INDIANS IN LITERATURE, A SELECTED ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR CHILDREN.
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A LISTING OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IS PRESENTED, CATEGORIZED AS FOLLOWS--(1) BIOGRAPHY AND FICTIONALIZED BIOGRAPHY, (2) LORE AND LEGEND, (3) STORIES AND NOVELS, AND (4) GENERAL INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND MATERIAL. (ES)
INDIANS IN LITERATURE
A Selected Annotated Bibliography for Children

TRAINING CENTER FOR DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

by

Diane Olsen
INDIANS IN LITERATURE

A Selected Annotated Bibliography

I. Biography and Fictionalized Biography.


The account of a nun's experience as a teacher on a Navajo reservation.


Kidnapped in Kentucky in the late 18th Century, John Tanner eventually falls into the hands of the Chippewa. He becomes White Falcon, famous leader of the Chippewas. Engrossing adventure.


The story of the Italian Jesuit priest who set up 29 missions and mapped areas of Mexico and Arizona in the 1600's.


Straightforward accounts of 10 Indian leaders who fought tragic wars in defense of their lands and people against the white man.


He wanted peace but became the greatest fighting chief of the Western Indian Wars instead.


A very readable biography of the great and well-known chief.

*This title and several others have been taken from "Suggested Reading List for Students," in the pamphlet, "Answers to Questions about The American Indian," prepared by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1964.

**This title and several others have been taken from an annotated list prepared by the Minneapolis Public Library, May 1964.
The story of the Sioux hero, Sitting Bull, though based on fact, reads like fiction. It is an engrossing account of how his early bravery and leadership develop as he does, until he is chosen chief of all the Sioux Indians. His wisdom, his pride, his courage against the white man's inevitable conquest of Indian land makes him a hero figure.


A true story of the Kosharets (a troop of boy Scouts of La Junta, Colorado, who, through their Indian crafts and dances exhibited on country tours, endeavor to preserve and promote understanding of the Southwest Indians' cultures) and their trouble with the Zuni Indians who unjustly accuse them of making a mockery of the Zuni religion.


From Pocohontas to Geronimo—sympathetic sketches of Indians, presented as dignified human beings.


The story of Cochise is representative of the painful, agonizing transition the Indians faced when the white man began to settle on his lands. Cochise, in all good faith, first attempts to live with the new settlers; after several acts of treachery on the part of the whites, Cochise vows vengeance, and becomes a dreaded enemy.


The subject of this book is not the legendary Chippewa hero, but the Hiawatha of the Onondaga nation of the Eastern colonies. A gifted orator and organizer, he is able to unite six warring tribes into the Iroquois League of the Five Nations. Thus, it is a book of how the so-called savages learn the difficult lessons of peace and cooperation.


Narrative biography of the halfbreed Cherokee who invented the syllabary which enabled thousands of Indians to read and write the Cherokee language.

The story of Osceola, leader of the Indians of Florida, and his stubborn resistance against being placed on a reservation in the West.


The story of how Crazy Horse became War Chief of the Sioux, and led them against General Custer in 1876.


In 1605, Tisquantun, better known as Squanto, and four other Indians were kidnapped by Captain George Waymouth and taken to England to provide information about the New World.


Adaptation of author's biography of Tekakwitha "White Wampum." Gives picture of 17th-century Indian and colonial life.


Story of a noted 17th-century explorer and trader who spend a year as a Mohawk Indian captive.


From his white father, Sequoyah inherited the curiosity to invent an alphabet for the Cherokee language; from his mother, the devotion to the cause of his people.


The authentic biography of a truly great Indian chief, Uncas; his boyhood, his tribal initiation, his exploits as a brave, and finally, his great wisdom and courage as grand sachem of the Mohegans.
II. Lore and Legend

**Anthology of Children's Literature.** Compiled by Edna Johnson.  

A collection of Indian myths is found between pages 444 and 459. Included are such titles as "The Story of the First Woodpecker," "The Locust and the Coyote," and "Why the Ant is Almost Cut in Two."


