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American Indian Culture and Research Journal

Title

Love Flute. Story and illustrations by Paul Goble./Hiawatha: Messenger of Peace. By Dennis Brindell Fradin./Drifting Snow: An Arctic Search. By James Houston.

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/9nv4c8wk>

Journal

American Indian Culture and Research Journal , 17(3)

ISSN

0161-6463

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Publication Date

1993-06-01

DOI

10.17953

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Love Flute. Story and illustrations by Paul Goble. New York: Bradbury Press, 1992. 32 pages. \$14.95 cloth.

Hiawatha: Messenger of Peace. By Dennis Brindell Fradin. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Book, 1992. 40 pages. \$14.95 cloth.

Drifting Snow: An Arctic Search. By James Houston. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1992. 150 pages. \$13.95 cloth.

The three works under review herein are new publications in juvenile literature that have as their subject matter Native American culture and history. There are, to this date, few children's books written by native writers, but these three books written by non-Indians are welcome additions to literature about Native Americans. In the absence of a native voice in juvenile literature, these works are, nonetheless, sensitive, carefully written, and accurate.

Paul Goble is the author of many wonderful children's books, such as *The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses* and *Beyond the Ridge*. *Love Flute* is beautifully illustrated in the unique Goble style that combines traditional Plains Indian graphic forms with contemporary artistry. There is, in all Goble's art, a careful adherence to the depiction of traditional Lakota designs and native life of the last century.

"This is the story of a shy young man who was given the very first love flute, long ago, by the birds and animals (p. 6)." And so it is. The boy is a brave hunter and warrior, unable to speak to the girl he loves. In sadness, he leaves his camp and wanders out onto the Plains.

One night, in a vision or dream, he receives a gift of a flute from the Elk Men. After the birds and animals teach him their songs, he returns to his village, where the people are charmed by the haunting beauty of his music, and the girl he loves hears the song in her heart. It is a beautiful tale, wonderfully told.

Goble's sources for the text of *Love Flute* are the many myths of the Plains tribes that give accounts of the gifting of the flute. Goble provides a helpful and reliable introduction concerning the use of flutes in courtship that makes clear their sacred nature.

In addition to his exquisite illustrations of the story, Goble includes, scattered throughout the book, drawings of sixteen flutes he inspected at ten museums and cultural centers. On the reference page at the beginning of the book, Goble identifies the

sources of the love flute drawings. However, because the work does not have page numbers, it is difficult to identify the sources with the sketches.

Although it is juvenile literature, *Love Flute* does have a very good list of references about flutes and flute music (as well as an address where one can order cassette tapes of traditional flute songs) that includes noted ethnomusicologist Frances Densmore and anthropologist William K. Powers. This work, however, is most appropriate to the lower primary grades, and its illustrations are certain to be attractive to younger children.

Hiawatha: Messenger of Peace, by Dennis Brindell Fradin, tells the story of the real Hiawatha, a leader/culture hero who lived among the Iroquois five hundred years ago. To most people, Hiawatha is the fictional hero of the epic poem, "The Song of Hiawatha" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Most, however, do not know that there was an actual person named Hiawatha. This book not only traces the original Hiawatha's life but reconstructs the culture in which he might have lived.

There are ten color photos, mainly of contemporary interpretations of the authentic Hiawatha story painted by modern Iroquois artists, and ten black-and-white photos, focusing primarily on ethnographic objects of the Northeast Woodlands, such as rattles and cradleboards. Fradin provides an index as well as a bibliography.

Hiawatha: Messenger of Peace is very appropriate as a reference book and would be an excellent addition to any elementary school library. This work provides some basic knowledge of Northeastern Indian culture and precontact history and serves as an excellent introduction to American Indian contributions to American government.

The third book under review is *Drifting Snow: An Arctic Search*, by James Houston. Houston, who lived with the Inuit on Baffin Island for twelve years, based this story on some actual events in the eastern Canadian arctic. It is a powerful and contemporary story of a young Inuit (Eskimo) girl's search for her identity. This story has a twist from the usual "searching for identity" theme, however. At the age of two, Elizabeth Queen was separated from her family in the rush to save her from tuberculosis. She was placed aboard a ship, and, in the confusion of the moment, her identification papers and name tag were lost. Ten years later, she sets out on her quest to find her family and her culture.

Elizabeth knows nothing about her past save that she is Inuit. Her three-year stay in a hospital in the south and seven years in boarding school have wiped out any memories of her family, her culture, and her language. Even her name is borrowed—from no less than Queen Elizabeth of England, whose picture appears on the paper money of Canada.

Houston's novel is about not only a young girl's quest for identity but also the changing world of the Inuit people and culture. Elizabeth elects to stay in the arctic with a family that adopts her, and she begins to learn her language and the ways of the arctic hunters. This is a culture that still deals with the same dangers as its ancestors but with the advantages of rifles and snow machines. What is most hopeful about Houston's treatment of this subtheme is that the Inuit have adapted to the contemporary technology without sacrificing their cultural identity. Houston does not make value judgments about the Inuit's acceptance or rejection of the outside influences on their culture but merely allows his characters to live in those two worlds. Some choose to live in towns and drive snow removal equipment, while others elect to live in houses of snow and hunt seals.

Houston's intimate knowledge of Inuit culture and the arctic environment is quite evident in *Drifting Snow*. The beauty and dangers of living in the arctic are coupled with an exciting story of day-to-day living amid that beauty and danger. Readers learn along with Elizabeth what it is to grow up Inuit.

This novel will be a wonderful addition to any junior high or secondary school library. Young readers are sure to be drawn into Elizabeth's search and will appreciate the beauty of her culture. Houston's illustrations of snow houses and Inuit tools give a strong visual image to his well-written prose. The only criticism that can be offered is that the author might have included a map to help young readers orient themselves to the setting.

Until that time when Native American writers begin to focus more attention on juvenile literature, one can only hope that non-Indian writers will create sympathetic and faithful works about native people. Goble, Fradin, and Houston offer three such publications.

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