

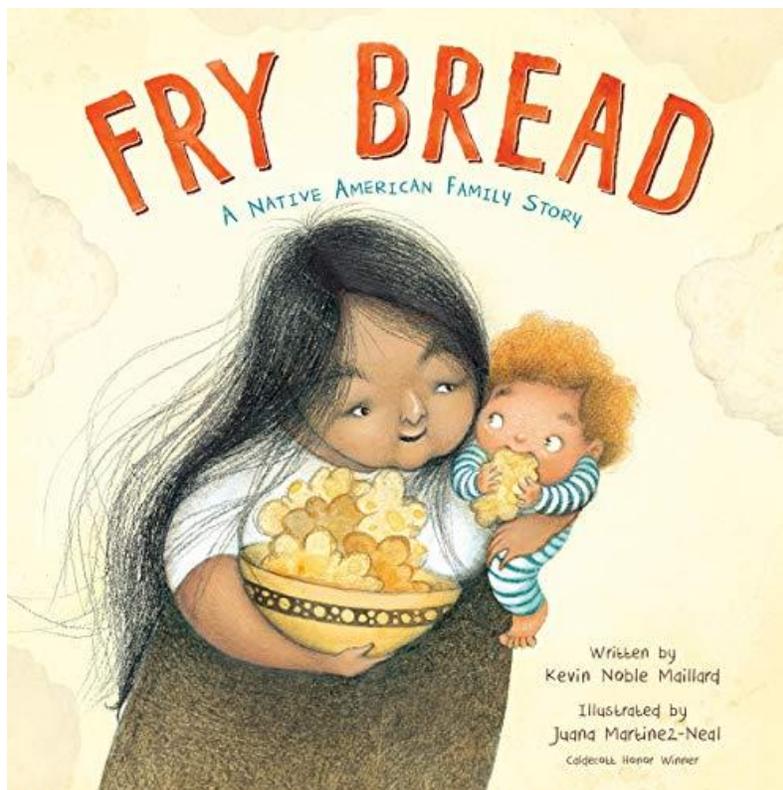
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Review of *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story* Written by Kevin Noble Maillard & Illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal

Adult/Educator Reviewer: Tori Golden Hughes
University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Child/Student Reviewer: Reed Norton, Grade 1



Maillard, K. N., & Martinez-Neal, J. (Illustrator) (2019). *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story*. Roaring Brook Press.

ISBN: 978-1626727465

Adult Review: Tori Golden Hughes

Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story is a heart-warming celebration of community and culture that invites readers to learn about the traditional process of baking fry bread as well as the many representations in which “fry bread is...”. The book begins by explaining fry bread is a type of food that comes in various shapes, sizes, and colors. It is made mostly of flour, salt, water, cornmeal, milk, sugar, and baking powder. The book further explains that fry bread is art, time, and heritage that brings family and friends together. Towards the end of the book, readers see the powerful representations of history, nation, and place in which “fry bread is...”. The book concludes by stating “fry bread is us; fry bread is you”, signifying to readers that fry bread is a representation of Native American culture and will continue to be for generations to come.

