

Maadagindan / Start Reading Book List

When possible, please buy from a Native owned bookstore.

<https://waterlibrary.aqua.wisc.edu/maadagindan/about/>

Maadagindan / Start Reading! Is an online book club for parents, teachers, educators or anyone that loves to read to children and focuses on Ojibwe culture and the Great Lakes.

Maadagindan is a partnership between the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Wisconsin Water Library at UW-Madison.

2025

Boarding Schools: Racial Justice in America, Indigenous Peoples by Heather Bruegl. Ann Arbor, MI: Cherry Lake Publishing, 2024.

Finding My Dance by Ria Thundercloud and illustrated by Kalila J. Fuller. New York: Penguin Workshop, 2022.

Stitches of Tradition: Gashkigwaaso Tradition by Marcie Rendon and illustrated by Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley. New York, NY: Heartdrum, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2024.

I am on Indigenous Land by Katrina M. Phillips and illustrated by Sam Zimmerman. Mankato, MN: Capstone Editions, 2025.

2024

Little Moons by Jen Storm and illustrated by Ryan Howe, Nickolej Villiger, Alice RL. Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada: Portage & Main Press, 2024.

When the Stars Came Home by Brittany Luby and illustrated by Natasha Donovan. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2023.

Winter's Gifts by Kaitlin B. Curtice and illustrated by Gloria Felix. New York: Convergent books, 2023.

Phoenix Gets Greater by Marty Wilson-Trudeau with Phoenix Wilson and illustrated by Megan Kyak-Monteith. Toronto, Ontario, Canada: Second Story Press, 2022.

Who Am I? by Julie Buchholtz and illustrated by Aliya Ghare. Ann Arbor, MI: Sleeping Bear Press, 2023.

Autumn Peltier, Water Warrior by Carole Lindstrom and illustrated by Bridget George. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2023.

Warrior Girl Unearthed by Angeline Boulley. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2023.

2023

Josie Dances by Denise Lajimodiere and illustrated by Angela Erdrich. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2021.

Nibi's Water Song by Sunshine Tenasco and illustrated by Chief Lady Bird. New York: Lee & Low Books Inc., 2021.

Berry Song by Michaela Goode. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2022.

Mnoomin maan'gowing/ The Gift of Mnoomin by Brittany Luby and illustrated by Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley. Toronto; Berkeley: Groundwood Books: House of Anansi Press, 2023.

Mii Maanda Ezhi-gkendmaanh/ This is How I Know by Brittany Luby and illustrated by Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley. Toronto; Berkeley: Groundwood Books: House of Anansi Press, 2021.

Keeshig & the Ojibwe Pterodactyls by Keeshig Spade, and Celeste Pedri-Spade and illustrated by Robert Spade and Kiniw Spade. Neyaashiinigmiing, ON: Kegedonce Press, 2019.

We are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom and illustrated by Micaela Goade. New York, NY: Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing, 2020.

Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults by Robin Wall Kimmerer, adapted by Monique Gray Smith and illustrated by Nicole Neidhardt. Minneapolis: Zest Books, 2022.

2022

Indigenous People's Day by Katrina Phillips. North Mankato, Minnesota: Pebble, an imprint of Capstone, 2022.

Morning on the Lake by Jan Bourdeau Waboose and illustrated by Karen Reczuch. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1997.

It's a Mitig! by Bridget George. Madeira Park, British Columbia: D&M Kids, 2020.

The Little People and the Water of Life by Rhonda J. Snow and illustrated by Eloy Bida.
West Duluth, Minnesota: Black Bears & Blueberries Publishing, 2021

Growing up Ojibwe by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Odanah, WI:
Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, 2018.

The Sacred Harvest: Ojibwe Wild Rice Gathering by Gordon Regguinti, with photography
by Kale Kakkak. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 1992.

The Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich. New York: HyperionBooks for Children, 1999.

Nibi Emosaawdang/ The Water Walker by Joanne Robertson. Toronto, Ontario, Canada:
Second Story Press, 2017.

To learn more about Maadagindan, Start Reading, please visit
go.wisc.edu/maadagindan.

Please contact Anne Moser akmoser@aqu.wisc.edu with any questions
or suggested readings for us.



Wisconsin Water Library
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON