



Cottonwood Reads! 2021

Please join our staff in reading *Indian No More* by Charlene McManis with Traci Sorell this summer.

This short book is appropriate for students grades 5 and up to read alone or for families of all grade levels to read aloud. We encourage parents and other community members to please read. The text offers many opportunities to reflect on identity and learn about Indigenous history with our children.

To be followed in fall 2021 with a community book club and a visit from co-author Traci Sorell in November.

Cottonwood has purchased several copies of the book for families to check out. For questions, contact Sarah Anderson sarahanderson@thecottonwoodschool.org

Thank you to the Gray Family Foundation for supporting this program.

Regina Petit's family has always been Umpqua, and living on the Grand Ronde Tribe's reservation is all ten-year-old Regina has ever known. Her biggest worry is that Sasquatch may actually exist out in the forest. But when the federal government enacts a law that says Regina's tribe no longer exists, Regina becomes "Indian No More" overnight—even though she lives with her tribe and practices tribal customs, and even though her ancestors were Indian for countless generations.

Now that they've been forced from their homeland, Regina's father signs the family up for the federal Indian Relocation Program and moves them to Los Angeles. Regina finds a whole new world in her neighborhood on 58th Place. She's never met kids of other races, and they've never met a real Indian. For the first time in her life, Regina comes face to face with the viciousness of racism, personally and toward her new friends.

Meanwhile, her father believes that if he works hard, their family will be treated just like white Americans. But it's not that easy. It's 1957 during the Civil Rights era, and the family struggles without their tribal community and land. At least Regina has her grandmother, Chich, and her stories. At least they are all together.

In this moving middle-grade novel drawing upon Umpqua author Charlene Willing McManis's own tribal history, Regina must find out: Who is Regina Petit? Is she Indian, American, or both? And will she and her family ever be okay?

Resources to Support Your Reading of *Indian No More*

Here are some questions your child or family could discuss before reading the book:

- What are some of your favorite things about where you live?
- If you had to move, what would you bring with you to remember it by?
- Has anyone ever made a bad guess about you based on what you look like? What happened?
- Why do you think learning about family stories is important? Have you ever asked your grandparents, aunts or uncles, or parents, or any adults in your life about what it was like for them when they were a kid? What did you learn?
- Do you know how many Native Americans live in your town or go to your school? Do you know what tribal nations live near you?
- Do you know what a reservation is? Why do you think it has that name?
- Was there ever a time when you or your family was really glad to have the help of neighbors? What happened? How have you helped or supported your neighbors?
- If the government told you they wanted your house and your yard without paying for it, and you had no choice but to leave it, how would that make you feel? What historical or current events does this remind you of?
- Have you ever heard of the term “Hollywood Indian”? What do you think that means?
- What do you know about the 1950s in America? What was happening during that time period?

Here are a few links that will help you learn more about local history related to the book:

- [The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde website](#) (contains history, maps, current events and more)
- [The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde](#) from the Oregon Historical Society
- [Termination and Restoration in Oregon](#) from the Oregon Historical Society
- [Broken Treaties: An Oregon Experience](#) PBS film, 59 min 19 sec

Plus, there are many, many additional resources (including vocabulary, history links, discussion questions, and information about the cover art) in this extensive document for teaching the book, in case you are inspired to learn more!

[Indian No More Teacher's Guide](#)