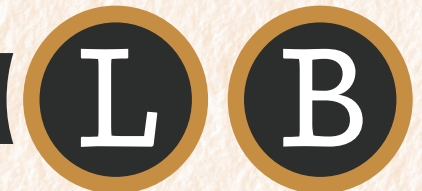
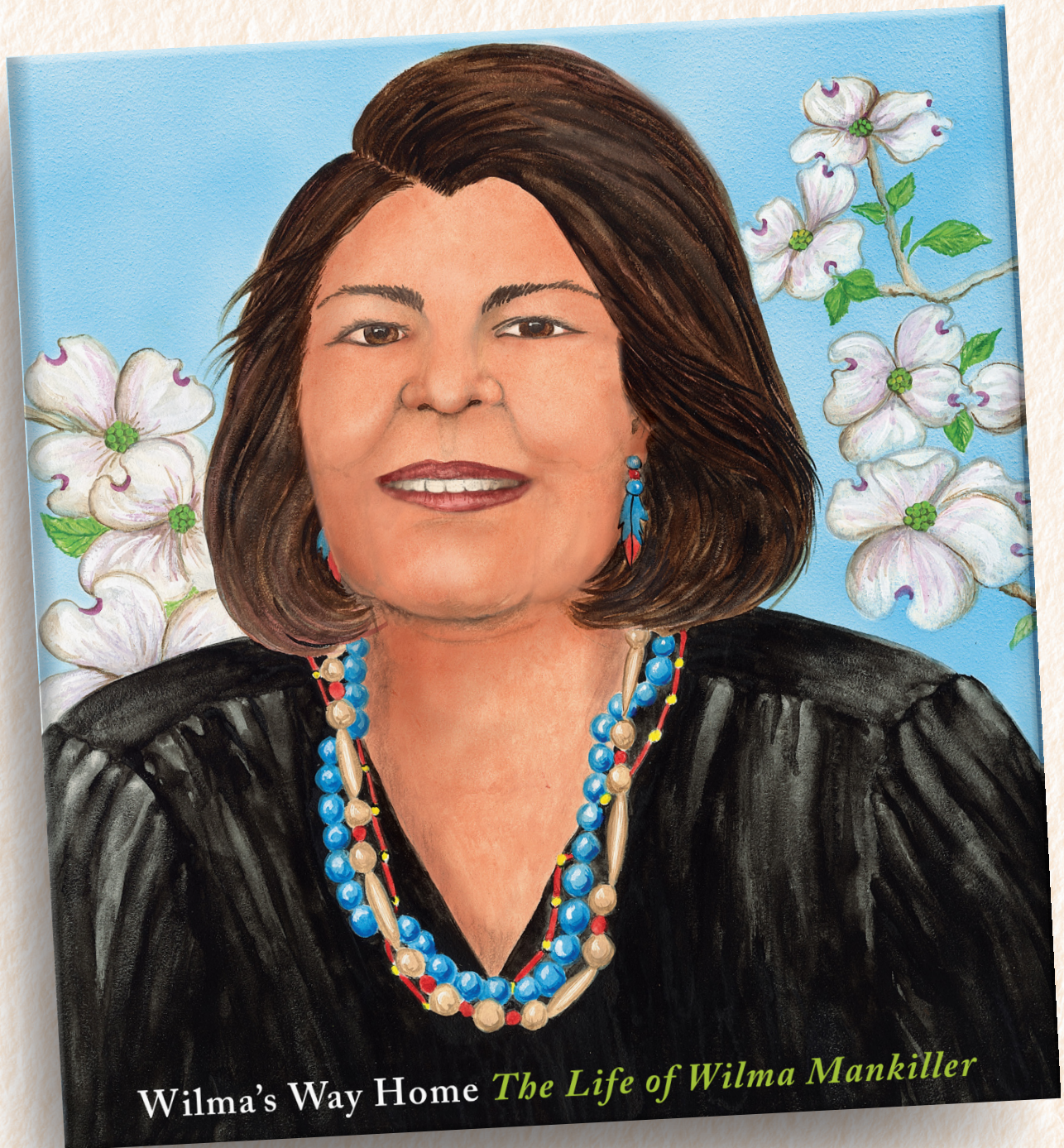


LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

Educator's Guide | Ages: 6 & Up



Discussion Questions

PRE-READING

Activate Prior Knowledge: In the past, what types of challenges have Native people faced in the United States? What kinds of challenges might they still encounter today (e.g., Keystone Pipeline)? Why is it important to fight for equality for all groups living in the United States?

