

**Text Set Title:** Resistance & Resilience: The Silenced Stories of the Indigenous People Forced to Endure the Boarding School Era

**Creators:** Alisen Laferriere & Jessica Scott

**Synopsis:** This text-set provides resources that honor the stories of resistance and resilience during the American Indian boarding school era in the United States. Through oral histories, first hand accounts, poetry, fiction and multimedia, this collection highlights how Indigenous children maintained connection to their culture despite attempts to strip them of their identities. This text-set also provides examples of how Massachusetts used media to reinforce the inaccurate depictions of Indian boarding schools. Designed to be used with high school students, this text-set is filled with primary sources to highlight Indigenous voices, as well as works of fiction and other secondary sources.

**Guiding Questions:**

How did Massachusetts media engage in the promotion of American Indian boarding schools?

How do Indigenous voices tell stories of experiences at the American Indian boarding schools and residential schools?

How did Indigenous children resist assimilation in these boarding schools?

**Bibliography:**

Bahr, D. M. (2010). *Viola Martinez, California Paiute: Living in two worlds*. University of Oklahoma Press.

This tells the remarkable life story of Viola Martinez, from her childhood as an Owens Valley Paiute Indian, to her experiences at Sherman Institute, a federal Indian boarding school, to later in life as she worked at Manzanar War Relocation Authority camp. Viola's life story is one that connects major events in American history that are often not connected, with the boarding school era and World War II. This book will be good to use with students to showcase the complicated nature of American identity and how interconnected history is.

Brings Plenty, C., Hayes, L., Heart of the Hawk, S., & Lakes, L. (2022, August 29). Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ Resistance: The legacy and impacts of Indian Boarding Schools. *Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition*. other.

A panel put together by Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition on the impacts of Indian Boarding Schools, this video looks at the impact of the boarding schools on indigenous understandings of gender and sexuality and the resilience into today.

Brown, D. (2014). *Bury My Heart at wounded knee: An Indian history of the American West*. Ishi Press International.

A long standing text in the field of Native Americans and the West, Brown's 1970 book outlines the designed destruction of the way of life for Native Americans in the 19th century. Using primary sources and covering the range of the American west, this book gives really good background knowledge on the actions

taken against Indigenous Americans. Included in the book is a chapter specifically on Richard Pratt's philosophy and subsequent boarding schools.

Bruchac, J. (2021). *Two roads*. Dial Books for Young Readers.

This novel, written by Joseph Bruchac, tells the story of Cal Black, a twelve-year-old boy traveling on the rails with his pop. When Pop has to go to Washington, DC, he tells Cal about an important part of their identity -- that they are Creek Indians. Cal is being sent to the Challagi School, a government boarding school for Native Americans in Oklahoma. This coming-of-age tale showcases Cal's experience at the school, learning more about his heritage while also facing harsh conditions.

Chakraborty, R. (2019). *How the US stole thousands of Native American children*. YouTube. Vox. Retrieved July 18, 2023, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGqWRyBCHhw>.

Produced by Vox, this video is a good overview and background of the stealing of Indigenous children, in a variety of ways. With many first person accounts, this video introduces students to the idea of children who are adopted out of tribes and nations, as well as hearing the actual voices of people talking about their experiences. For high school students, it is helpful for them to put a face and a person to a history.

Choate, J. N. (1879). *First group of female students [version 1]*. photograph. from <https://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/images/first-group-female-students-version-1-1879>.

A photograph of female students upon arrival at Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania. One of many photographs included in this text-set.

Condition of Indians greatly improved. (1924, July 26). *Daily Evening Item*. Retrieved July 18, 2023, from <https://www.newspapers.com/image/946201823>.

A newspaper article from New England reporting on the Federal Indian Boarding Schools. This can be used to help make connections with our students in MA, to help them see that this was not something that was just far away.

Cooper, A. (n.d.). *Student File*. Welcome | Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center. <https://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/>

A student file of a student at the Carlisle Indian School, which includes all of their records from the school, including but not limited to exit interviews and data sheets. These students are all from tribal groups in the Northeast, specifically Massachusetts, to once again make local connections for our students.

DeGrasse, A. (n.d.). *Student File*. Welcome | Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center. <https://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/>

A student file of a student at the Carlisle Indian School, which includes all of their records from the school, including but not limited to exit interviews and data sheets. These students are all from tribal groups in the Northeast, specifically Massachusetts, to once again make local connections for our students.

Downie, G. (2016). *The Secret Path*. YouTube. CBC Arts. Retrieved July 18, 2023, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGd764YU9yc>.

The Secret Path is an animated film from Gord Downie that tells the true story of Chanie Wenjack, a 12-year-old boy who died while trying to escape from a residential school and travel back home to his family over 400 miles away. While this video specifically deals with issues in Canada with residential schools, it is still relevant to the boarding school era within the United States. Included in this video is also a CBC Arts live panel discussing the road to reconciliation.

Dupuis, J. K., & Kacer, K. (2022). *I am not a number*. Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority, Library.

A children's picture book that can be used as a tool when teaching high school students (and younger students) about the experience of students at Indian Boarding Schools. This can also be listened to on youtube. Based on a true story, Irene is taken away from her home on Nipissing First Nation and brought to a residential school. The book showcases the experiences she has at the boarding school, including getting in trouble for speaking her native language. Her family decides to remove her from school and take a stand on keeping her home instead of forcing her to return.

Eagle, A. F. (2010). *Pipestone: My life in an Indian Boarding School*. University of Oklahoma Press.

