

**SACAGAWEA
BY LISE ERDRICH**

**Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee 2006
Grades 3-5**

Submitted by Stephanie Robker, Children's Librarian
East Baton Rouge Parish Library, Baton Rouge

Title: Sacagawea
Author: Lise Erdrich
Illustrator: Julie Buffalohead
Publisher: Lerner, 2003
Pages: 40

Summary

This beautifully illustrated biography of the Shoshone girl, Sacagawea, tells of her life from age eleven when she was kidnapped by the Hidatsa. At age fifteen she married Charbonneau, a much older Canadian fur trapper, and accompanied him on the journey with the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Her skills and knowledge of Native American languages were invaluable assets to the Corps of Discovery. During the expedition she was briefly reunited with her long lost family. The author includes speculation about Sacagawea's later life about which very little is known. It is known that her son Pomp developed a special bond with Captain Clark and was eventually sent to live with him a few years after the end of the expedition.

Awards

Carter G. Woodson Award for social science book that depicts ethnicity in United States
International Reading Association Teachers' Choice and Children's Choice

Review

From Booklist: "...an Ojibway writer and a Ponca artist tell the story of the young Shoshone woman who traveled west with Lewis and Clark. There are gaps in the story, but Erdrich avoids the usual mistake of making a smooth narrative by filling in with fiction...she is scrupulous about the facts, and, in an afterward, distinguishes between what is certain and what probably happened."

Author's Biography

Lise Erdrich is a writer, counselor and health educator of Native American and German descent. She is enrolled in the Turtle Mountain Band of Plains Ojibway. She has a B.A. in English from the University of North Dakota and an M.S. in Health Sciences from Minnesota State University. She works as a certified health education and prevention

specialist in Wahpeton, North Dakota at the Indian boarding school where her parents worked and where she grew up with her six siblings. Source:

http://www.childrensbookpress.org/guides/bears/all_about.html

Other Book by Lise Erdrich

Bears Make Rock Soup: and Other Stories. Illustrated by Lisa Fifield.

Illustrator's Biography

Julie Buffalohead studied art at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and studied for her M.F.A. at Cornell University. Of Ponca heritage, she believes that art is rooted in oneself first and one's culture second. She mixes images from tribal legends, Western stories and popular culture in her fine art, which is shown in many galleries.

Source: www.weisman.umn.edu/exhibits/ContNative/cinfo.html

Related Titles

Girl of the Shining Mountains: Sacagawea's Story by Peter and Connie Roop. Fiction. (1999)

Sacagawea by Judith St. George (1997)

Sacagawea, 1788-1812 by Rosemary Wallner (2003)

Who Was Sacagawea? by Dennis Fradin (2002)

Classroom Connections

Include this book in a unit about:

- Lewis and Clark expedition. Use this book as a springboard to a larger study of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The *Book Links* article cited below includes an excellent bibliography.
- Famous people
- Famous explorers
- Famous women
- Native Americans

Minnesota Storytime page www.MinnesotaStorytime.org includes excellent discussion topics and classroom activities to do after reading *Sacagawea*:

<http://minnesotahumanities.org/Literacy/mnstorytime/Sacagawea.pdf>

Web Sites

Book Links September 2003. "That Great American Adventure: The Lewis and Clark Expedition."

http://www.ala.org/ala/booklinksbucket/Volume_13_online_article_archive.htm

<http://www.ala.org/ala/booklinksbucket/Lewis&Clark.pdf>

Go West Across America With Lewis and Clark

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/features/97/west/>

Fun interactive site for kids to experience and understand the adventure of Lewis and Clark.

Lewis and Clark Journey of Discovery

<http://www.nps.gov/jeff/LewisClark2/TheJourney/TheJourneyMain.htm>

Contains a map of the journey west along with geographical descriptions of the region, mapmaking, and an introduction to the native people of the region.

The Lewis and Clark Rediscovery Project

<http://rediscovery.ed.uidaho.edu/Resources/Imagery.asp>

Includes resources about the expedition and images of important artifacts. Also includes a virtual tour of the expedition.

Lewis and Clark: Take the Survivor Challenge

<http://www.ewyl.net/dcross/resources.html>

Site links to other excellent sites about Lewis and Clark expeditions. Some include virtual and interactive sites. Also includes a recommended book list.

Montana Kids: Lewis and Clark

http://montanakids.com/db_engine/presentations/presentation.asp?pid=104&sub=The+story+of+Sacagawea

Fun site for kids to learn the stories of Sacagawea, Lewis, and Clark. Kids get a look at the plants and animals of the period and geographic regions discovered on the expedition.

PBS: Lewis and Clark Into the Unknown

<http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/into/index.html>

PBS site allows one to participate on the Lewis and Clark journey. The site allows the adventurer have an active role in the decision making process throughout the journey in order to understand what would have happened if certain choices were made.

PBS: Sacagawea

<http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/inside/saca.html>

PBS website containing the story about Sacagawea.

Wakefield Forest Elementary School Web Quest

<http://www.fcps.k12.va.us/WakefieldForestES/lewisandclarkquest.htm>

This site features activities and group projects that help students learn about the importance of the expedition and mapping.