Before reading a biography, it can be helpful to understand the important events and issues that shaped the related time period. Review a brief article or electronic resource about social protests in the 1960s or the progression of women's rights during the 1960s to the 1980s. Discuss how the social and political events described in your reading might have influenced Wilma's life, opportunities, leadership, and goals.

The author provided a Pronunciation Guide in the final section of the book. Review the following terms: Atsilvsgi, Gadugi, gatiyo, anitsalagi, dodigegatinstanv. What is the meaning of each word? Why do you think these words are important to Wilma's biography? Make a prediction. As you read, locate and discuss the words within the context of the story. Were your predictions accurate? Explain with evidence.

WORD	MEANING	SIGNIFICANCE IN TEXT (PREDICTION)
Atsilvsgi		
Gadugi		
gatiyo		
anitsalagi, dodigegatinstanv		

DURING READING

1. Describe daily life for Wilma and her family while they lived in Oklahoma. How did family and community members support one another? What is the meaning and importance of Gadugi? Use evidence from the text to support your response.
2. For Wilma and her family, what were the differences between living in Oklahoma and San Francisco? How did the move affect Wilma? Why might the federal policy be considered a “disaster”?
3. When discussing the Oakland Indian Center, Wilma declared, “The militants, the wise elders, the keepers of the medicine, the storytellers—were my best teachers. I felt like a newborn whose eyes have just opened to the first light.” Examine this quote; what does it mean literally and figuratively? As you read, locate and explain additional figurative language that is contained in the text.
4. Describe the partnership between Wilma and Charlie. How did they lead the people of Bell? Specifically, what process did they follow to create solutions and plans? What was the result of their actions? Cite textual evidence. Can you think of another situation in which this type of leadership would be helpful? Provide an example.
5. In the text we learn that Wilma became involved in a political campaign. What suggests that she would be a strong political leader? What challenges did she encounter during her political campaign? What does it mean to be “reelected in a landslide”? What does a landslide suggest about her leadership and relationships?
6. What did Wilma accomplish throughout her life? How do these accomplishments still affect the Cherokee Nation? Support your response with textual evidence.

POST-READING

1. Examine the quote on the final page of the book: “We are a revitalized tribe. We have kept the best of our old way of life and incorporated the sounder elements of today’s non-Indian world.” How does this statement relate to the quote on the first page of the book? Does the quote reflect Wilma’s life work? Why or why not? Which quote from the story do you find most inspiring? Why?
2. Can you think of another powerful woman leader who has faced adversity? What did this leader do to overcome obstacles and accomplish goals? Compare and contrast Wilma to your selected leader. Use examples from the text to support your answer.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Social Studies

Through her involvement at Alcatraz Island, Wilma demonstrated that protest is an effective way to express opinions. Why? Can you think of recent protests and their results? Consider the many issues that Native people faced in the past and still face today. Create a picket sign for an issue that you believe requires additional advocacy. Your picket sign should include both a phrase and illustration. After you create the sign, be prepared to discuss its meaning and importance to the issue.

Wilma's Way Home

Science

Many communities can benefit from the work that Wilma and Charlie completed in Bell (e.g., homes, waterline, etc.). Research the needs of impoverished communities and the ways that all people can support advancement or improvements. What specific actions, donations, and/or awareness could make a difference for these communities? Share the facts that you learn with a partner or small group in class.

Writing

Retell the sequence of events in the story by creating your own timeline. Then compare your account of the story to the timeline located in the final section of the text. What are the similarities between your account and the book's timeline? What new details did you notice in the timeline?

