

## Traci Sorell, Author and Educator

Email: traci [at] tracisorell.com

Website: www.tracisorell.com

Literary representation: Emily Mitchell, Wernick & Pratt Agency

Best-selling author and Cherokee Nation citizen Traci Sorell writes inclusive, award-winning fiction and nonfiction in a variety of formats for young people. She is a two-time Sibert Medal and Orbis Pictus honoree for her nonfiction work. Eight of her books have received awards from the American Indian Library Association. Prior to writing for young people, she previously taught at the University of North Dakota School of Law and the University of New Mexico. Traci also worked as an attorney assisting tribal courts nationwide, advocated for national Native health care, and directed a national nonprofit serving Indigenous elders. She earned her JD from the University of Wisconsin, her MA from the University of Arizona, and her BA from the University of California, Berkeley. Traci lives within her tribe's reservation in northeast Oklahoma.

### **Fiction**

#### **Picture Books & Board Books**

*Seasons*, illustrated by Frané Lessac, Charlesbridge, September 3, 2024, board book boxed set adapted from *We Are Grateful Otsaliheliga ᏍᏏᏁᏍᏁᏍᏁ*, ages birth to three.

*On Powwow Day*, illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight, Charlesbridge, September 3, 2024, concept board book, ages birth to three.

*Clack, Clack! Smack! A Cherokee Stickball Story*, illustrated by Joseph Erb, Charlesbridge, August 6, 2024, ages 4+.

Acclaimed in: *Kirkus Reviews* (Starred Review)

Selected for: Junior Library Guild (JLG) Gold Standard, 2024.

*Being Home*, illustrated by Caldecott Medalist Michaela Goade, Kokila, 2024, ages 4+.

Acclaimed in: *Kirkus Reviews* (Starred Review); *Publishers Weekly* (Starred Review); *Booklist* (Starred Review).

Selected for: Top 10 Kids Indie Next List, Amer. Booksellers Assoc., May/June 2024. Children's Favorites List, Teacher's Favorites List & Librarians' Favorites List (all for Grades 6-8), Children's Book Council, 2024.

*Powwow Day*, illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight, Charlesbridge Publishing, 2022, ages 4+.

Awards: Nominee, Bill Martin Jr. Picture Book Award, 2024.

Nominee, Flicker Tale Book Award, Young Readers, North Dakota, 2024.

Nominee, Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award, 2023-24.

Nominee, Buckaroo Book Award, K-3, Wyoming Book Award, 2023-24.

Highly Commended Title - Charlotte Zolotow Award, 2023.

Acclaimed in: *Kirkus Reviews* (Starred Review); *Publishers Weekly* (Starred Review); *School Library Journal* (Starred Review) and *American Indians in Children's Literature* (Highly Recommended).

Named one of the best books of the year by *Kirkus Reviews*, *School Library Journal*, Shelf

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Awareness, Chicago Public Library, Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature, Bookstaging Picture Book Guild and Cynsational Books of 2022.

- Selected for: Notable Children's Book List, American Library Assoc. (ALA), 2023.  
Texas 2x2 Reading List, Texas Library Assoc. (TLA), 2023.  
Cooperative Children's Book Center's Choices List, 2023.  
Teacher Favorites Book List, K-2, The Children's Book Council (CBC), 2023.  
Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens, Ages 6-9, District of Columbia (DC), 2023.  
Notable Books for a Global Society by the International Literacy Assn's (ILA) Children's Literature & Reading Special Interest Group (CL/R SIG), 2023.  
California (CA) Dept. of Education Recommended List, K-Grade 2, 2023.  
Nevada Reading Week Book List, Grades PreK-2, 2023.  
Society of Illustrators' 2022 Original Art, Featured Artist – Madelyn Goodnight.  
Read Across America, National Education Association, featured in 2022-23 Calendar - November 2022 Elementary Readers Book.  
Nominee, MISelf in Books, Lower Elementary, Michigan Assn. of School Librarians (MASL), 2022.  
JLG Gold Standard, 2022.
- Other editions: Paperback, Charlesbridge, 2025.  
Audiobook narrated by Charley Flyte with music by Frank Waln. OrangeSky Audio, 2022.

