



# American Indian Youth Literature Award

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Multicultural Book Award Presentation  
Programming and Services for Children and Young Adults  
INF 7250  
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# Award Sponsor

## American Indian Library Association

Founded in 1979, the American Indian Library Association (AILA) is an affiliate of the American Library Association (ALA). This membership organization addresses the library-related needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives and is committed to disseminating information about Indian cultures, languages, values, and information needs to the library community. Members are individuals and institutions interested in the development of programs to improve Indian cultural, library, and informational services in school, public, and research libraries on reservations. AILA cosponsors an annual conference and holds a yearly business meeting in conjunction with the American Library Association annual meeting. It publishes the American Indian Libraries Newsletter twice a year.

Source and website: <https://ailanet.org/>



**American Indian  
Library Association**



# Mission

*"Improving Library and Information Services for American Indians. Breaking down public perceptions of who Native Americans are. Elevating conversation around Native American issues. Promoting Native education, literacy, and community"*



# Award History

## American Indian Youth Literature Award

The American Indian Youth Literature Award (AIYLA) is awarded biennially, and the award honors merited literacy works by and about Native Americans and Indigenous peoples of North America that share their native voices and perspectives and celebrates their cultures, languages, and arts . This literature award honors both the author and illustrator of fiction or non-fiction books, including graphic novels and picture books. Authors and illustrators may win the American Indian Youth Literature Award in the categories Best Picture Book, Best Middle Grade Book, and Best Young Adult Book. In addition, up to five awards may be selected as honor books in each category.