Art

The illustrator of the book created many beautiful images to make a powerful statement about Wilma. The portrait on the final page of the biography makes literal and symbolic connections to Wilma's life. Create your own portrait of Wilma that includes imagery intended to give insight into her leadership, life, and social and political impact. Be prepared to explain the significance of the portrait, and what others can learn from your illustration.



BIOGRAPHY PROJECT

Create a timeline to organize information on any person you study in a biography unit. You might want to, as a class, brainstorm the topics that are most important to find out about a person. Or you could create a web with information such as the person's name, early years, major accomplishments, education, sports, and hobbies, etc.

Discussion Questions or Writing Prompts

If you are using the discussion questions below as writing prompts, be sure that students include the following: an introduction, multiple reasons that support the main idea or opinion, and a concluding statement.

1. Why do you think the author chose Wilma Mankiller to write about? Whom would you write about? Why?
2. What are the most important things that you learned about this person in the text? What will you remember about this individual a year from now? Five years from now?
3. Which biography is your favorite? Why? Explain your answer by using specific examples from your favorite text.

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Research Assignment

Research the life of someone you think is important. Write a newspaper article about that person and include an introduction, at least five important facts, and a conclusion. Share your article with a classmate and discuss why your selected person is important.

How do people find information to create biographies? Describe the process that the author uses to write each story. Use online sources and related informational texts to research the topic.

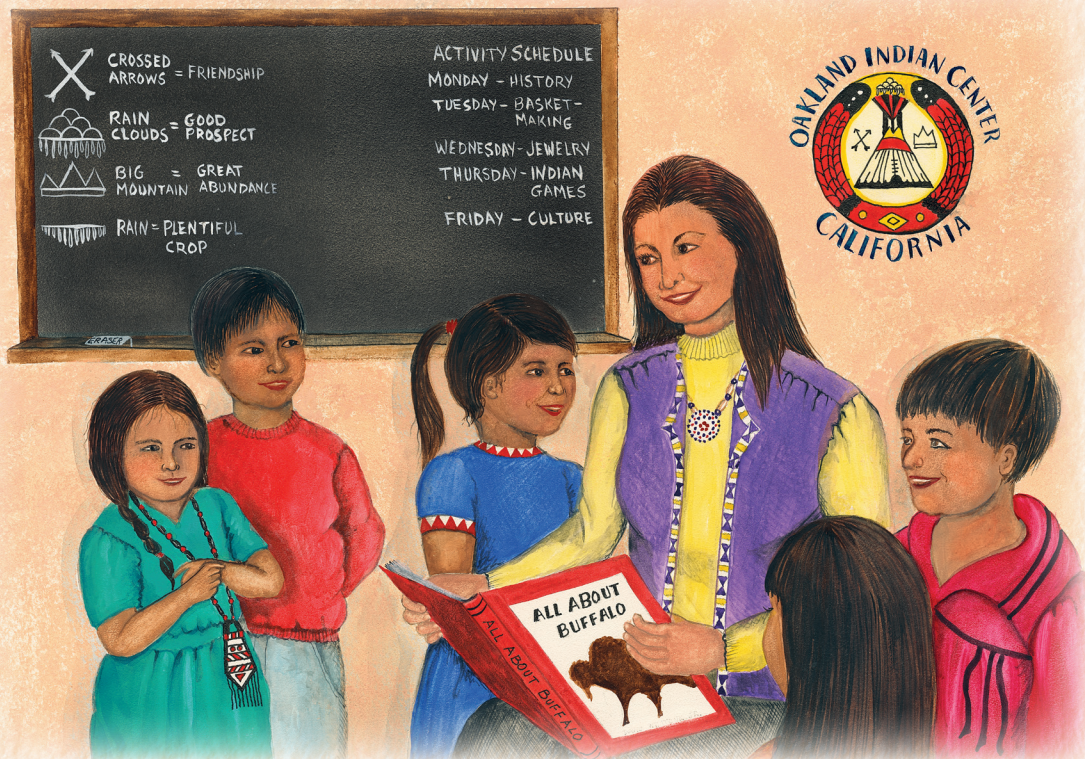
Great research is best done with primary sources rather than secondary ones. Primary sources are actual letters, notes, diaries, pictures, and other firsthand documentation of a person's life. As you research a famous person for a biography, be sure to list your sources and categorize them as primary or secondary.