*At the Mountain's Base*, illustrated by Weshoyot Alvitre, Kokila, 2019, poem, ages 4+.

- Awards: Nominee, Bill Martin Jr. Picture Book Award, 2021.  
Picture Book Honor, American Indian Youth Literature Award (AIYLA), 2020.
- Acclaimed in: *School Library Journal* (Starred Review); *Booklist* (Starred Review); *Shelf Awareness* (Starred Review), and American Indians in Children's Literature (Highly Recommended).
- Selected for: John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum's Annotated Bibliography of New and Noteworthy Books for Young Readers, 2018-21.  
CA First Partner's Summer Book Club List, 2021.  
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Blue Ribbon Selections Book List – USA, Core Program 2020, 2021 and 2022 and Bilingual Program 2023.  
The Great Texas Mosquito List, 2021-22.  
Notable Children's Book List, ALA, 2020.  
Rise: A Feminist Book Project List – Top Ten Book, ALA, 2020.  
Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People, National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) & CBC, 2020.  
Notable Books for a Global Society by the ILA's CL/R SIG, 2020.

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Picture This Recommendation List, Wisconsin State Reading Assn. (WSRA), 2020.

Other editions: Audiobook narrated by Kimberly Guerrero, Listening Library, 2020.

Selected for: Notable Children's Recording, ALA, 2022.

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Cherokee language e-picture book.

### Longer works

*Mascot*, co-author with Charles Waters, cover art by Nicole Neidhardt, Charlesbridge, 2023, middle grade novel in verse, ages 10+.

Awards: Honor Book, AIYLA - Middle School Category, 2024.  
Honor Book, Jane Addams Children's Book Award – Chapter Books, 2024.  
Honor Book, Charlotte Huck Award for Outstanding Fiction for Children, National Council of Teachers of English, 2024.  
Winner, Nerdy Book Club Award for Poetry & Novels in Verse, 2023.  
Finalist, Cybils Award – Poetry Novel In Verse, 2023.

Named one of the best books of the year by *Publishers Weekly*, National Public Radio, *Kirkus Reviews*, New York Public Library, Chicago Public Library, Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature, American Indians in Children's Literature and Cynsational Books of 2023.

Acclaimed in: *Kirkus Reviews* (Starred Review); *Publishers Weekly* (Starred Review); *School Library Journal* (Highly Recommended).

Selected for: Best Fiction for Young Adults List, Young Adult Library Services Assoc., 2024.

Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts by Children's Literature Assembly, 2024.

Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People by NCSS & CBC, 2024.

Notable Books for a Global Society by the ILA's CL/R SIG, 2024.

Lone Star Reading List, Grades 6-8, Texas Library Assoc., 2024.

Project Lit Club Pick, 2023-24.

Top 10 Kids Indie Next List, Amer. Booksellers Assoc., September 2023.

JLG Gold Standard, 2023.

*Indian No More*, co-author with Charlene Willing McManis, cover art by Marlena Myles, Lee & Low/Tu Books, 2019, middle grade novel, ages 9+.

Awards: Winner, AIYLA - Middle School Category, 2020.  
Winner, Global Read Aloud - Middle Grade - Upper Elementary, 2020.  
Nominee, Garden State Children's Book Award, Fiction, New Jersey, 2022.  
Nominee, Young Reader's Choice Award, Junior Division for Grades 4-6, Pacific Northwest Library Association, 2022.  
Nominee, Oregon Readers Choice Awards, Grades 3-5 List, 2022.  
Nominee, Maud Hart Lovelace Award, Division I – Grades 3-5, Minnesota Youth Readers Award, 2022.  
Nominee, Black-Eyed Susan Award, Grades 4-6 List, Maryland Assn. of School Libraries, 2021-22.