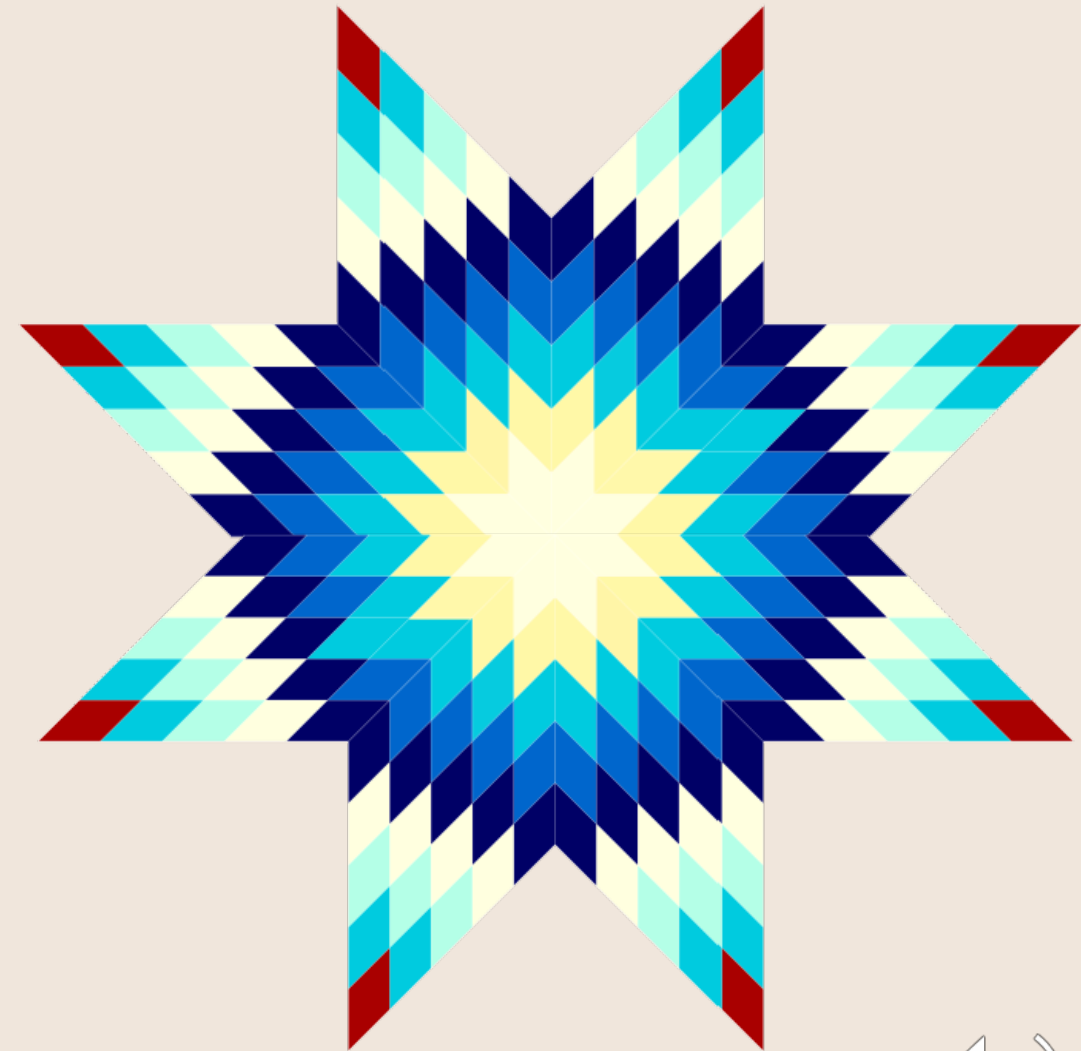


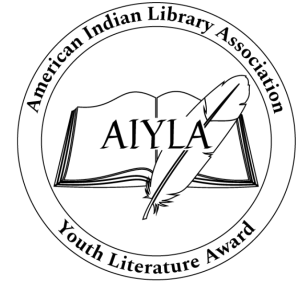
Figure 1. Star. American Indian Library Association.

<https://ailanet.org/app/uploads/2021/01/2020-AILA-YLA-brochure.pdf>



# Award Medallion

## American Indian Youth Literature Award



For the 2020 award winners and honors, the American Indian Library Association (AILA) commissioned gold and silver book seals to recognize winners and honor books. These seals were created in celebration of the AILA's Youth Literature Awards joining Youth Media Awards (YMA) to announce the 2020 winners. Currently, these book seals are not available for online ordering. Limited quantities are sold at the ALA annual for 14.50/24 pack. According to AILA's Facebook page, "we are working on a way to distribute them to libraries and accept online orders. We will make a big announcement once they are online" ([AILA, 2019](#)).



Figure 2. Book Cover Seals. American Indian Library Association.



# American Indian Youth Literature Award

Selected Book Award Honorees

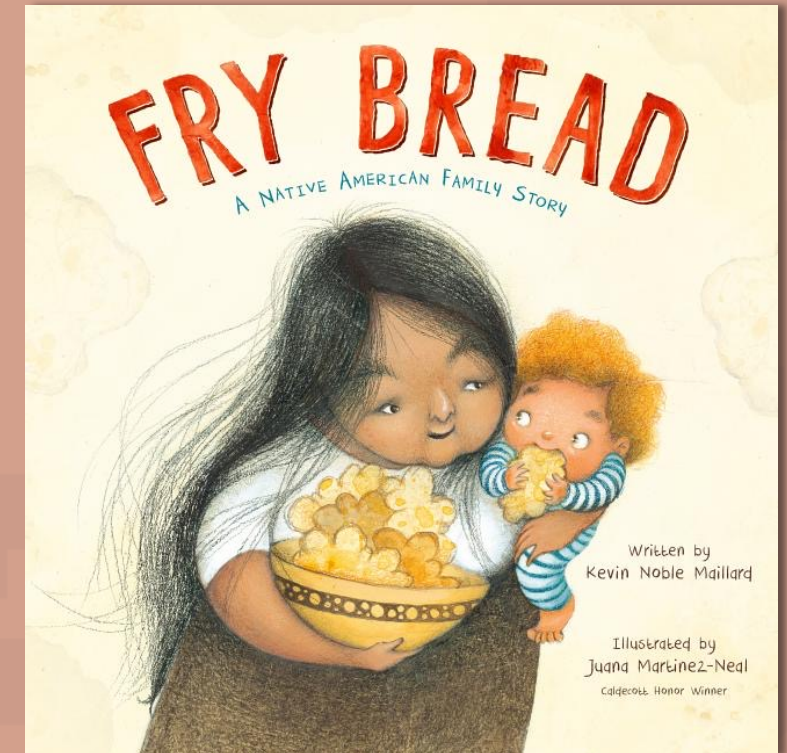
# Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story

By Kevin Noble Maillard and Illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal (2019)

Best Picture Book  
Honor 2020

A 2020 American Indian Youth Literature Picture Book Honor Winner, *Fry Bread, A Native American Family Story* is a poetic picture book that celebrates the Native American history, uniqueness and culture, through the tradition and concepts of fry bread. The poem's vivid language moves the story along through descriptive words that capture the flavors and sounds from making fry bread, "drop the dough in the skillet/the bubbles sizzle and pop." The audience discovers that fry bread is more than the sound, shape and flavor of the bread; fry bread is color, history, place, nation, time. This book is a celebration of old and new the story of a modern Native American family and their rich traditions of the fry bread.

