

# Reader's Guide

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH BOOK TALKS

### *Living Nations, Living Words*

*Recommended for adults*

*The 23rd US Poet Laureate Joy Harjo, who is also the first Native American Poet Laureate, gathered 47 contemporary Native Nations poets to share their work based on the theme of place and displacement with four touchpoints in mind: visibility, persistence, resistance, and acknowledgement. This signature project is both a book of poetry and an online interactive collection filled with various art media formats.*

Request the book here: [tinyurl.com/kwfwcshp](https://tinyurl.com/kwfwcshp)

#### **Book Resources:**

Joy Harjo Official Site

[www.joyharjo.com](http://www.joyharjo.com)

Joy Harjo, U.S. Poet Laureate: A Resource Guide

[guides.loc.gov/poet-laureate-joy-harjo](https://guides.loc.gov/poet-laureate-joy-harjo)

Living Nations, Living Words Project Site

[tinyurl.com/ev5datp](https://tinyurl.com/ev5datp)

Educator Guide

[tinyurl.com/3htdy8pf](https://tinyurl.com/3htdy8pf)

#### **Discussion Questions/Guide:**

- Which poem was your favorite and why?
- Select one poem to read and then listen to the sound recording from the [Living Nations, Living Words](https://www.livingnationslivingwords.com) site. What were your thoughts after reading the poem and how did your feelings change after listening to the recording?
- In your opinion, why was “place and displacement” chosen as the theme for this anthology?



- How did the [interactive map](#) help you to understand the poet? Where would you place yourself on the map and why?
- How did this book shape your view on the concept of a person having connections to land?

**Read-Alikes:**

*An American Sunrise: Poems* by Joy Harjo (Book)

[tinyurl.com/ya5358jm](http://tinyurl.com/ya5358jm)

*Postcolonial Love Poem* by Natalie Diaz (Book)

[tinyurl.com/c7ki6stj](http://tinyurl.com/c7ki6stj)

*When the Light of the World Was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through* by Joy Harjo (Book)

[tinyurl.com/3k6pfdhw](http://tinyurl.com/3k6pfdhw)

**Other Resources:**

Interview with Poet Laureate Joy Harjo (Video)

[loc.gov/item/webcast-8767](http://loc.gov/item/webcast-8767)

*N. Scott Momaday: Words from a Bear* (DVD)

[tinyurl.com/46rk763n](http://tinyurl.com/46rk763n)

*Moccasins and Microphones* (Kanopy)

[lacounty.kanopy.com/video/moccasins-and-microphones](http://lacounty.kanopy.com/video/moccasins-and-microphones)

*Native American Poetry and Culture* (Poetry Foundation Site)

[tinyurl.com/ppwhjc7w](http://tinyurl.com/ppwhjc7w)