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- Nominee, New Mexico Battle of the Books, Elementary Book List – Grades 3-5, 2021-22.
- Nominee, Wisconsin Battle of the Books, Middle Division for Grades 6-8, 2020-21.
- Nominee, Delaware Diamonds Awards, Grades 3-5, 2020-21.
- Named one of the best books of the year by *Booklist's* Editors Choice, Chicago Public Library, and Multnomah County Library.
- Acclaimed in: *School Library Journal* (Starred Review), *Booklist* (Starred Review), and *American Indians in Children's Literature* (Highly Recommended).
- Selected for: Los Angeles Conservancy, *People & Places: A Book List for Kids*, 2023. CA First Partner's Summer Book Club List, 2021.
- Just One More Page Recommendation List, WSRA, 2021.
- CA Reads Teacher Recommended Books, CA Teaching Assoc., 2020-21.
- Notable Children's Books List, ALA, 2020.
- Rise: A Feminist Book Project List, ALA, 2020.
- Notable Books for a Global Society by the ILA's CL/R SIG, 2020.
- Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices List, 2020.
- MISelf in Books List, Upper Elementary, Michigan Assoc. of School Librarians, 2020.
- JLG Gold Standard, 2019.
- Other editions: Spanish edition, *Indio No Más*, Tu Books, 2023. Paperback.
- English large print edition, 2023. Thorndike Press. Paperback.
- Audiobook narrated by Jennifer Bobiwash. Recorded Books, 2023.

### **Nonfiction**

#### **Picture Books**

*Contenders: Two Native Baseball Players, One World Series*, illustrated by Arigon Starr, Kokila, 2023, ages 7+.

- Awards: Honor Book, AIYLA - Middle School Category, 2024.
- Named one of the best books of the year by *Kirkus Reviews*, New York Public Library and *American Indians in Children's Literature*.
- Acclaimed in: *Kirkus Reviews* (Starred Review) and *American Indians in Children's Literature* (Highly Recommended).
- Selected for: Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People by NCSS & CBC, 2024.
- Notable Books for a Global Society by the ILA's CL/R SIG, 2024.
- Texas Topaz Nonfiction Youth Reading List, Unanimous Selection, Texas Library Association, 2024.
- Read Across America, National Education Association, featured in 2023-24 Calendar - November 2023 Elementary Readers Book.
- Society of American Baseball Research's Fall Bookshelf List, 2023.
- Fuse 8 Production's Lists of Unique Biographies and American History Titles for Kids, 2023.
- Other editions: Audiobook narrated by Traci Sorell. Listening Library, 2024.

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*We Are Still Here! Native American Truths Everyone Should Know*, illustrated by Frané Lessac, Charlesbridge, 2021, ages 8+.