These authentic mythical tales of the California Indians include "How California was Made," "How Animals Brought Fire to Man" and "Why Women Talk More Than Men."


A collection of five mythological tales inspired by the carvings on the totem poles of the North American Indians. The tales, including such titles as "The Boy and the Sea Monsters," and "The Giant Ogre, Kloo-Teekl," are well written and fun to read. Moreover, they give the reader an authentic flavor of the beliefs and fears of these early Americans.


Folk tales of the Pima and Papago Indians.


A collection of myths and legends of Indians of the Great Lakes which embody some of the attempts of these Indians to explain natural landmarks, the origin of the earth, and the markings on the animals they knew. Many of these myths are very short, and the style is easy to read.


Based on Pawnee Indian myth: story of the boy, Running Star, who was treated like a stranger among the people of his own village.

Essays which precede the poem portray the Lake Superior Hiawatha country and the Chippewas of that area, with their history and legends upon which the poem was based.


Told in authentic pictographs of the plains' Indians, with the English translation printed underneath each picture.


A collection of legends of the Pahute Indians, who once flourished in what is now Utah. Stories include: "Why the Birds Wear Plumage," "Why Rocks Cannot Travel," and "Why No One Should Boast."


Included in this collection of tales are "How the Dry Land Came to Be," "How Sweet Medicine Brought the Medicine Arrows," and "How the Raven Got to be Black." The tradition of Cheyenne story-telling, the solemnity and ceremony with which they were told is explained. There is also a rather unique section in this book called "Stories of Funny Things," which are very enjoyable to read.


Legends of adventure, of mystery and magic; the same stories Indian children listened to around their campfires.

III. Stories and Novels.


Lee, yearning for white man's education, yet responsive to traditions of his people, finds his conflicts resolved when he wins a new name.


A modern day family story of the Apaches. When great-grandfather comes to visit Ebon and Melody, and a TV company comes to shoot an Indian picture at the same time, some hilarious and unforeseen complications arise.

These two junior novels deal with the contemporary problems which the Indians face: maintaining some of their own primitive culture while attempting to adjust to the contemporary urban life.

Bealer, Alex W., III. **Picture-Skin Story**. (New York: Holiday House) 1957. Grades 1-5.

Old Sioux tells, by means of pictures drawn on buffalo hide, story of his first hunt as boy. Illustrated by author.


This is a collection of Cherokee Indian legends. The protagonists of most of these legends are animals and birds. The Cherokee were fond of animals, and believed in an earlier period in which men and animals lived and worked together in harmony. Because there are only a few full page illustrations, the book would probably best be used in the elementary grades as an oral presentation to the class.

Bell, Margaret E. **The Totem Casts a Shadow**. (New York: William Morrow and Company), 1949. Grades 8-10, girls.

The setting of this book is a small village in Alaska, during the 1880's. The Monroe family, including three boys and two girls, is the only white one settled in the village. Their relationship with the Indians is established through Gregory Monroe, one of the sons, and Mr. Monroe. Gregory has learned the Indian language, and is thus able to communicate and avoid trouble with the Indians. However, when he falls in love with Nakalfa, an Indian girl, and runs away with her, the family is split. Mr. Monroe, with his Irish temper and scorn for "squaw men," stubbornly disowns him. Florence, the heroine of the book, cannot turn against her brother, but she fears defying her father. Because of the point of view, there is actually little about the Indian culture.


Through exciting adventures, and a year of changes, the Tomahawk family (modern day Indians on a Sioux reservation) discovers what it is like to lead both the traditional Indian life and the modern American one.

A young warrior brings first horses to Nez Perce Indians.


A girl being trained as a medicine woman discovers the world beyond her Navajo land.


Anthology of "Indian Encounters" from writings of author who has enriched the literature of our country with her profound insight into the nature of the American Indian.


A true story of a little girl, Sarah Noble, of colonial Connecticut, who leaves with her father to build a new home in the wilderness. Her courage almost fails when her father must leave her with the Indians (friendly though they were) so he can return for the rest of their family.


