

In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse

Joseph Marshall III

Reviewed by: Rachel Johnson, 41

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Jimmy McClean is an eleven-year-old boy who lives on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation with his mother who is Lakota Indian and his father who is half Lakota Indian and half white. Jimmy's blue eyes, light brown hair, and name are different from the Lakota kids he goes to school with so he's teased and doesn't like going to school. Jimmy's Grandpa, Grandpa Nyles High Eagle decides to take him on a road trip when school ends to teach him about his culture and history.

Jimmy's Grampa takes him on a trip and teaches him about Lakota history and the stories of Crazy Horse. Jimmy learns that Crazy Horse was his great-great-grandfather and a great warrior and leader. He also learns that he looked a lot like him. Jimmy and his grandfather visit many historical sites that were an important part of Lakota history. Grandpa Nyles tells a story at every site. His grandfather points out what Crazy Horse and many other natives encountered while trying to protect their land from American soldiers.

Joseph Marshall III does a wonderful job providing a historical background of Crazy Horse and the Lakota Warriors. He provides insight into how important protecting the land and the people were. This is a fictional story that highlights real events and a celebration of Crazy Horse. This book doesn't have much of a storyline but the stories told by Grandpa Nyles are very informative. Some of the stories include the Battle of the Rosebud and Battle of the Little BigHorn told through the eyes of the Lakota. Violence is presented in the story through battles between Natives and Americans. It's a great history lesson and I enjoyed every page. This book would make a great gift to ages 11-13.

Recommended Titles

Hidden Roots, by Joseph Bruchac

How I Became a Ghost: A Choctaw Trail of Tears Story, by Tim Tingle

Navajo Long Walk, by Joseph Bruchac