- Awards:
- Nominee, New York State Charlotte Award – Middle School List, 2023.
  - Nominee, Great Lakes Great Books, Grades 2-3 List, Michigan Reading Association, 2022-23.
  - Nominee, Keystone to Reading Book Award, Intermediate List, 2022-23.
  - Nominee, Florida Literary Association Children’s Book Award, Grades 3-5, 2022-23.
  - Picture Book Honor, AIYLA, 2022.
  - Honor Book, Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal, 2022.
  - Winner, Social Justice Literature Award - Nonfiction Picture Book, ILA, 2022.
  - Finalist, Every Child A Reader’s Ages 8-11: Best Third through Fifth Grade Book of the Year Category, CBC, 2022.
  - Finalist, Jane Addams Children’s Book Awards – Books for Younger Children, 2022.
  - Nominee, Every Child A Reader’s Ages 8-11: Best Info Meets Graphic Category, CBC, 2022.
  - Nominee, MISelf in Books, Upper Elementary, Michigan Association of School Librarians, 2022.
  - Winner, Nerdy Book Club Nonfiction Picture Book, 2021.
  - Honor Book, Eureka! Children’s Nonfiction Book Award, CA Reading Assoc., 2021.
  - Finalist, Cybils Award – Elementary Nonfiction, 2021.
- Named one of the best books of the year by *Booklist’s* Editors Choice, *School Library Journal*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Book Riot* and Powell’s Books.
- Acclaimed in: *School Library Journal* (Starred Review); *Kirkus Reviews* (Starred Review); *Booklist* (Starred Review); *The Horn Book* (Starred Review); *Shelf Awareness* (Starred Review).
- Selected for:
- Nevada Reading Week Book List, Grades 6-8, 2023.
  - Notable Children's Books List, ALA, 2022.
  - Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People by the NCSS & CBC, 2022.
  - Texas Topaz Nonfiction Youth Reading List, TLA, 2022.
  - Recommended Literature List, CA Dept. of Education, 2022.
  - MISelf in Books List, Upper Elementary, Michigan Association of School Librarians, 2022.
  - Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choices List, 2022.
  - Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books, Ages 7-10, DC, 2022.
  - Just One More Page Recommendation List, WSRA, 2022.
  - Picture This Recommendation List, WSRA, 2022.
  - Nevada Reading Week Book List, Grades 3-5, 2022.
  - Fuse 8 Production’s Lists of Nonfiction for Older Readers and American History Titles for Kids, 2021.
  - JLG Gold Standard, 2021.
- Other editions: Audiobook narrated by Garrett Abel, Jacob Cummings, Mary Kay

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Henderson, Lauren Hummingbird, Don McClellan, Ella Mounce, Kaitlyn Pinkerton, Isobel Shults, Oliver Shults, Carlos Sorell, Traci Sorell and Tonia Hogner-Weavel. Live Oak Media, 2021.

Awards: Honor (w/hardcover) - American Indian Youth Literature Award, 2022.

Featured in: *AudioFile Magazine* (Best Audio Books of 2021).

Selected for: Notable Children's Recording, ALA, 2022.

*Classified: The Secret Career of Mary Golda Ross, Cherokee Aerospace Engineer*, illustrated by Natasha Donovan, Millbrook Press, 2021, ages 7+.

Awards: Winner, Creative Women of Oklahoma (OK) Award for Nonfiction, Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, OK State Organization, 2023. Picture Book Honor, AIYLA, 2022.

Honor Book, Orbus Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children, NCTE, 2022.

Honor Book, Septima Clark Women in Literature Award – Elementary Level, NCSS, 2022.

Honor Book, Mathical Book Prize, Grades 3-5, Mathematical Sciences Research Institute & Institute for Advanced Study, 2022.

Best STEM Books for K-12, National Science Teaching Association and Children's Book Council, 2022.

Honor Book, Skipping Stones Book Award, 2022.

Nominee, South Dakota Children's Book Award, Prairie Bloom Grades 2-3, South Dakota Library Association, 2023-24.

Honor Book, Eureka! Children's Nonfiction Book Award, CA Reading Assoc., 2021.

Finalist, Cybils Award – Middle Grade Nonfiction, 2021.

Named one of the best books of the year by *Kirkus Reviews*, The Canadian Children's Book Centre and A Mighty Girl.

Acclaimed in: *Kirkus Reviews* (Starred Review); American Indians in Children's Literature (Highly Recommended).

Selected for: Summer Reading List, Grades 3-5, ALSC, 2023.

Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices List, 2022.

Rise: A Feminist Book Project List, ALA, 2022.

Recommended Literature List, California Dept. of Education, 2022.

Keystone to Reading Elementary Book Award – Annotated Intermediate List, Keystone State Literacy Association, 2022.

Fuse 8 Production's Lists of Math Books for Kids and American History Titles for Kids, 2021.

New York Public Library Summer Picks for Kids, 2021.

A Mighty Girl's Summer Reading List, 2021, 2022.

JLG Gold Standard, 2021.

Other editions: Spanish edition, *Clasificado: La Carrera Secreta de Mary Golda Ross, Ingeniera Aeroespacial Cheroqui*, Millbrook Press, 2023.

