

Reader's Guide



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH BOOKTALKS

When My Brother Was an Aztec

by Natalie Diaz

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Recommended for adults

This debut book of poems by Pulitzer Prize winner Natalie Diaz explores the reservation, Mojave life, and Native issues. Filled with dark humor and lyricism, it's a must read for poetry lovers.

Find the book in our catalog here: <https://tinyurl.com/mu3hmk9a>

More to Explore

PBS - Conversation: Poet Natalie Diaz

<https://youtu.be/XRSCib-yAb4>

MacArthur Foundation - Poet Natalie Diaz

<https://tinyurl.com/2s4rwf7a>

T.S. Eliot Prize - Natalie Diaz Talks About Her Work

<https://youtu.be/kiJqcvJLY8>

Gila River Indian Community

<https://www.gilariver.org/>

Discussion Questions

- Were there any poems that spoke to you? Why or why not?
- What was your favorite quote or passage?
- Diaz describes substance use disorder as an actual being that controls the narrator's brother. How did this affect your understanding of what the family went through as the brother battled addiction?
- Diaz identifies as an Indigenous, Latinx, and queer woman. How did this intersectionality affect her poems?
- Would you recommend this book? Why or why not?



Read-Alikes

Postcolonial Love Poem by Natalie Diaz

<https://tinyurl.com/txmyz55p>

Nature Poem by Tommy Pico

<https://tinyurl.com/47vw4czx>

Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings by Joy Harjo

<https://tinyurl.com/yrfnj68p>

Other Resources

N. Scott Momaday: Words from a Bear (Kanopy documentary)

<https://tinyurl.com/yc8x2yb3>