transports readers back in time through Grandfather's stories. Italicized passages covering Crazy Horse's childhood, adolescence, and transformation into the famed Lakota symbol of courage and wisdom are distinguished from the modern-day narrative and achieve an immediacy and emotional resonance that most history books fail to capture. As the book progresses, Jimmy and readers learn about an important period of American history from the perspective of the Lakota; readers will walk away with the sober knowledge that in war, there are no winners. As Jimmy and his grandfather's journey comes to an end, the boy has gained much more than a history lesson—he learns a great deal about courage, sacrifice, and the ties that connect him to his ancestors. VERDICT A moving narrative that should be required reading for all students of American history. —Amy Zembroski, Indian Community School, Franklin, WI

STARRED REVIEW "This powerful introduction to a great warrior and leader invites readers to ponder the meaning of 'hero.'" (Kirkus Reviews) "As Jimmy and his grandfather's journey comes to an end, the boy has gained much more than a history lesson—he learns a great deal about courage, sacrifice, and the ties that connect him to his ancestors. VERDICT A moving narrative that should be required reading for all students of American history." (School Library Journal) "Follow the geography of Crazy Horse's life—his journey was instrumental in the most significant Native American military victory against the white invaders." (Publishers Weekly) "It provides insights and stories that you don't get from academic historians. There is nothing like it." (Debbie Reese, *American Indians in Children's Literature*)

I am fascinated by Crazy Horse; this book is for both young adults & intermediate students and adults. WELL written!

Beautiful +beautifully made new book. Delivered in same box as tow other items today; thank you so so so much!!!!

Enjoyed this book. Short and powerful. Just wish it had been longer.

Great read

I read with my 9 year old grandson - excellent book.

Bought as a gift.

Jimmy is 3/4 Lakota but the small amount of European in his genetic mix has given him light skin, hight hair, and blue eyes so he is bullied for not being a 'real' Lakota. Jimmy's grandfather takes him on a road trip to trace a timeline of major events in the life of Crazy Horse. Along the way, Jimmy learns about courage, compassion, and wisdom.

Summary: 11-year-old Jimmy gets teased at his reservation school for having light skin and blue eyes, not looking like a real Lakota. His grandfather decides to help him one summer by taking him on a journey through Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana to learn about the famous Lakota warrior Crazy Horse. Through the places they visit and his grandfather's stories, Jimmy learns about Crazy Horse's life, his courage in battle, and his wisdom in knowing when not to fight. Grandpa's stories, in italics, make up the majority of the narrative. When Jimmy returns to school and faces the boys who have bullied him, it's clear he has absorbed the lessons Grandpa was trying to teach him. 176 pages; grades 4-7. Pros: History buffs will enjoy this recounting of various battles between Native Americans and the "Long Knives" who gradually took over their lands in the nineteenth century. The stories are told from the Lakota perspective, undoubtedly a bit different from what appears in a lot of history textbooks. Ultimately, there's no getting around the sadness of this part of American history, but the courage and strength of the Native Americans are what is empahasized. Cons: Jimmy seemed a little young for an 11-year-old, hanging on his grandfather's every word, and frequently asking, "For reals?" It would have been interesting to get a more detailed

look at life on the reservation.

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