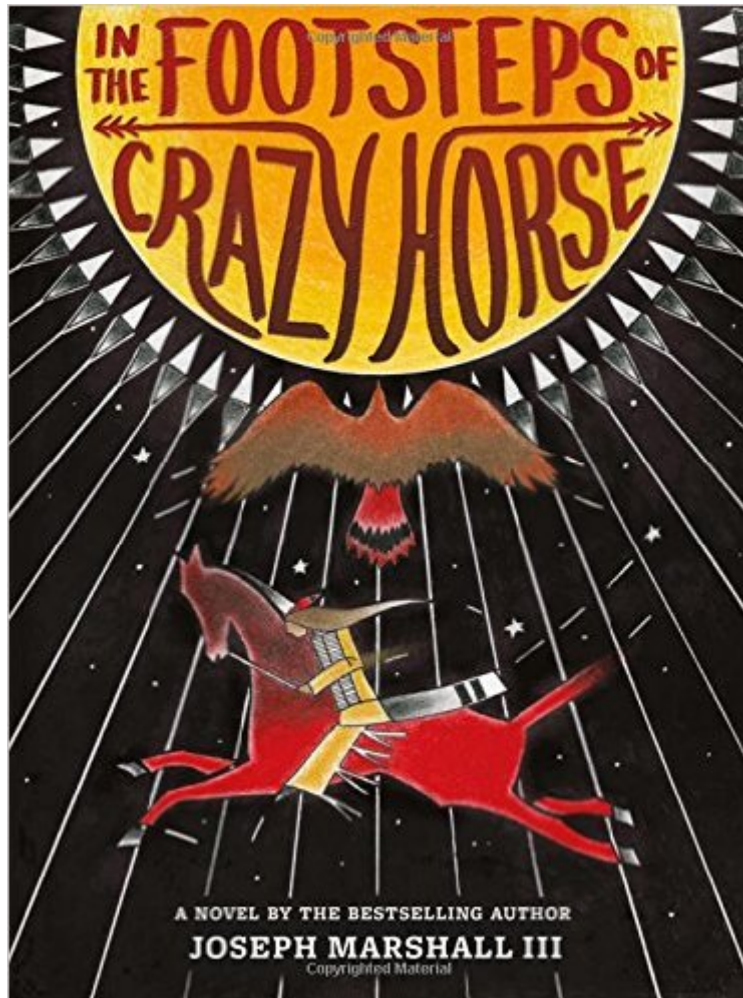


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# In The Footsteps Of Crazy Horse



## Synopsis

Jimmy McClean is a Lakota boyâthough you wouldnât guess it by his name: his father is part white and part Lakota, and his mother is Lakota. When he embarks on a journey with his grandfather, Nyles High Eagle, he learns more and more about his Lakota heritageâin particular, the story of Crazy Horse, one of the most important figures in Lakota and American history. Drawing references and inspiration from the oral stories of the Lakota tradition, celebrated author Joseph Marshall III juxtaposes the contemporary story of Jimmy with an insiderâs perspective on the life of Tasunke Witko, better known as Crazy Horse (c. 1840â1877). The book follows the heroic deeds of the Lakota leader who took up arms against the US federal government to fight against encroachments on the territories and way of life of the Lakota people, including leading a war party to victory at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Along with Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse was the last of the Lakota to surrender his people to the US army. Through his grandfatherâs tales about the famous warrior, Jimmy learns more about his Lakota heritage and, ultimately, himself.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 620 (What's this?)

