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Students of Cherokee history also might wish to know more about the Cherokee who were Jones's contemporaries, co-laborers, and constituents. Of particular interest might be the overall reaction of Cherokee peoples to Baptist conversion efforts. Indeed, if there is a possible connection between the foundation laid by the Joneses and the role of Cherokee Baptists today, that revelation would help our understanding of institutional and social continuity.

William McLaughlin deserves generous praise for his accomplishment. In tandem with his earlier publications, his research illuminates a fascinating era in the lives of the Cherokee and the missionaries who served them.

James H. O'Donnell III  
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**Cheyenne Indians.** By Liz Sonneborn. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1991. 80 pages. \$12.95 cloth.

Positive reading experiences play a key role in the development of a child's reading abilities and attitudes. Research shows that beginning readers will return again and again to favorite books (Bacon, "The Art of Nonfiction," *Children's Literature in Education* 12:3 [1981]). *Cheyenne Indians*, a sensitive and comprehensive book by Liz Sonneborn, is proving to be one of those favorites. Beginning with the transformation of a mud figure into an accomplished Cheyenne horseman and progressing through the perplexing changes and evolution of the tribe, this carefully written text illustrates the unique strength of the Cheyenne people.

In elementary school, the practical uses of nonfiction have become clear (Carr, *Beyond Fact: Nonfiction for Young Children and Young People*, 1982). Fortunately, there is a growing body of nonfiction books for young children that are attractive and exciting. *Cheyenne Indians* is one of these. The book is organized around several major themes: (1) the strengths of the Cheyenne as leaders, (2) their territorial habits, (3) their cultural uniqueness, (4) the challenges of change, (5) the struggle for peace, and (6) the promise of the future.

This sensitive story conveys a concrete, credible history that is logically organized and appropriately written for young children. The book is organized with wide margins, readable type, and an

inviting format. The sentence structure is clear and simple, and paragraphs flow logically. Events, issues, and basic concepts are presented in order, from simple to complex, and provide the reader with reoccurring idea patterns. Territorial migrations, trading issues, and war/peace efforts are carefully sequenced and chronologically explained, with clear connectors and rationale. The effects of non-Indian interactions with the Cheyenne, as well as the importance of the horse and trading, are developed throughout the text. In fact, across the breadth of the book, the author very effectively develops each concept and describes the interrelationships of events, without oversimplifying. Subheadings would have enhanced the book's format, but Sonneborn does provide the reader with clear transitions within and across chapters. Opportunities for reflection and prediction are multiple, and these are important for young children.

The content of *Cheyenne Indians* is interesting and accurate. Children should experience a variety of encounters regarding our history and the treatment of American Indians. This work certainly fulfills the need to reexamine history. From "Mud and Breath" (chapter 1) to the "New World" (chapter 4), the young reader is guided by Cheyenne perspectives. In a creative way, Sonneborn jars our attitudes and probes for further reflection on issues such as the government's repeated promises of peace and the tribe's continual resettlements. Research on the history of the Cheyenne people is balanced with the retelling of traditional Cheyenne stories. The interwoven tales, recounted in poetic, rhythmic language, evoke a reflective quality throughout the chapters. In addressing the viewpoints of Indians and whites with respect to land, trading, and freedom, the book presents several moral dilemmas and calls for a more humanitarian resolution of conflict. These points are relevant both historically and currently, and certainly are worthwhile issues for children to contemplate.

Sonneborn presents young readers with new ways of thinking and analyzing. This is a refreshing approach that stimulates a higher level of cognition and inspires wonder and curiosity. The text clearly is capable of instilling in children a sense of respect for the Cheyenne people and their history. The six chapters challenge our interpretation of history and call for a more critical analysis of events. Although the qualifications of the author are not described, and the book relies on limited research and traditional Cheyenne stories, the balance of fact and theory is clearly and eloquently articulated. The text presents a variety of perspectives,

but the author's empathy clearly is with the Cheyenne people.

The illustrations are relevant and thought-provoking, complementing the Indian tales and the documented research. Artists' renditions, photographs, maps, and charts contribute effectively to the text. Many of the photographs are high-quality prints of the time period, but Sonneborn introduces the reader to more contemporary photographs as well. The pictures clearly provide clues for effective prediction and closure in the reading process. However, maps depicting specific territorial and migration issues would have been more helpful if they were introduced earlier in the text and were more varied.

What is clear in Sonneborn's work is her respect for the young reader and her enthusiasm for her subject. In sum, *Cheyenne People* is an enjoyable, well-developed book depicting the Cheyenne tribe in a sensitive, developmentally appropriate manner—an inviting text that will attract children again and again.

G. Cornelius

**Drawings of the Song Animals.** By Duane Niatum. Duluth, Minnesota: Holy Cow! Press, 1991. 148 pages. \$18.95 cloth; \$10.95 paper.

Duane Niatum, one of the best-known Indian poets writing today, has produced a beautiful work in *Drawings of the Song Animals*. This book collects fifteen poems each from his previous four out-of-print books and presents eighteen new poems written since 1978. The poems from the early books, chosen by the author to represent what he feels is his most authentic voice, establish a tight circle when organized with the newer poems, those the poet hopes will show a new direction. Thus, this book becomes an outstanding introduction to one of our finest poets.

Niatum's precise and acute imagery dances around sound, music, and color in delightfully unexpected combinations. Human beings in these poems are animals within the circle of other beings in the creation, the animals that sing. These songs are drawings or paintings—brightly dancing images in the sound and color of Niatum's controlled brush of language.

The book's title is taken from a poem first presented in an earlier book, *Songs for the Harvester of Dreams*, which was published in 1981. In this poem, the speaker promises, in the first stanza,