Side note: This cultural story is an example of fry bread became a way that Native Americans embraced community against opposition by adapting to their new contained lands. Fry bread was born from "federal rations of powdered, canned, and other dry, government-issued foods. The book is composed of an Authors note, which includes lists the many nations and tribes for which Native American people identify and fry bread recipe to make fry bread at home.



(Ages 3–8)





# I Can Make This Promise

By Christine Day (2019)  
Best Middle Grade Book  
Honor 2020

This book is of a story of a biracial girl named Edie who discovers she was named after her grandmother, Edith. She learned that her grandmother was an aspiring actress who left home for Hollywood only to face discrimination there as a Native woman. Expecting a child, she returned home. Edie's mother was taken from Edith shortly after her birth. By the time the Indian Child Welfare Act was enacted in 1978, it was too late; Edie's mother had been adopted, and Edith never saw her daughter again. Inspired by the author's own family's history, this narrative sheds much-needed light on the generational trauma and emotional impact caused by the forced separation of Native American children from their families before the protection act was enacted. An inspiring and meaningful read about family, friendships and identity that makes a wonderful, diverse pick to add to any multicultural collection.



(Ages 8–12)



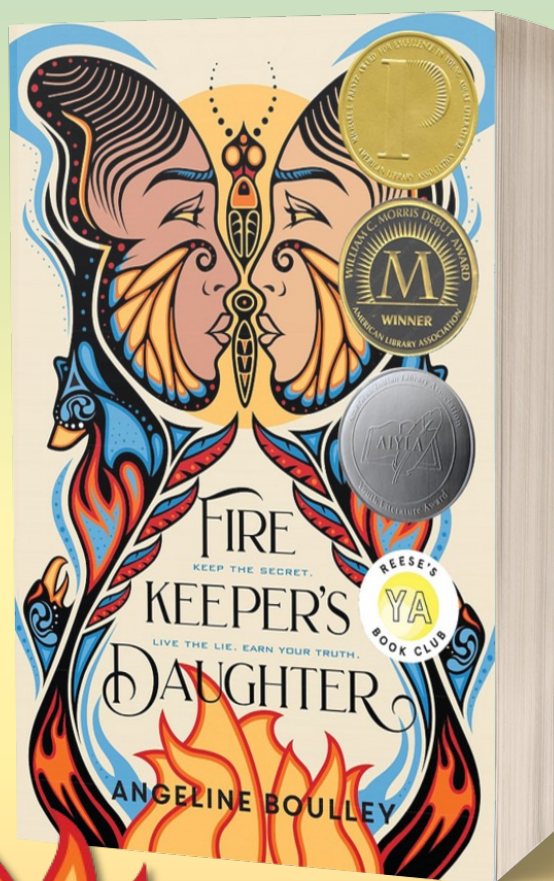


# FireKeeper's Daughter

By Angeline Boulley (2021)

Young Adult

Honor 2022



A story of cultural identity and belonging the Firekeeper's Daughter is about a girl, Daunis who loses someone close to her. The story unfolds as she becomes deeply engaged in an FBI investigation of a drug that is tearing the Northern Michigan community apart. A clash between her father's indigenous family and her mother's prominent white family causes Daunis to contemplate her identity and struggles with who to trust in her life. Daunis faces a difficult journey to honor her family and the story touches on difficult topics such as drugs, racism, murder, and sexual assault. The book is a diverse read that shares native voices, histories, traditions, and language of her people and is beautifully woven into the story's narrative. This book displays a profound appreciation for the author's Ojibwe heritage and is diverse read that honors indigenous voices.

(Ages 14 & up)





# Resources

## List the resources:

- [Criteria for nominations, awards, and jury members \(updated 2019\)](#)
- [2020 AILA Youth Literature Awards Brochure](#)
- [2022 AILA YLA brochure](#)
- [American Indians Children's Literature](#)



# References

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# Images

*Figure 1.* Star. Adapted from "2020 American Indian Youth Literature Awards ," by American Indian Library Association, (2023) retrieved from <https://ailanet.org/app/uploads/2021/01/2020-AILA-YLA-brochure.pdf>. Copyright 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 American Library Association. Used by permission of the American Indian Library Association. This document may be reprinted and distributed for non-commercial and educational purposes only, and not for resale. Intellectual property rights remain the property of authors or their legal heirs and assigns. No resale use may be made of this material. All other rights reserved.

*Figure 2.* Book Cover Seals. Adapted from "AILA Facebook page, by American (2019) retrieved from American Indian Library Association <https://www.facebook.com/profile/100064439482121/search/?q=seals>.

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