A young Sioux, lame from birth, feels he cannot claim the leadership heritage of his father, and important chief. An old wise man, Gray Owl, adopts him teaches him that there are powers greater than mere physical strength and guides him to the maturity that helps him win the coveted honor of the eagle feather.


Jeremiah Jones is excited and pleased when he finds out he has a chance to visit his grandparents on their ranch in Wyoming. While there, Jerry makes friends with Little Bear, and Indian boy from a near-by reservation.


Chukai, a cliff-dwelling Indian, who lived in Colorado 700 years ago, learned to use the bow and arrow.

Story about the growth to manhood of a Nootka Indian boy, a whale hunter of the Pacific Northwest.


Story of a modern Indian boy's adventures on an Ojibway reservation in Canada.


Story of Little Bow who saved his sister from sacrifice and how the Indian custom of lighting bonfires at Easter Eve began.


Jennie's summer project suggested by her teacher keeps her busy learning the art of the potter, and makes her aware of the traditions of her forbears.


Removal of the Cherokees from Georgia and the Carolinas in 1838. Tsi-ya, 15-year-old Indian boy, escapes in Illinois with four younger children and leads the weary children back across the 500 miles in winter. After overcoming terrific obstacles and receiving some aid from sympathetic whites, they reach the safety of the Cherokee Secret Place in the mountains.


A poignant story, for the mature reader, of the strong love between the Navajo, Laughing Boy, and his wife. It is told consistently from their point of view, including their distrust and dislike for the whites.


Rose, a Navajo girl, and her grandmother have no clan. Rose discovers a family for herself and her grandmother when she goes to school at Chemawa Indian School. Heart-warming story and an understanding picture of the Indians learning the language and customs of the white man.

This well-known juvenile author has written a simple account of a little girl on a South Dakota Indian reservation of today.


Four young Kiowa Indian braves, followed by 12-year-old Wolf Boy, set out to find "where the summer lives."


A young Dakota brave tames a rare white buffalo thereby winning his manhood. Western prairies in the days before the white man.


Novel about Elk, a Cheyenne youth who wants to catch and tame horses instead of being a warrior.


Story about first white child born in Idaho and her life with the Indians.


When Tyee catches his first salmon, he earns right to carve his own totem pole. The story captures many superstitions, customs, and ceremonies.


Story of an Indian boy living in the Pacific Northwest.

The Hunt family's adventures as they travel by covered wagon to California, and their friendship with the Paiute Indians.


Beaverbird is captured by outlaw Indians and must prove his worth in a strange land.


Joe, a Navajo, attends Haskell Institute in Kansas where he hopes to learn the printing trade. His doubts, hopes, and ambitions are the stuff of the book. This book is distinguished by a more sophisticated style than that of many junior novels.


How a little girl from a luxurious home in colonial Philadelphia was captured by the ruthless Shawnee Indians and finally made them her friends.

IV. General Information and Background Material


In simple language, this Indian girl explains her beliefs, her land, her home, her clothes, and other aspects of her way of life. It is thus authentic. The full page illustrations are also done by Indians, and manage to capture elements of life which make the Indian way of life different as well as interesting.


Although the text is advanced for the young reader, it is listed because of its beautiful illustrations.


Study of North American Indians' cultures from the Asiatic migrations to Columbus. Utilizing archaeological findings, author reconstructs hunting, food gathering, and farming communities of America's prehistoric people.

A lively and carefully researched picture of the life of the California Indians from earliest time to present.


The life of the Lummi Indians in northwest Washington, before the white man came, is realistically pictured in this book. Illustrated by Elizabeth Michaels.


A rich panorama of American Indian life and legend from New England to the Far West. The principal tribes, their beliefs, customs, dress, housing, handicrafts.


The author has presented an interesting, readable, semi-fictionalized account of the ways of living of the Chippewa Indians, with an emphasis on their lives before the white man. A chapter on present-day conditions is also included.


The work and play; legends and history of this interesting tribe.


