



***We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga* by Traci Sorell;**

Illustrated by Frané Lessac

Imprint, Publisher, Publication Year

9781580897723 (Hardcover)

*Age Range: 3 to 7

Grade Range: Kindergarten to Grade 2

BOOK SYNOPSIS

The Cherokee community is grateful for blessings and challenges that each season brings. This is modern Native American life as told by an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation.

The word otsaliheliga (oh-jah-LEE-hay-lee-gah) is used by members of the Cherokee Nation to express gratitude. Beginning in the fall with the new year and ending in summer, follow a full Cherokee year of celebrations and experiences. Written by a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, this look at one group of Native Americans is appended with a glossary and the complete Cherokee syllabary, originally created by Sequoyah.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

- ★ "A gracious, warm, and loving celebration of community and gratitude." - *Kirkus*, **starred review**
- ★ "This informative and authentic introduction to a thriving ancestral and ceremonial way of life is perfect for holiday and family sharing." - *School Library Journal*, **starred review**
- ★ "The book underscores the importance of traditions and carrying on a Cherokee way of life." - *The Horn Book*, **starred review**
- ★ "... *We Are Grateful* has the ability to resonate with any reader . . ." - *Shelf Awareness*, **starred review**

"The text reads like poetry but has a gentle instructional dimension to it." - *Booklist*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- 2018 Orbis Pictus Honor book
- 2019 Sibert Honor medal
- 2019 NCSS-CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People
- A 2018 Junior Library Guild Selection
- 2019 Notable Books for a Global Society
- 2018 Reading the West Book Awards Honor
- 2020 Bill Martin Jr Picture Book Award (nominee)
- 2019 CCBC Choices
- 2019 Oklahoma Book Award (finalist)
- 2019 Nautilus Book Award
- 2019 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Honor Book
- 2021 Land of Enchantment (Nominee)
- 2020 ALA Odyssey Award (Audiobook, Honor)
- 2020 ALA American Indian Youth Literature Award (Picture Book Honor)
- 2022 Illinois School Library Media Association's Monarch Award (nominee)
- 2023 Bank Street College of Education's Best Board Books of the Year
- 2023 100 Children's Authors and Illustrators Everyone Should Know - Traci Sorell

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [We Are Grateful Otsaliheliga Teacher and Discussion Guide](#)
- [WAGO Coloring Sheets](#)
- [NEA Today Spotlights We Are Grateful, Otsaliheliga](#)
- [The Horn Book | Five questions for Traci Sorell and Frané Lessac](#)
- [KidLitTV Storymakers with Traci Sorell - video](#)
- [Traci Sorell - Writing We Are Grateful, Otsaliheliga - YouTube](#)
- [Listen to Traci Sorell discuss the book on TeachingBooks.net](#)

AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

Through my work, I focus on crafting fiction and nonfiction stories in a variety of formats for all ages. Those stories center the humanity, sovereignty, history, contemporary lives, and contributions of Native Nations and their citizens. In most schools nationwide, the K-12 curriculum does not include these types of stories. All young people in this country need to know the past and present of the people indigenous to this land. That is part of our responsibility in growing informed future generations. It is critical for Native created books to be available in school libraries, classrooms, public libraries, community centers, bookstores and homes to make that happen.

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.