Named one of best children's books in Spanish by Bank Street College of Education's Children's Book Committee, 2024.

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Audiobook narrated by DeLanna Studi in English with Cherokee words spoken by John Ross. Dreamscape, 2021.

*We Are Grateful Otsaliheliga* *ᎠᎵᎦᎵᎦᎵᎦ*, illustrated by Frané Lessac, Charlesbridge, 2018, ages 4+.

- Awards: Picture Book Honor, AIYLA, 2020.  
Honor Book, Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal, 2019.  
Picture Book Honor, Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards, 2019.  
Honor Book, Orbus Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children, NCTE, 2019.  
Picture Book Winner, Reading the West Book Awards, 2018.  
Finalist, OK Book Awards – Children’s Book, 2019.  
Nominee, Monarch Award – Illinois’ K-3 Readers Choice, 2022.  
Recommended Literature List, CA Dept. of Education, 2022.  
Nominee, Land of Enchantment Book Award – Roadrunner List, 2021.  
Nominee, Bill Martin Jr. Picture Book Award, 2020.
- Named one of the best books of the year by *Kirkus Reviews*, *School Library Journal*, National Public Radio, Bank Street Center for Children’s Literature, and Chicago Public Library.
- Acclaimed in: *Kirkus Reviews* (Starred Review), *School Library Journal* (Starred Review), *The Horn Book* (Starred Review), Shelf Awareness (Starred Review), and American Indians in Children’s Literature (Highly Recommended).
- Selected for: Recommended Literature List, CA Dept. of Education, 2022.  
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum’s Annotated Bibliography of New and Noteworthy Books for Young Readers, 2018-21.  
New York Public Library Summer Reading Book List, 2020.  
El Día De Los Libros, Children’s Book Day Selection, 2020.  
Notable Children’s Books List, ALA, 2019.  
Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People, NCSS & CBC, 2019.  
Notable Books for a Global Society by the ILA’s CL/R SIG, 2019.  
Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choices List, 2019.  
Picture This Recommendation List, WSRA, 2019.  
We Are KidLit Collective, Summer Reading List, 2019.  
Read Across America, National Education Association, featured in 2019-20 Calendar - November 2019 Elementary Readers Book.  
Fuse 8 Production’s List of Bilingual Books for Kids, 2018.  
JLG Gold Standard, 2018.
- Other editions: Spanish edition, *Estamos Agradecidos Otsaliheliga*, Charlesbridge, 2023.  
Named one of best children’s books in Spanish by Bank Street College of Education’s Children’s Book Committee, 2024.  
Board Book, Charlesbridge, 2021. In English.  
Margaret Wise Brown Best Board Book List, Center for Children’s Literature and Children’s Book Council, 2023.  
Audiobook narrated by Lauren Hummingbird, Agalisiga Mackey, Ryan

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Mackey, Traci Sorell and Tonia Hogner-Weavel. Live Oak Media, 2019.

Awards: Honor – Odyssey Award, 2020.

Finalist, Audie Awards - Young Listeners (Up to Age 8), 2020.

Acclaimed in: *AudioFile Magazine* (Earphones Award Winner & Best Audio Books of 2019).

Selected for: Notable Children’s Recording, ALA, 2020.

Denver Public Library’s Best Children’s Audiobooks, 2019.

### Longer Works

*Riding the Trail: Cherokees Remember the Removal*, co-author with Will Chavez, Charlesbridge, 2026, photo-illustrated middle grade book.

*She Persisted: Wilma Mankiller*, with art by Alexandra Boiger with Gillian Flint, Philomel, 2022, chapter book biography, ages 6+.

Awards: Middle School Honor Book, AIYLA, 2024.

Acclaimed in: American Indians in Children’s Literature (Highly Recommended).

Selected for: Target Stores’ Book Club for Kids 6-9 yos

Other editions: Audiobook narrated by Tanis Parenteau & Chelsea Clinton. Listening Library, 2022.