The Iroquois make up a large tribe of Indians in New York and Canada. Their way of life, customs, family relationships are described. A chapter called "The Iroquois Today" explains how the tribe is just about as big as before, but how the way of life has changed.


The Seminole Indians migrated to Florida in the 1700's, and through the years fought to adjust to the new land, and later to defend it from the U.S. Government.

An interesting, factual, history of the Sioux; their way of life (mainly buffalo hunting), their legends and beliefs (including the stories of the sacred peacepipe and the Minnesota Pipestone Quarry), and their wars against enemy Indian tribes, and eventually against the white settlers and soldiers in South Dakota.


An informative book about several interesting Indian tribes. The book has many small diagrams along the margins, as well as larger illustrations and maps. Interesting bits of information, such as why Indian hunters bathed often, make this book different from others about Indians.


This book is part of the *Indian Life Series,* which has been written from first hand information of Indian ways. After living with various tribes of Indians for many years, Therese O. Deming tells a simple story of Indian life from notes in her diary. She tells of early methods of travel, of the Indian religions, and of their culture in general. The activities are followed month by month.


Treasure book of information about the Indians; they customs, arts, languages, and origins.


How the Indians of the Everglades built their houses without walls and had to be on the alert for deadly alligators and crocodiles.

Fletcher, Sydney F. *American Indian.* (Grosset), 1954.

This picture book is about the Pueblo Indians of New Mexico. Their way of life, the different tasks and beliefs, are well illustrated and explained. A little of the Indian today is infused -- how they are changing, but are trying to preserve certain customs.


Profusely illustrated encyclopedia of Indian history.


Legends and first-person accounts of explorers, traders, and tribal leaders.


Shows how to make a bead loom and gives patterns for decorating moccasins, etc.


A rather complete explanation of different kinds of hunting. Chapter Two includes a section on how the Chippewa Indians in Minnesota and Wisconsin hunted. Their canoe building is described in detail.


Each chapter deals with some aspect of culture of the North American Indians. Described through the experiences of an individual Indian are the social or religious significance of such things as decoration of the ceremonial mask, etc.


Over 500 words in Indian sign language. Authentic and well-illustrated.

Israel, Marion. Cherokees. (Chicago: Melmont), 1961. Grade 3.

Israel, Marion. Dakotas. (Melmont), 1959.

Well-illustrated, simply written account of the daily life of the Dakota (Sioux) Indians, including their methods of signaling and of hunting buffalo.
Numerous line drawings add much to this simple account of the Chippewa Indians: how they built their wigwams, tapped the maple trees, harvested wild rice and built birchbark canoes.


Nine stories on how Indians farmed before the white man came.


Shows how to carry out 200 projects involving costume, weaving arts and decorations, food and cooking, dwelling, hunting equipment, and other areas of Indian life. There is a list of the principal U.S. Indian tribes and a partial calendar of major Indian events.


Experiments show that basic concepts of many of today's scientific wonders were known to American Indian long ago.


This book, published as part of the American Heritage Junior Library, has many illustrations, selected from original paintings, contemporary photographs, and sketches, in the collections of museums and libraries. This book tells of the big game hunters and warriors of the Great Plains, and their doomed fight to preserve their hunting grounds. Included is a selection about the Minnesota massacres, led by the Sioux warrior, Little Crow.

This book about the Navahos is purely one of information. Under titles such as "The Land and the People," "Food," "Horses," "Clothing," "Beliefs and Ceremonies," and "Governmental Schools," the life of the Navahos is clearly and simply explained. The text is supplemented with interesting pictures in black and red. Some Indian poems are also included in the book.


The text of this book is supplemented by full-page photographs of Indians, showing them at their work. The reader learns, along with five year old Blue Flower, about the Pueblo and Navaho Indians of New Mexico, their superb art, their customs, their kinds of homes, their food, and their dress. The idea of respecting differences is suggested.


There is an emphasis on the study of the culture of the Hopewell Indians of the Ohio Valley.


Swanson, Jerome. *America, 1667*. (Block and Company), 1962.


A study of the 1864 attack and its tragic consequences.