



We Are Still Here! Native American Truths Everyone Should Know

Written by Traci Sorell; Illustrated by Frané Lessac

Charlesbridge, 2021

ISBN: 9781623541927 (Hardcover)

*Age Range: 7–10 years

Grade Range: 4–6 (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Twelve Native American kids present historical and contemporary laws, policies, struggles, and victories in Native life, each with a powerful refrain: We are still here!

Too often, Native American history is treated as a finished chapter instead of relevant and ongoing. This companion book to the award-winning *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga* offers readers everything they never learned in school about Native American people's past, present, and future. Precise, lyrical writing presents topics including: forced assimilation (such as boarding schools), land allotment and Native tribal reorganization, termination (the US government not recognizing tribes as Nations), Native urban relocation (from Reservations), self-determination (tribal self-empowerment), Native civil rights, the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), religious freedom, economic development (including casinos), Native language revival efforts, cultural persistence, and Nationhood.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★“An essential purchase for introducing the impact laws and treaties had and continue to have on Native Nations.”—*School Library Journal*, starred review

★“An emphatic, triumphant declaration . . .”—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★“ . . . a perfect introduction for those too young for Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz's *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People* (2019).”—*Booklist*, starred review

★“This book provides information that is omitted from most curricula (“most people do not know what happened to Native Nations and our citizens after treaty making stopped in 1871”) in an easy-to-understand manner.”—*The Horn Book*, **starred review**

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- *2021 Junior Library Guild Selection*
- *2021 Eureka Award Honor*
- *2021 SLJ Best Books*
- *2021 Kirkus Best Books*
- *2021 Booklist Editors Choice*
- *2021 Powell’s Best Books*
- *2021 Jane Addams Book Award Finalist*
- *2022 Texas Topaz Nonfiction Reading List*
- *2022 American Indian Youth Literature Award Picture Book Honor*
- *2022 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award Honor Book*
- *2022 ALA Notable Children’s Book*
- *2022 NCSS-CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Books*
- *2022 CCBC Choices*
- *2022 NYSRA Charlotte Award—Masterlist for Middle School*
- *2022–2023 Great Lakes Great Books Award Nominee*
- *2022 Capitol Choices*
- *2022 Bank Street College of Education Best Books of the Year*
- *2022 ILA’s Social Justice Literature Award—Nonfiction Picture Book Winner*

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Teachers Guide to We Are Still Here | Charlesbridge](#)
- [Chat with Traci Sorell of WE ARE STILL HERE! | Charlesbridge](#)
- [Traci Sorell: History We Need to Know: We Are Still Here! | Reading Rockets](#)
- [Exploring Native American Activism: Teaching Ideas for We Are Still Here! | The Classroom Bookshelf](#)
- [Traci Sorell | Fully Booked by Kirkus Reviews Podcast](#)
- [We’re Still Here: Bookish Chat with Author Traci Sorell | Here Wee Read Podcast](#)
- [We Are Still Here!: Native American Truths Everyone Should Know | Teaching Books](#)

AUTHOR STATEMENT

Often we don’t know what we don’t know. Well-researched nonfiction books help us overcome that. *We Are Still Here!* provides an accessible entry point for people of all ages to understand the historical experiences and contemporary realities of Native Nations in the United States since

the late 1800s. That's important knowledge for anyone living in this country to have as part of being an informed community member.

–Traci Sorell

***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.