### Anthology Contributions

#### Fiction

“Secrets & Surprises,” middle grade fiction short story in *Ancestor Approved*, edited by Cynthia Leitich Smith, Heartdrum, 2021.

#### Nonfiction

“Read Banned Books,” an acrostic poem in *Banned Together, Authors and Allies on the Fight for Readers’ Rights*, a young adult poetry anthology, edited by Ashley Hope Pérez and illustrated by Debbie Fong, Holiday House, 2025.

“Artemisa Xariabá,” an acrostic poem in *No World Too Big: Young People Fighting Climate Change*, picture book poetry anthology, edited by Lindsay H. Metcalf, Keila Dawson and Jeanette Bradley, Charlesbridge, 2023.

“Teara Fraser: Helping Others Soar,” young adult nonfiction comics script illustrated by Natasha Donovan and included in *Wonderful Women of the World*, edited by Laurie Halse Anderson, DC Comics, 2021.

“Cherokee Nation,” chapter illustrated by Jesse T. Hummingbird and included in *One Land, Many Nations*, nonfiction middle grade multi-volume series from Reycraft Books, 2021.

“Making the Invisible Visible for All,” nonfiction essay in *Nonfiction Writers Dig Deep*, edited by Melissa Stewart, National Council of Teachers of English, 2020.

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“The way of the anigiduwagi,” middle grade letter illustrated by MaryBeth Timothy in *The Talk: Conversations about Race, Love and Truth*, edited by Wade & Cheryl Hudson, Crown Books for Young Readers, 2020.

“Cierra Fields: Who’s She?” two cinquain poems included in *No Voice Too Small: Fourteen Young Americans Making History*, picture book poetry anthology, edited by Lindsay H. Metcalf, Jeanette Bradley, and Keila Dawson, Charlesbridge, 2020.

“College Degree,” cinquain poem included in *Thanku: Poems of Gratitude*, picture book poetry anthology, edited by Miranda Paul, Millbrook, 2019.

“Thankful,” a list poem included in *Great Morning! Poems for School Leaders to Read Aloud*, edited by Sylvia Vardell and Janet Wong, Pomelo Books, 2018.

### **Additional Publications**

“Writers & Readers: Writing History is a Team Sport,” *Booklist*, February 1, 2023.

“How Native Writers Talk Story: Honoring Authentic Voices in Books for Young People,” *School Library Journal*, October 8, 2020. Co-authored with Cynthia Leitich Smith

### **Production & Direction**

Executive Producer, “ᏊᏪᏍᏗᏍᏗ (Dadiwonisi We Will Speak),” documentary feature film, 2023.

Producer & Cast Member, *We Are Still Here! Native American Truths Everyone Should Know* audiobook, 2021.

Casting Director, *We Are Grateful Otsaliheliga ᏄᏐᏐᏐᏐᏐ* audiobook, 2019.

### **Professional Awards/Fellowships**

Tulsa Artist Fellowship, 2021, 2022.

First Peoples Fund - Artists in Business Leadership Fellowship, 2018.

### **Instruction**

Teaching Artist, Picture Book writing workshop (virtual), The Loft Literary Center’s Mirrors and Windows Program, May 14, 2022.

Teaching Artist, Write a Picture Book workshop series, Center for Poets and Writers, Oklahoma State University-Tulsa, April-May 2022 and February-March 2020.

Faculty, Creating Nonfiction Picture Books for Children in a Changing World workshop (virtual), Highlights Foundation, November 20-22, 2020.

Faculty, Native Writers Intensive workshop (virtual), sponsored by We Need Diverse Books, August 13-16, 2020.

### **Professional Service**

Native Creatives Retreat, Host, Highlights Foundation, 2023-

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, Advisory Board Member for Oklahoma, 2022-

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American Library Association's Preservation Week, Honorary Chair, 2024.

We Need Diverse Books, Picture Book Mentor, 2019.

Kweli Journal's Color of Children's Literature Conference, Planning Committee, 2017-2019.