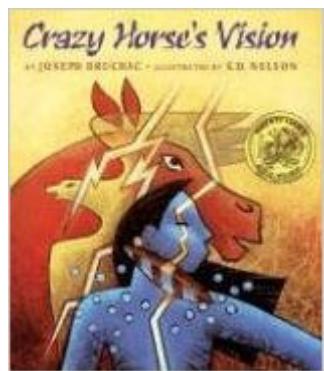


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# Crazy Horse's Vision



## **Synopsis**

Joseph Bruchac tells the compelling story of how a young boy named Curly seeks a vision in the hope of saving his people - and grows into the brave and fierce warrior Crazy Horse. Sioux artist S. D. Nelson's paintings, in the traditional ledger style of the Plains Indians, evokes the drama and the tragedy of this important American figure.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 420 (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

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Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.1 x 10.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #340,878 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #155 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Biographies > United States #260 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans #412 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s

Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

## **Customer Reviews**

I bought this book for my daughter who is in Gr.2. I am deeply troubled by the approach to history I see in American schools. The children are taught to celebrate Christopher Columbus Day (The man who "discovered" America! Never mind that he was actually looking for India ...), Thanksgiving Day (A day in which we should all be thankful for having come to America, because it is a privilege to live here! Tell that to an African-American whose great-grandfather was brought here as a slave), learn all about Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, etc. But these young Americans are taught nothing about Native American history, slavery, Crazy Horse or Frederick Douglass. What I see in my child's school is a curriculum light on facts, heavy on patriotism - designed to impress upon young minds America's exceptionalism based on a heavily redacted, thoroughly sanitized history. This was how it was in apartheid South Africa ... It does not lead to anywhere good, let me tell you.

A nation only truly achieves progress when it reckons truthfully with its past. So I must supplement my little American's school history with whatever I can find that will give her a fuller picture of her country's real history. I love the unique narrative voice of this book. And the art work based on the style of the people of the story makes it extra special - a Lakota story, told in their voice and imagery. This is a great story for young children to begin their journey into Native American history and its key figures. Note that, this book ends with an allusion to the coming conflict with the white settlers, but does not go there, and therefore does not mention Crazy Horse's murder either. But my daughter did ask what happened to him ...

Featuring color paintings by Sioux artist S. D. Nelson (who was inspired by the traditional art style of the Plains Indians), *Crazy Horse's Vision* by Joseph Bruchac is the true story of a young Native American boy named Curly who witnessed fierce battles between his tribe of Lakota Indians and white settlers. Defying the custom of his people, Curly ran to the hills in search of a vision, and what he saw would transform him forever. Curly would then come to be known in history as the Sioux war chief Crazy Horse. An author's note following the story relates a summary of the life and death of this brave an unselfish leader. *Crazy Horse's Vision* is an outstanding picture book and a welcome addition to personal, school, and community library collections.

Marie Sandoz' autobiography of Crazy Horse was the first book I read about Native Americans. It inspired a life long interest. Bruchac has used her work to describe Crazy Horse's youth for the young reader. His moral character is a model of Dakota values: generosity, bravery, respect for relatives, and putting others before self. Crazy Horse serves as an example for all youth. His story culminates in his Vision Quest when he learns his personal fetish and finds supernatural guidance in choosing face paint and symbols. He also earns his name, when his father bestows his own name on Crazy Horse. S.D. Nelson captures these symbols and colors in his beautiful illustrations and gives us a lesson in art history. His back covers are ledger book art which he explains in an end note. The style obviously inspires his own work, but Nelson has added dimension and expression and action to give us a unique style. Interestingly, the dimension and expression come through most visibly in his animals. Crazy Horse reveals no emotion. My grandchildren were fascinated with the art but at five and three a little young for the story.

I adore Crazy Horse and bought this for my 5 year old daughter who just loves this story. It's a great story for anyone and I highly recommend it for all schools.

As with many other people I have heard or at least known about the legend of Crazy Horse and his fierce battles. I especially have known about the Battle of Little Big Horn with Custer's defeat. What I did not know was Crazy Horse had another name given to him as a child or the fact his adult name was actually after his father, Tashunka Witco. "Crazy Horse" is the English translation of his name and most well known. The origins of names always fascinate me. I was impressed to find out the many things about Crazy Horse that lead him to the person he is known as today. I will not reveal all but one most impressive was that he was actually a very gentle man among his people. That is a truly different picture of the man, isn't it? The book was fantastic in itself but the added illustrations are top notch. The pictures, according to the illustrator, whom writes in the back of the book, were all done with acrylics on wood. He did them in the traditional style of ledger books from the Lakota people using the same colors the nation would use. To me, that adds to the authenticity of the book. This book is without a doubt a 5 star book for me. The book also won the Parent's Choice Gold Award and should be on all children's books shelves. Disclosure: I was given a copy of this book in exchange for my open and honest opinion. The views expressed here are 100% my own and may differ from yours.

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