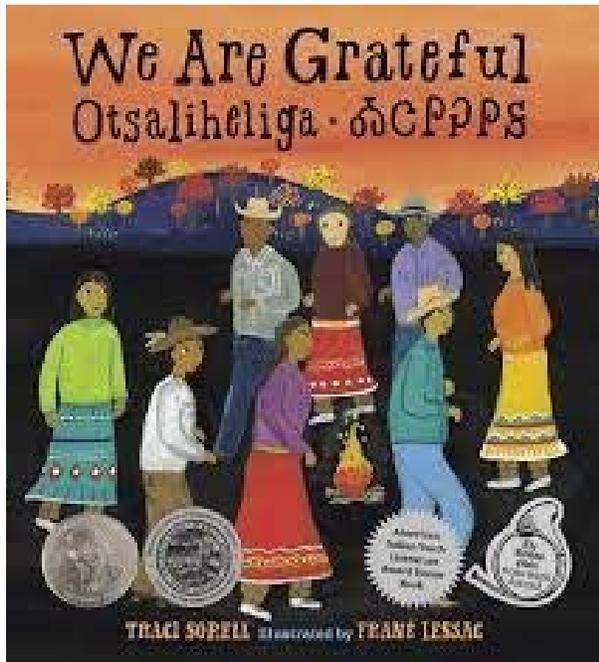


## We Are Grateful

By Traci Sorell and illustrated by Frané Lessac

A Book Discussion Guide by Sydney Stewart



About the Book: This book is about the community of the Cherokee People, written by a member of the Cherokee Nation. The families and characters in the book share each thing they are grateful for and feel gratitude towards throughout the four seasons and across the year. There are things they are grateful for in all seasons. The characters dedicate their thankfulness to their ancestors who made sacrifices for their freedom and happiness. They are thankful for the days of the year they get to celebrate, whether it's celebrating the new year or our veterans and those who have passed. This book is a great look into the

Cherokee culture and community. It has won multiple awards such as American Indian Youth Literature Award Honor Book, The Boston Globe Horn Book Award, Orbis Pictus Award Honor Book, and The Robert F. Sibert Honor Book. This book can also open young children's eyes to all the things in this world they should be thankful for and help them realize this life is not something we should take for granted.

Suggested Reading Level: Grades Preschool to 2nd (3-7 years old)

### Discussion Questions:

1. What is your favorite season and what about that season makes it your favorite?
  - a. What is it about your favorite season that you are grateful for?
2. What about the Cherokee people's culture and beliefs stands out to you? Why?
3. What did you learn about the Cherokee culture and languages after reading this book?
4. As the seasons change within the book, what else do you notice that changes with the seasons?

5. What holiday is the most important to you and your family and what season does it take place in?
6. Why do you think there are not many books about Cherokee culture?
  - a. How could we change that?
7. What other minorities do you not usually see in children's books?
8. What illustration is your favorite and what about it makes it your favorite?

Thank you card activity:

- Have your students get a piece of paper and make a card writing a letter to the things, places, and/or people they are thankful for.
- Don't have them just write letters to their families saying they are thankful for them but have them also write thank you notes to objects, holidays, traditions, etc. that they are thankful for.
- Allow them to be creative: draw pictures, use fun drawing tools, etc.
- Once completed, have them share aloud their letters so their classmates can hear what specifically makes them grateful for the object, holiday, tradition, etc. they chose.

All four-season activity:

- Have your students pick their two favorite seasons.
- Then allow them to design outfits (on paper) they would enjoy wearing during the seasons they have chosen.
- Finally, host a "fashion show". Allow your students to show off their designs with their classmates.