

Reader's Guide



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH BOOKTALKS

Crazy Brave: A Memoir

by Joy Harjo

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Recommended for adults

A memoir only a storyteller and lyricist could write, Crazy Brave recounts Joy Harjo's early life experiences and relationships that shaped who she is as a person and as an artist. Filled with symbolism and spirituality, readers will admire Harjo's journey of self-expression and connection to her art.

Find the book in our catalog here: <https://tinyurl.com/ye28cnth>

More to Explore

Joy Harjo Author Page

<https://www.joyharjo.com/about>

Books by Joy Harjo

<https://tinyurl.com/4zw5cfku>

Discussion Questions

- The memoir was divided into cardinal directions. Did this affect your understanding or reading of the book?
- Harjo means "recklessly brave" or "crazy brave" in the Mvskoke language. Do you think Harjo displayed any bravery in her anecdotes? How so?
- Spirituality and storytelling were mixed in with Harjo's accounts of her life. Would this writing style have the same impact if it wasn't an autobiography but instead written by another person?
- Harjo equated poetry as an ancestor spirit. How does poetry affect Harjo's growth throughout the memoir?



Read-Alikes

Poet Warrior by Joy Harjo

<https://tinyurl.com/3azjuuk4>

Heart Berries by Terese Marie Mailhot

<https://tinyurl.com/3kv69ky6>

The Way to Rainy Mountain by N. Scott Momaday

<https://tinyurl.com/yumu967h>