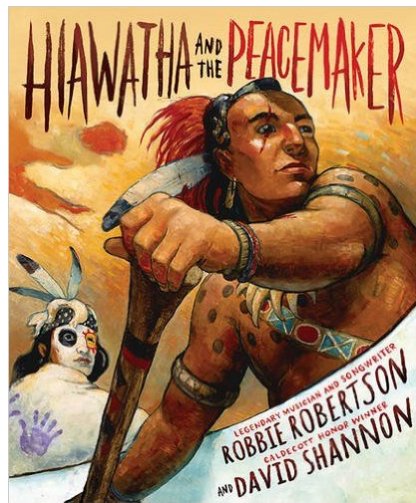


Children and Young Adult Book Review
Elementary School
Hiawatha and the Peacemaker

Educator Reviewer: Courtney Shimek
Student Reviewer: Foxie Nuruddin



Roberson, R., & Shannon, D. (2015). *Hiawatha and the peacemaker*. New York, NY: Abrams Publishing.

ISBN: 978-1419712203

Pages: 48

Educator Review:

Hiawatha, a fierce warrior, is lamenting the death of his family after a battle begun by the evil Chief Tadodaho, when he is visited by the Great Peacemaker and asked to help spread the Peacemaker's message. Together, the two travel to several tribes in the area and work to create peace, understanding, and unity between the tribes. This pact is no easy feat, as they must work against hundreds of years of violence between the tribes. But by sharing their personal stories and performing super-human feats, Hiawatha and the Peacemaker are able to convince 5 tribes, including Tadodaho's tribe, to form an alliance and work together for the good of their people. Hiawatha and the Peacemaker is a heart-warming tale about forgiveness, trust, and perseverance for the greater good.

...a reminder of the importance of forgiveness, peace, and harmony amongst us all.

Robertson, born Mohawk and Cayuga, heard the tale of Hiawatha and the Peacemaker while visiting with family in Ontario, Canada when he was 9. Hiawatha and the Peacemaker, officially named Deganawida, are said to have lived in the 14th century and worked to create one of the world's first democracies among 5 nations of Iroquois people. These nations are said to have influenced many of the creators of the U.S. Constitution including Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, and continue to meet in the name of peace to this day. David Shannon's textured, elaborate, and vibrant illustrations display the strong emotions and passion behind this story, as well as the skillful and delicate sensitivity Hiawatha and Deganawida must have required to unite such opposing tribes. *Hiawatha and the Peacemaker* is not only a beautiful depiction of Native American history, but also a reminder of the importance of forgiveness, peace, and harmony amongst us all. Thus, it appeals to readers of all ages and adds a unique perspective to the body of literature about Native American culture.

Although no pictures display overt violence in the book, battles among the tribes are mentioned throughout the text and it becomes known to the reader quickly that Hiawatha's wife and three daughters are dead as a result of this fighting.

Courtney Shimek
The University of Georgia, Athens, GA
Ph.D. Student

Student Review:

Hiawatha and the Peacemaker is a good book because it teaches about Native American tribes, they way they battled, and the way they joined together. The book is important because I learned about Native Americans in school. It helped me learn about more tribes and how they lived. In this book, Mr. Robertson tells the true story of Hiawatha, not the story that is usually taught in schools.

I would recommend this book to other kids because it talks about spreading peace. Also, the pictures are AMAZING! The first thing I did was take a picture walk. The pictures help tell what you are going to be reading. My teacher would like this book because she teaches social studies and during the lessons, we learn about Native Americans.

What I liked best about the book was when an evil man joined the Five Nations and stopped his wicked ways. He reminded me of the character of Medusa, because his hair was full of snakes, but no one turns

into stone. Also, the book comes with a CD. I liked the song, and I liked Mr. Robertson's voice. This book made me want to learn more about the Peacemaker.

Foxie Nuruddin

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4th Grade