



Thunder Rolling in the Mountains

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It is spring of 1877 when fourteen-year-old Sound of Running Feet, daughter of Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce, sees white people panning gold in the little creek that feeds the Wallowa River, and brings word of them to her father.

"They are the first, but more are on the way," he says. "We are few and they are many. They will devour us."

It is Sound of Running Feet who narrates the story of her tribe's fate. Readers will be gripped as she shares with us her respect for her father, her love for handsome Swan Necklace, and her destiny.

Thunder Rolling in the Mountains Details

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From Reader Review Thunder Rolling in the Mountains for online ebook

Jennie says

This book is absolutely wonderful. Of course, that's just because I've always enjoyed books that give you a little bit of knowledge on things you wouldn't normally think about. The plot of this story is similar to most stories about this topic, but the author does a great job of making it unique. There are moments where I found myself cheering for the main character and also moments where I felt a tear roll down my cheek. This is basically an emotional rollercoaster with ups (and mostly) downs. In the end, I think this is a book that everyone should read at least once - but hopefully more.

JamesMendez says

Alright for this book.

Kathleen says

This was set in the land where I grew up, so I knew the story of Chief Joseph and his people. This touching account is one that should be read and remembered.

Monique says

How appropriate to finish this book on the day before Columbus Day as this is the sad story of Native Americans and their removal from their homes much like what we are celebrating on tomorrow sadly..Side Note I am all for states renaming this “federal holiday” to Indigenous People Day to remember all those that lost their homeland to those who “discovered” it and claimed it for America. Alright rant over but shout out to all those people of the land who were forcibly removed for gold and greed-love America but jeez we are takers..Okay okay so back to the story—the tale of the Ne-Mee-Poo or the Nez Perce tribe and their removal from their beautiful homeland of Wallowa after a thirty day eviction notice from the U.S. Government. Told from the viewpoint of Chief Joseph’s independent and fierce minded daughter Sound of Running Feet this book assigned to my 5th grade advisory for ELA work I didn’t think I would be as caught up in this story as I was but the injustice and disregard for these people who lived their lives in one place were relocated as well as the poignancy of the sadness felt by the Ne-Mee-Poo people on their tragic journey was well written and readable. Sneaking in chapters from their classroom library while they did other things this book took awhile to get through but was well worth the read as the tense struggles of fight back against the white man or surrender haunted the group and was one they all wrestled with in their own way. Their strong Chief Joseph was a proud man who wanted nothing more than to protect his people however knowing the ways of the white man and the sheer number of them decided that the safest option was to evacuate his homeland despite resistance and rebellion of the determined warriors within the tribe including his daughter’s fiancé Swan Necklace. Introducing a number of secondary characters that represented the opposing viewpoints and the pride of the Ne-Mee-Poo as well as a few one dimensional American white man characters you feel more for

the Nez Perce for sure and just get the cold hearted side of the Americans, reading the descriptions of those who died fighting or the innocent elderly women and children that passed due to senseless violence and forced ejection was tragic and sad but I really appreciate that it is being introduced to 5th graders so they see how each advancement in society affects other people and other ways of life ..they seem to really connect to the Native American saga and are forming their own opinions on how they feel which is exactly what we strive to teach them daily—how to get all the facts and then think out the solution on your own..would you be a warrior or flee to preserve the tribe?

Cornelia says

A blunt, straightforward telling of the story of Chief Joseph and the Ne-mee-po's (also known as Nez Perce) experience as seen by his daughter, Sound of Running Feet. The story tells of her experience as the Ne-mee-po were kicked off their land by the Blue Coats (US soldiers) and what ensues as they work toward safety. Seeking safety they embark on a journey to freedom, but in the end are forced to surrender in the Battle of Bear Paw in Montana. Based on historical events and incorporating Chief Joseph's words, the book doesn't hold much back and shares the events of their life frankly.