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Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 0.6 x 8.2 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂÂ See all reviewsÂ (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #57,466 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans #181 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational #296 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## Customer Reviews

Summary: 11-year-old Jimmy gets teased at his reservation school for having light skin and blue eyes, not looking like a real Lakota. His grandfather decides to help him one summer by taking him

on a journey through Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana to learn about the famous Lakota warrior Crazy Horse. Through the places they visit and his grandfather's stories, Jimmy learns about Crazy Horse's life, his courage in battle, and his wisdom in knowing when not to fight. Grandpa's stories, in italics, make up the majority of the narrative. When Jimmy returns to school and faces the boys who have bullied him, it's clear he has absorbed the lessons Grandpa was trying to teach him. 176 pages; grades 4-7. Pros: History buffs will enjoy this recounting of various battles between Native Americans and the "Long Knives" who gradually took over their lands in the nineteenth century. The stories are told from the Lakota perspective, undoubtedly a bit different from what appears in a lot of history textbooks. Ultimately, there's no getting around the sadness of this part of American history, but the courage and strength of the Native Americans are what is emphasized. Cons: Jimmy seemed a little young for an 11-year-old, hanging on his grandfather's every word, and frequently asking, "For reals?" It would have been interesting to get a more detailed look at life on the reservation.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CRAZY HORSE by Joseph M. Marshall III tells the powerful story of a Lakota boy who goes on a road trip with his grandfather to learn about his cultural heritage. Designed for middle grade readers, this compelling story follows Jimmy McClean's journey to learn about the past in order to understand the present. Jimmy's grandfather facilitates Jimmy's quest by taking him to historical landmarks and telling the stories of his culture heritage using Crazy Horse as the thread that weaves the tale together. Librarians will find that readers of both realistic and historical fiction will enjoy this story. The novel would be an effective way to immerse readers in Lakota culture and heritage. Consider weaving this text into the upper elementary or middle school reading and history curriculum. The author's note, glossary, and bibliography add to the usefulness of this outstanding text for classroom use. Also, keep in mind that this book is an excellent addition to the diversity collection. To learn more about the author, go to <http://www.josephmarshall.com/>. Published by Amulet/Abrams on November 10, 2015. ARC courtesy of publisher.

Jimmy is 3/4 Lakota but the small amount of European in his genetic mix has given him light skin, light hair, and blue eyes so he is bullied for not being a 'real' Lakota. Jimmy's grandfather takes him on a road trip to trace a timeline of major events in the life of Crazy Horse. Along the way, Jimmy learns about courage, compassion, and wisdom.

In the footsteps of Crazy Horse by Joseph Marshall Have always been fascinated by the legend of Crazy Horse after seeing the mountain they are blowing up and sculpting to depict the horse and rider. Nils High, his grandfather will take Jimmy on a trip explaining about the crazy horse and the good deeds he made with the US government. He also knows others are bullying Jimmy as they spend time together checking Nil's 12 miles of fencing. He shows Jimmy where CH had once been and the story of how he saved others from the village fires. Liked learning of the Lakota traditions. So many struggles and battles! I received this book from National Library Service for my BARD (Braille Audio Reading Device).

In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse tells the stories of two Lakota Native Americans: a boy named Jimmy McClean and the fierce warrior Tasunke Witko, or Crazy Horse. Jimmy's grandfather, in an effort to pass on the culture of the Lakota people and instills values such as courage and pride in Jimmy, takes them on a journey across many historical sites. These sites are where significant events in Crazy Horse's life took place, and Jimmy's grandfather, during the journey, teaches Jimmy about Crazy Horse's trials and accomplishments. This novel revolves around the themes of courage, coming of age, pride, and duty. It uncovers a side to American history not told well today, and it emphasizes the importance of history as a means of growing as a person. In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse is realistic fiction with a great deal of historical information weaved into it. The author, Joseph Marshall III is a member of a Lakota tribe and has published many books, both nonfiction and fiction. His knowledge of Lakota Indians provides the book with accurate descriptions of real life settings and historical occurrences, giving tremendous amount of details and depth to the writing. In addition, his use of informal language in this book makes it a quick and easy read, best suited for elementary students. Marshall's writing, although it has many great descriptions, strikes me as choppy, and the dialogue in particular felt unnatural. In addition, the sheer amount of details in his writing made descriptions of locations and events tedious, and the book couldn't hold my attention for very long. Although the details seem excessive and unnecessary at times, they provide important depth and help shape situations. Overall, In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse expresses important themes and provides historic perspective to the reader, providing for an easy but informative read. Review by Lauren A., 15, Lone Star Mensa

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