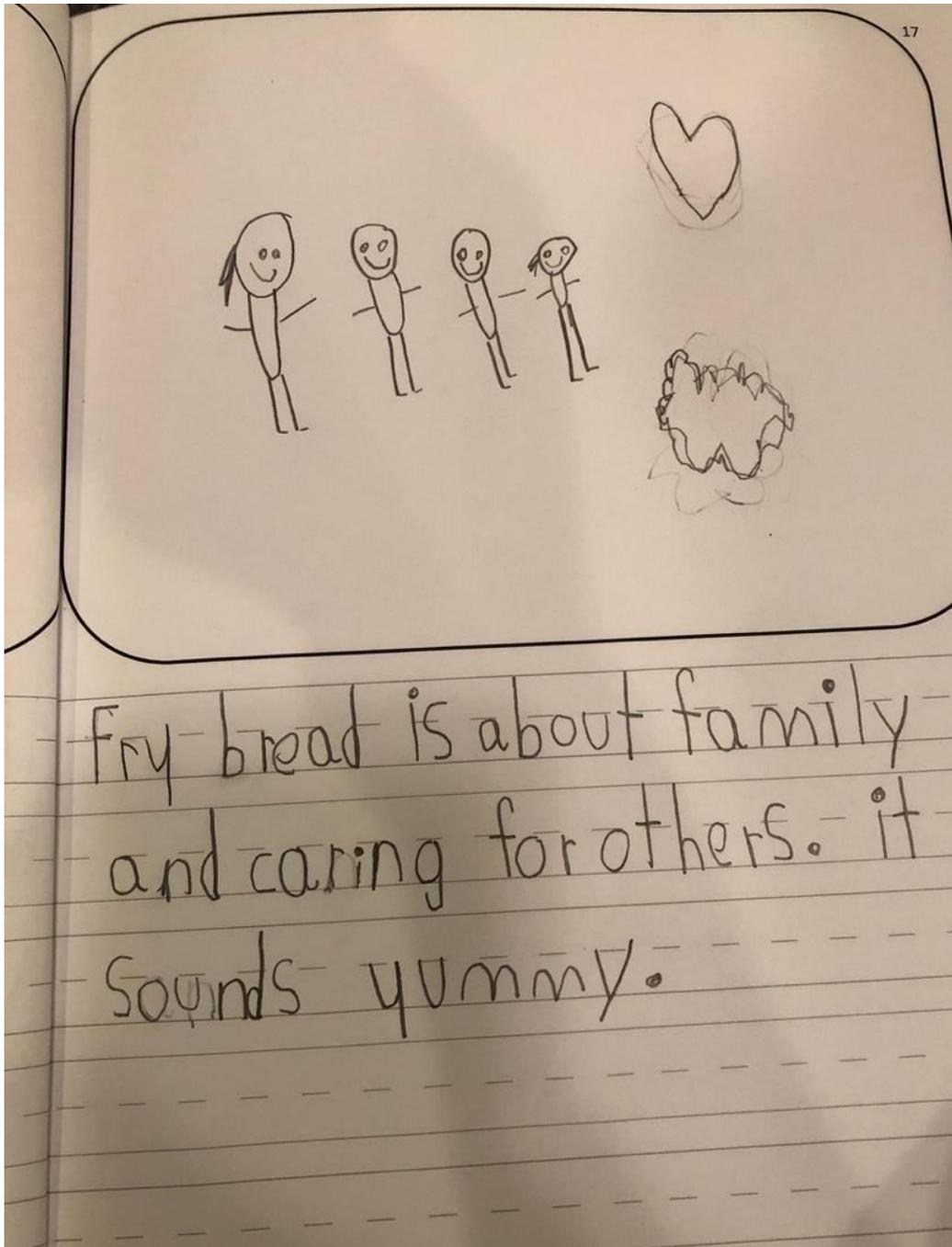
Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story might appeal to elementary educators, or parents/guardians that are interested in engaging their students or young readers with children’s literature that includes diverse characters and information on diversity while integrating language arts into the discipline of history. *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story* can support educators in integrating disciplinary literacy into their classroom instruction. For example, educators might consider posing questions such as “Who wrote this

story? What is the authors’ perspective?” to engage students in the discipline-specific skill of sourcing. Further, educators might pose questions such as “Which historical events or time periods is this story a product of?” to help students contextualize the historical content of the book. Finally, educators might have students consider how the information provided in backmatter, might contribute to their overall understanding of the historical content addressed in the book.

Before implementing this picture book into classroom instruction, educators might consider

facilitating a whole group discussion focused on culture and identity. Educators might consider starting the conversation by sharing information about their own culture and how it shapes their identity. Educators might also consider introducing peritextual features, such as an author’s note, and their purposes to students. Lastly, before using this book for classroom instruction, educators might consider supporting students’ background knowledge of historical events that contribute to the story being told in *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story*. These historical events include the Indian Removal Act of 1830 and the Trail of Tears in 1831.

Student Review: Reed Norton (Grade 1)



Fry bread is about family
and caring for others. It
sounds yummy.