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Fire Race: A Karuk Coyote Tale Of How Fire Came To The People



Synopsis

Inspired by a legend of the Karuk people, the story of how Coyote captures fire and how Eagle, Cougar, Fox, Bear and others work together to help is a dramatic tale of bravery and cooperation. Plus, this is the fixed format version, which looks almost identical to the print edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My highest recommendation on this book is due to the fact that my five-year-old grandson loves the book and asks me to read it over and over to him. The illustrations are very nice and colorful, the book is done with wit and humor and is a fun read.

this was a book i heard at many a bedtime of my childhood. it is a wonderful story and the illustrations are fantastic. the karuk tribe is native to the klamath river in california and so many of the characters are pnw species. i recently purchased this as a baby shower gift and i hope the new arrival will enjoy this story of fire and ecology the way i did.

I found this book by accident in a local bookstore, and was astounded by the beautiful illustrations, as well as impressed by the afterword by a well-respected Karuk individual. The story of the race will captivate younger children, while the pictures will keep their parents entranced.

I'm a school librarian with a background as a cultural anthropologist. My passion, besides environmentalism, has always been American Indians, and since I live in California, I wanted an easy picture book to read to my students to help them understand the wonderful and artistic stories of the people who inhabited the state before it was taken over by "white people." This book completely fills that bill. I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to introduce children to different cultural perspectives. And it's a great story!

I'm fond of stories from Native American cultures that attempt to explain the facts of the world. In this story, we learn how Yellow Jackets got their black striping and why fire comes from wood. Coyote is sweet and knowledgeable; less of a trickster than he often is, and more caring of the animal community than usual. The illustrations are beautiful and remind me of Jan Brett's. They have good detail and personalities on the animals' faces. My favorite aspect of each animal though, was the token clothing or jewelry. Coyote wears a hat, eagle wears a necklace, fox has earrings. None of the jewelry are blatant but are subtle and understated, appearing as though the animals are comfortable in their adornments.

This is a story telling how the "animal people" long ago had no fire, and how they got it. Coyote figures prominently in the story, as the group's leader, but each animal plays a specific role. While I wouldn't recommend this story as an exemplary book, it nevertheless captivated my kindergarten ESL classes through repeated readings. Solely on the strength of the story and their interest in hearing it told, I was able to slowly glide them from a part Chinese-part English initial reading into a total English telling of the story, over a period of a couple of weeks. We acted out the story as a class for graduation, and the kids had a happy and thrilling time putting it all together. Social cooperation and the ethics of possession are all essential to the tale, which basically consists of the Animal People stealing fire from the recalcitrantly greedy Yellow-jacket sisters. In the end, though, the Willow captures the fire and holds it fast, but thanks to Grandfather Coyote's ingenuity the animal people learn how to coax fire out from the wood. The pictures are colorful and vibrant, and quite expressive of the story; the text is weak in some places, but never fails to convey the drive of the plot. With the proper performance, this book becomes a lively chase with a happy ending.

My boys are both half Native American and they didn't get that from me. Their dad isn't around so I wanted something to help them learn about their culture and more specifically their tribe or tribes that are in the same general area. They really like this book and read it everyday. They have to read for a certain amount of time everyday for school and they have numerous books but go for this book all the time. The illustrations are great too. My boys are 9 and 7 years old.

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