

Reader's Guide



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH BOOKTALKS

***Rez Ball* by Byron Graves**

Recommended for ages 13 and up

*Dreaming of becoming the first Native kid on his Rez to be drafted into the NBA, Tre Brun has to prove he has what it takes to go beyond the Rez, especially since his father and older brother were huge basketball stars in the community. Can Tre overcome the grief of losing his older brother and handle everyday life while achieving his goal to become a professional player? Pick up *Rez Ball* to find out.*

Find the book in our catalog here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8m66fk>

More to Explore

Byron Graves Interview

<https://tinyurl.com/zxhs2dde>

Heartdrum Educator Guide

<https://tinyurl.com/986h3zru>

Discussion Questions

- Tre struggled with grief and balancing his school, basketball, and social life. What were positive or negative ways he handled this? Would you have done anything different?
- Tre and his community members experienced unfair treatment for being Native. Have you ever experienced something similar or known of others who did?
- Why do you think basketball was so important to those who lived in Red Lake Indian Reservation and to other Native peoples in the book?
- *Rez Ball* was praised for staying true to its Native perspectives with highly involved families, tribal specific slang, teen parties, and harsh realities such as racism, substance use, and grief. How did these details affect your understanding of the story and how you related to the characters?
- Would you recommend this book to your friends? Why or why not?

Read-Alikes

Saints of the Household by Ari Tison

<https://tinyurl.com/mvxy4me>



Where Wolves Don't Die by Anton Treuer

<https://tinyurl.com/2mncy24h>

Other Resources

For Walter and Josiah (Kanopy documentary)

<https://www.kanopy.com/en/lacounty/video/12597941>

Alaskan Nets (Kanopy documentary)

<https://www.kanopy.com/en/lacounty/video/12168131>

Canyon Dreams: A Basketball Season on the Navajo Nation (Adult Non-fiction)

<https://tinyurl.com/4hbmvv2>