This memoir of Adam Fortunate Eagle, known for his actions on Alcatraz Island, recalls his experiences at Pipestone Indian Boarding School. This book gives an alternative view to the joys students found at the boarding schools, told from stories of young Fortunate Eagle. Included in the book are pictures and a section on life after the boarding schools as well. Bringing in Native voices is an important part of this text set, and this memoir is a large piece of that.

Education in Oklahoma. (1905, April 11). *Boston Evening Transcript*. Retrieved July 17, 2023, from <https://www.newspapers.com/image/735300443>.

A newspaper article from New England reporting on the Federal Indian Boarding Schools. This can be used to help make connections with our students in MA, to help them see that this was not something that was just far away.

Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative. (n.d.). Federal Indian Boarding School Sites. *U.S. Department of the Interior*. map.

This map is from the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, which also includes a comprehensive list of the Federal Indian Boarding Schools as compiled by the US Department of the Interior. This includes a page for every federally recognized school, including locations and years active. It offers a good overview of data on the 408 federal schools.

Giago, T. A. (2006). *Children left behind: Dark legacy of Indian mission boarding schools*. Clear Light Pub.

Written by Tim Giago, who was a student of an Indian Mission boarding school, looks at the intersection of church and state within the realm of boarding schools, and the lasting impact that has had on Native children for generations. This book showcases the worst of the schools, giving his personal account of the abuse faced by Native children, while also connecting with issues of today that many Nations face.

Indian Designated to Head Bureau of Indian Affairs. (n.d.). *North Adams Transcript*. Retrieved July 18, 2023, from <https://www.newspapers.com/image/545369165>.

A newspaper article from New England reporting on the Federal Indian Boarding Schools. This can be used to help make connections with our students in MA, to help them see that this was not something that was just far away.

Martin, M., Ermyas, T., & Wakeam, K. (2022, May 22). Haaland seeks healing for Native American boarding school survivors [audio blog]. Retrieved July 19, 2023, from <https://www.npr.org/2022/05/22/1100554017/deb-haaland-native-american-boarding-school-survivors>.

From NPR, this article and short audio piece introduces a little of the history of Federal Indian Boarding Schools while focusing on Secretary Deb Haaland and her actions moving forward. Current US Secretary of the Interior, Haaland is a Pueblo woman from New Mexico, and the first Native American woman to hold her position. She is the granddaughter of the boarding school era, and her family has first hand experience of the boarding schools. Haaland is taking action towards healing the traumas of the boarding school era, and this interview goes into more detail of that.

National Public Radio. (2008, May 12). American Indian Boarding Schools Haunt Many. *Morning Edition*. broadcast.

Produced and released on NPR, this podcast episode deals with the experiences of many students at the Federal Indian Boarding schools. Speaking to multiple survivors of the boarding school era, this episode by Charla Bear gives space to hear directly from those who lived the traumas of the schools, and creates a space to educate people about them. This is part one of a two part series.

Oklahoma indian boys school burns. (1907, April 17). *Boston Evening Transcript*. Retrieved July 18, 2023, from <https://www.newspapers.com/image/735635574>.

*OUR STORIES, OUR STRENGTH: A COLLECTION FROM THE LEGACY OF HOPE FOUNDATION*. (n.d.). IRSHDC. Retrieved July 18, 2023, from <https://collections.irshdc.ubc.ca/index.php/Gallery/28>.

Created by the Legacy of Hope Foundation, which is an Indigenous-led charitable organization founded in 2000 with the goal of educating about the "true histories of the Residential Schools" and more. This collection specifically includes oral histories of survivors of the Residential schools throughout Canada, and the videos and most transcripts are available online. We chose four of these stories to highlight on our website, though there are many others available through the Legacy of Hope Foundation, and we recommend teachers to go there to find more or alternative oral histories.

Pocknett, L. (n.d.). *Student File*. Welcome | Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center. <https://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/>

A student file of a student at the Carlisle Indian School, which includes all of their records from the school, including but not limited to exit interviews and data sheets. These students are all from tribal groups in the Northeast, specifically Massachusetts, to once again make local connections for our students.

Robertson, D. A., & Flett, J. (2018). *When we were alone*. National Network for Equitable Library Service.

A children's book which follows the story of a young girl as she talks to her grandmother, a proud Cree woman. Us readers follow along to the experiences of the grandmother at a residential school, and how it impacted her daily life and enforced conformity to the students. This is a children's book that can be used as a

read out loud to introduce students to the boarding school era, as well as show the long term impact, and ways of resistance that last past the school years.

Spielberg, S. (2011). *Into the West*. *YouTube*. DreamWorks. Retrieved July 18, 2023, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfRHqWCz3Zw>.

*Into the West*, produced by Steven Spielberg, shows a Hollywood depiction of the Carlisle Indian School. This short clip features Native children as they are brought to the new school, and the process of having their things removed, a new name given to them, new clothes, and the trauma of having their hair cut. While this is a Hollywood production, it does help to bring up strong conversation when shown with students, and paired with primary sources.

Vitamin C Beneficial to Children. (1973, August 13). *Fitchburg Sentinel*.

A newspaper article from New England reporting on the Federal Indian Boarding Schools. This can be used to help make connections with our students in MA, to help them see that this was not something that was just far away.

*Wounded Yellow Robe, Henry Standing Bear and Chauncy Yellow Robe, Sioux boys before and after they entered school in 1883 and three years later.* (n.d.). photograph. From 89-78048d07-1af1-475f-bf15-0a47fc59bfe6.

A pair of photographs of three Sioux when they arrived at Carlisle Indian Industrial School and three years later as students. This photograph is a strong one to use with students as it shows the drastic experience of students at this school.