

Bearwalker

Joseph Bruchac

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This short novel is based on a true Native American legend of the bear walkers. These "bear walkers" are half-human and half-animal. They can change into a bear at will, but in order to become a bear walker, he must kill a family member. The legend is told in the very first part of the book.

Then the story goes to Baron, who a Native American boy living in the present time. He is teased in school because he is new, but his teacher understands him and tries to help him out. Baron's class goes on a field trip for a few days in a forest, but disaster strikes. The campsite becomes isolated because of a landslide, and the telephone lines break. The campers are completely isolated from the rest of the world, and they hear a rumor of a man with a huge knife in the forest with them. The campers must survive and Baron has to protect his classmates.

The legend of the bearwalker was interesting, and I liked how the whole book was centered on that. I liked the sarcastic humor that Baron had, and there definitely was plenty of action. I would recommend this for readers in their early teens.