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The Winter People

Joseph Bruchac
Best-selling author of The Heart of a Chief

THE WINTER PEOPLE
Synopsis

"Full of history, danger, courage and raw survival, this compelling novel by acclaimed author Joseph Bruchac is certain to have readers on the edge of their seat, start to finish." — The Dallas Morning News

Saxso is fourteen when the British attack his village. It’s 1759, and war is raging in the northeast between the British and the French, with the Abenaki people — Saxso’s people — by their side. Without enough warriors to defend their homes, Saxso’s village is burned to the ground. Many people are killed, but some, including Saxso’s mother and two sisters, are taken hostage. Now it’s up to Saxso, on his own, to track the raiders and bring his family back home . . . before it’s too late. "Historical fiction doesn’t get much better than this. The narrative itself is thrilling." — Booklist, starred review

“A heartbreaking but exciting story." — School Library Journal, starred review

Winner of the Disney Adventures Best Historical Fiction Award

An SLJ Best Book of the Year

A New York Public Library Best Book for the Teen Age

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0800 (What’s this?)

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (October 21, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 014240229X


Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.4 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #790,254 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 in Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Canada #429 in Books > Children’s Books

> Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial #499 in Books > Children’s Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

I read this book to my fourth graders as part of our home school. I definitely not something they could read themselves, but they easily understood it being read to them. I used this book as part of our transition from our Native American Focus during the colonial period/French and Indian War to a
focus on colonists becoming an independent nation during the Revolutionary period. The book takes place during the early stages of the French and Indian War in an Abenaki village that has seen a conversion to Catholicism and significant cultural influence by the French. This war marks a major shift with American colonists focus from relations with the Native Americans to being independent from Britain. The book touches on those shifting mindsets as compared to the early years of European settlement in New England. It also gives you an amazing glimpse into the thoughts of the French and their interactions with the native americans. It gives you a peek inside the thoughts of how the native americans' lives were affected by the French and the English: A peek into a changing world and a people who are living through a huge cultural shift. I love the way in which Joseph Bruchac seems to carefully blend history with emotions of the people who lived through that history. We have read several other books by Joseph Bruchac: Not all of them have been great, but all have been very informative. This particular book seemed to enrapture emotion from my two fourth grade girls. They were tense with anxiety during times of danger, they were near tears during times of loss, they were full of smiles in times of victory. I do feel that this book generally appeals to boys more than girls.

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