Music

Research the type of music that was popular during your subject's life. What do you notice about the music's lyrics, instruments, beats and rhythms, and style? Create and record a song that you believe would have been popular during that time period.

Art

Create a piece of sculpture or collage that best represents the person you are studying. Use images that show important aspects of their life. Present your finished project to the class and use it to tell the story. Be sure to answer any questions that classmates ask about your work at the end of the presentation.



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978-1-484-74718-6 HC
\$17.99 (\$18.99 CAD)
978-1-368-02740-3 E-BOOK
Accelerated Reader 5.1

About the book

Wilma Mankiller was a true leader, as her courageous life journey and dedication to the Cherokee Nation demonstrated. Her actions embody the principle of Gadugi, which means to help one another. As a child, she was one of many families forced to leave her home in Oklahoma and travel to California.

Later, the Indian Center in San Francisco became a place of comfort for her and ignited her passion for advocacy. Among Wilma's many notable accomplishments, she was the first woman to be elected to the position of chief of the Cherokee Nation. In her leadership positions, she established numerous educational, community, and health initiatives that greatly helped the Cherokee Nation. With this biography, Wilma's brave determination, problem-solving skills, empathy, and resilience will reach a new generation of leaders.

Praise for the book

"An important read for all libraries, this work highlights a strong woman who left a vital message for future leaders."

—*School Library Journal*

"Gives readers a sense of intimacy. A solid resource for a classroom or school library about a phenomenal Cherokee woman that feels a bit like flipping through a family photo album." —*Kirkus Reviews*

- Junior Library Guild Selection
- Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies (NCSS/CBC)
- NYPL Best Books for Kids & Teens
- Rise/Amelia Bloomer Project Book List

About the Author and Illustrator



Doreen Rappaport has written numerous award-winning books for children, including *Freedom Ship* and *The School Is Not White* (both illustrated by Curtis James); *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*, a Caldecott Honor Book and Coretta Scott King Honor Book; and *Abe's Honest Words: The Life of Abraham Lincoln*, illustrated by Kadir Nelson. She lives and writes in upstate New York. Find her at doreenrappaport.com.



Linda Kukuk, a native of rural Oklahoma with Choctaw ancestry, specializes in both scratchboard art and watercolor painting. She is a member of the Oklahoma Art Guild and has received numerous awards for her work. In addition to art, Linda enjoys travel, photography, gardening, cooking, and competing in 5K races. You can visit her online at www.lindakukuk.com.

This educator guide was prepared by Dawn Jacobs, education consultant, and Tracie Vaughn Kleman, award-winning children's book author and literacy specialist.

Doreen Rappaport's BIG WORDS SERIES



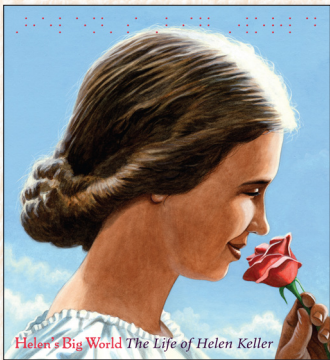
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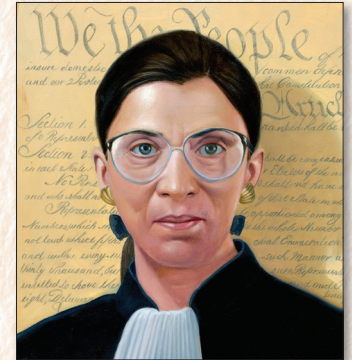
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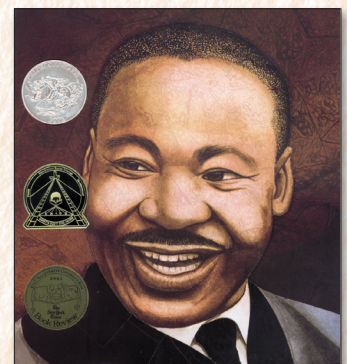
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John's Secret Dreams
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