

Reader's Guide



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH BOOK TALKS

Healer of the Water Monster

Recommended for ages 8-12

Nathan goes to visit his grandma on the Navajo reservation during the summer and ends up discovering Holy Beings from the Navajo Creation Story are real. And even more shocking is that Nathan must help his veteran uncle while also trying to figure out how to save a Water Monster. Can Nathan save the day? Read Healer of the Water Monster to find out.

Request the book here: tinyurl.com/yr9hus8z

Book Resources:

Teaching Guide

<https://tinyurl.com/mskp4pdn>

Brian Young Author Page

BrianLYoung.com

Discussion Questions/Guide:

- Why do you think Nathan was chosen to save the Water Monster Pond and his Uncle Jet?
- Nathan and his grandma Nali lived in a mobile home without running water, electricity, and Wi-Fi. Would you be able to live that way for one summer? What would you do for fun if you had to live like Nathan without running water, electricity, and Wi-Fi?
- The author used many Diné (Navajo) words in the story. The more Nathan spoke Diné, the more powerful he became. Why do you think the author made the Diné language important to the book?
- The Holy Being Darkness gave Nathan a communication stone. If you had one, what animal would you like to talk to?
- Who's your favorite character and why?



Read-Alikes:

Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids by Cynthia Leitich Smith (Book)
tinyurl.com/yex6f4xx

Navajo by Amarie Kyle (Book)
tinyurl.com/38wdrppp

Rez Dogs by Joseph Bruchac (Book)
tinyurl.com/4kvb5ytr

Other Resources:

Navajo History (Website)
<https://www.navajo-nsn.gov/History>

Navajo Culture (Website)
tinyurl.com/3ypwhxnb

Navajo Times (Newspaper)
tinyurl.com/pweu5aft

Racing the Rez: Native American Student Track Teams (Kanopy)
LACounty.Kanopy.com/video/Racing-Rez

Racing the Rez: Native American Student Track Team (PBS Learning Media Resource)
tinyurl.com/t5852m2b