

## **UUFNW & FUSW High School Youth & Adult Recommended Reading Related to 2018-2019 Service Learning**

[\*The Lakota Way\*](#) by Joseph M. Marshall III. Rich with storytelling, history, and folklore, *The Lakota Way* expresses the heart of Native American philosophy and reveals the path to a fulfilling and meaningful life. Joseph Marshall is a member of the Sicunga Lakota Sioux and has dedicated his entire life to the wisdom he learned from his elders. Here he focuses on the twelve core qualities that are crucial to the Lakota way of life--bravery, fortitude, generosity, wisdom, respect, honor, perseverance, love, humility, sacrifice, truth, and compassion. Whether teaching a lesson on respect imparted by the mythical Deer Woman or the humility embodied by the legendary Lakota leader Crazy Horse, *The Lakota Way* offers a fresh outlook on spirituality and ethical living.

- We encourage everyone to read this book.

[\*The Earth Shall Weep: A History of Native America\*](#) by James Wilson: A history of North American Indigenous peoples, written from their perspective. It provides great insight into the effect of the European invasion of the Americas. Combining traditional historical sources with new insights from ethnography, archaeology, Indian oral tradition, and years of his original research, James Wilson weaves a historical narrative that puts Native Americans at the center of their struggle for survival against the tide of invading European peoples and cultures. *The Earth Shall Weep* charts the collision course between Euro-Americans and the indigenous people of the continent, from the early interactions at English settlements on the Atlantic coast, through successive centuries of encroachment and outright warfare, to the new political force of the Native American activists of today. It is a clash that would ultimately result in the reduction of the Native American population from an estimated seven to ten million to 250,000 over a span of four hundred years, and change the face of the continent forever. A tour de force of narrative history, *The Earth Shall Weep* is a powerful, moving telling of the story of Native Americans

[\*Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee\*](#) by Dee Brown: Classic, eloquent, meticulously documented account of the systematic destruction of the American Indian during the second half of the nineteenth century. Using council records, autobiographies, and firsthand descriptions, Brown allows great chiefs and warriors of the Dakota, Ute, Sioux, Cheyenne, and other tribes to tell us in their own words of the series of battles, massacres, and broken treaties that finally left them and their people demoralized and decimated. A unique and disturbing narrative told with force and clarity, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* changed forever our vision of how the West was won, and lost. It tells a story that should not be forgotten, and so must be retold from time to time.

- We will have the opportunity to watch the film based on this book.
- The group that travels to Pine Ridge Reservation, SD will visit Wounded Knee.

[\*Lakota Woman\*](#) by Mary Crow Dog: Mary Brave Bird grew up fatherless in a one-room cabin, without running water or electricity, on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Rebelling against the aimless drinking, punishing missionary school, narrow strictures for women, and violence and hopelessness of reservation life, she joined the new movement of tribal pride sweeping Native American communities in the sixties and seventies. Mary eventually married Leonard Crow Dog, the American Indian Movement's chief medicine man, who revived the sacred but outlawed Ghost Dance. It is a unique document, unparalleled in American Indian literature, a story of death, of determination against all odds, of the cruelties perpetuated against American Indians, and of the Native American struggle for rights. Working with Richard Erdoes, one of the twentieth century's leading writers on Native American affairs, Brave Bird recounts her difficult upbringing and the path of her fascinating life.

[\*Black Elk Speaks\*](#) by John G. Neihardt: The story of the Oglala Lakota visionary and healer Nicholas Black Elk (1863–1950) and his people during momentous twilight years of the nineteenth century, offers readers much more than a precious glimpse of a vanished time. Black Elk's searing visions of the unity of humanity and Earth, conveyed by John G. Neihardt, have made this book a classic that crosses multiple

genres. Whether appreciated as the poignant tale of a Lakota life, as a history of a Native nation, or as an enduring spiritual testament, *Black Elk Speaks* is unforgettable. Black Elk met the distinguished poet, writer, and critic John G. Neihardt in 1930 on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and asked Neihardt to share his story with the world. Neihardt understood and conveyed Black Elk's experiences in this powerful and inspirational message for all humankind.

- The group that travels to Pine Ridge Reservation, SD will have lunch at the home restaurant of Bette Black Elk, the great granddaughter of Black Elk.

***Neither Wolf nor Dog: On Forgotten Roads with an Indian Elder*** by Kent Nerburn: Well-written books about the author's encounters with Lakota people; provides insight into present day thoughts on Pine Ridge. This is a Re-Member favorite. In this 1996 Minnesota Book Award winner, Kent Nerburn draws the reader deep into the world of an Indian elder known only as Dan. It's a world of Indian towns, white roadside cafes, and abandoned roads that swirl with the memories of the Ghost Dance and Sitting Bull. Readers meet vivid characters like Jumbo, a 400-pound mechanic, and Annie, an 80-year-old Lakota woman living in a log cabin. Threading through the book is the story of two men struggling to find a common voice. *Neither Wolf nor Dog* takes readers to the heart of the Native American experience. As the story unfolds, Dan speaks eloquently on the difference between land and property, the power of silence, and the selling of sacred ceremonies.

***The Wolf at Twilight: An Indian Elder's Journey through a Land of Ghosts and Shadows*** by Kent Nerburn: Well-written books about the author's encounters with Lakota people; provides insight into present day thoughts on Pine Ridge. This is a Re-Member favorite. A note is left on a car windshield, an old dog dies, and Kent Nerburn finds himself back on the Lakota reservation where he traveled more than a decade before with a tribal elder named Dan. The touching, funny, and haunting journey that ensues goes deep into reservation boarding-school mysteries, the dark confines of sweat lodges, and isolated Native homesteads far back in the Dakota hills in search of ghosts that have haunted Dan since childhood. In this fictionalized account of actual events, Nerburn brings the land of the northern High Plains alive and reveals the Native American way of teaching and learning with a depth that few outsiders have ever captured.

***The Girl Who Sang To The Buffalo: A Child, an Elder, and the Light from an Ancient Sky*** by Kent Nerburn: Well-written books about the author's encounters with Lakota people; provides insight into present day thoughts on Pine Ridge. This is a Re-Member favorite. A haunting dream that will not relent pulls author Kent Nerburn back into the hidden world of Native America, where dreams have meaning, animals are teachers, and the "old ones" still have powers beyond our understanding. In this moving narrative, we travel through the lands of the Lakota and the Ojibwe, where we encounter a strange little girl with an unnerving connection to the past, a forgotten asylum that history has tried to hide, and the complex, unforgettable characters we have come to know from *Neither Wolf nor Dog* and *The Wolf at Twilight*. Part history, part mystery, part spiritual journey and teaching story, *The Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo* is filled with the profound insight into humanity and Native American culture we have come to expect from Nerburn's journeys. As the American Indian College Fund has stated, once you have encountered Nerburn's stirring evocations of America's high plains and incisive insights into the human heart, "you can never look at the world, or at people, the same way again."

***In the Spirit of Crazy Horse: The Story of Leonard Peltier and the FBI's War on the American Indian Movement*** by Peter Matthiessen: On a hot June morning in 1975, a desperate shoot-out between FBI agents and Native Americans near Wounded Knee, South Dakota, left an Indian and two federal agents dead. Four members of the American Indian Movement were indicted on murder charges, and one, Leonard Peltier, was convicted and is now serving consecutive life sentences in a federal penitentiary. Behind this violent chain of events lie issues of great complexity and profound historical resonance, brilliantly explicated by Peter Matthiessen in this controversial book. Kept off the shelves for eight years because of one of the most protracted and bitterly fought legal cases in publishing history, *In the Spirit of Crazy Horse* reveals the Lakota tribe's long struggle with the U.S. government, and makes

clear why the traditional Indian concept of the earth is so important at a time when increasing populations are destroying the precious resources of our world.

**[Keeping Heart on Pine Ridge](#)** by Vic Glover. Cruise down the back roads of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in this bold anthology of real-life stories. Creative writer Vic Glover lays bare the challenges, history, bonds, and rich traditions that infuse the stark reality of life on the "rez." Glover introduces readers to his friends, family, and neighbors, inviting us into his private world with a trace of amusement and a poignant honesty that grabs you from the opening line and never lets go.

**[Custer Died for Your Sins](#)** by Vine Deloria Jr: The book consists of eleven essays and is critical of aid organizations, churches, and the US government, for their efforts to 'help' Native Americans, which often hinder rather than help progress. Deloria also objects to the efforts of anthropologists to understand Native Americans, devoting millions of dollars to the study of individual tribes that would help the tribes to advance themselves. The book advocates [Native American religion](#), and encourages church groups to lay aside their theological differences and help the tribes whose members they sought to convert. Significant in its presentation of Native Americans as a people who were able to retain their tribal society and morality, while existing in the modern world.

**[The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian](#)** by Sherman Alexie: On a hot June morning in 1975, a desperate shoot-out between FBI agents and Native Americans near Wounded Knee, South Dakota, left an Indian and two federal agents dead. Four members of the American Indian Movement were indicted on murder charges, and one, Leonard Peltier, was convicted and is now serving consecutive life sentences in a federal penitentiary. Behind this violent chain of events lie issues of great complexity and profound historical resonance, brilliantly explicated by Peter Matthiessen in this controversial book. Kept off the shelves for eight years because of one of the most protracted and bitterly fought legal cases in publishing history, *In the Spirit of Crazy Horse* reveals the Lakota tribe's long struggle with the U.S. government, and makes clear why the traditional Indian concept of the earth is so important at a time when increasing populations are destroying the precious resources of our world.