Grades 5-8

The Aquamarine says

I thought this book was great. I was so moved of how the Indians had to fight to keep their land and not be bothered. This book described very well of how it was like to be a Native American in historical America. It showed how hard they were treated and how they fought many battles to get what they wanted. In the first part of the book, the story was very a little boring when they had to fight a few battles and start moving away from the white people. Then it got more exciting with stronger battles and eventually the Sound of Running Feet had to run away and got kidnapped and has forced to marry a chief's son from a non-peaceful tribe. Then she ran away on her wedding day and eventually went to her destination of where her father and many other chiefs wanted to go to escape the whites. This was a great story and I think that Scott O'Dell is a very good writer, especially when he writes historical fiction!

Susan says

From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever-Chief Joseph

I read this book after it was assigned to my fifth grader for her reading class. It is a historical fiction account of the Ni-mi-poo (Nez Pierce) being forced from their homelands in Washington State by the US Army as told from the perspective of Chief Joseph's daughter, Sound of Running Feet. The writer used historical documents to sequence the events of the story. There is much information on the culture of the Ni-mi-poo woven into the story. The story is violent, including one very disturbing scene where a pregnant Ni-mi-poo woman is killed. This book may be too upsetting for some young people. I recommend it, but with guidance from a caring teacher/parent.

Chris says

Historical fiction is always fascinating, you are learning while enjoying a great story! With the content, young readers beware. I recommend this book for everyone ages 13+.

Nicole says

One thing I really liked about this book was how vicious the main character was. Even when she had her character growth and learned, that didn't completely go away. It was refreshing to see that the moral wasn't forgive everything and give everyone the benefit of the doubt, like so many books aimed at this age group.

It also really hurt, because I wanted them to win so much, even though I knew they wouldn't.

Gale says

THE TRUE LEGACY OF CHIEF JOSEPH

Fifteen-year-old Sound of Running Feet survives incredible hardship--including betrayal by both white men and other tribes in this fictionalized novella. Odell's detailed account of the brutal removal of the Nez Perce from Wallowa, Idaho to Oklahoma proves interesting reading both for students of Native American heritage as well as teenage girls in general.

The reader's understanding of this cruel odyssey is enhanced by the excellent map of this heart-rending Route of the Nez Perce from June-October of 1877, which precedes the actual narrative. Elizabeth Hall's Foreword explains her collaboration with the ailing author, while her grim Afterword summarizes the fate of the female protagonist and that of her separated people.

The title may be somewhat misleading, for it is not indicative of the anger of the Native Americans, or even the presumed pain of their gods; rather, it is quite simply the translation of Chief Joseph's name. This aged warrior proves both solemn and wise--possessing innate personal dignity to the end, for the good of his people was his chief concern. His heart was understandably broken by the sad departure from his beloved Mother Country and the death of many of his chiefs, plus the wanton betrayal of trusting fellow Indian tribes.

Sound of Running Feet, his proud daughter with the heart of a warrior, wages her own private war against enslavement--either by the Blue Coats (US Cavalry) or by crude Indians. Cherishing the love between herself and her fiance, Swan Neckalce, she tries to banish her fears for their future, as she struggles in anticipation of their wedding. A sobering account of a vanishing breed as the West was Won by Yankees--but at what shameful cost to human dignity!

(May 13, 2011. I welcome dialogue with teachers.)

Sara says

Beautifully written. Terribly depressing.

Evan says

If your into the wild west stories of the past, then you may be interested in this book. With a story line of an Indian tribe moving out because of the white soldiers pushing them out brings action and suspense to who the reader of this book is.

Zachary says

This. Was. Bad! I actually never finished it because it was so bad. It upset me because of one sentence. You may think that that is a bad reason to stop, but if you read-

"He grinded heads, but of ears, and watched the blood flow down the rivers," then you would probably stop reading too. So, I can't really tell you what it's about, but I think it is about a girl whose tribe is being forced to go from their homes. IT STINKS! Stay at least 50 feet away from this book. AT ALL TIMES. If you ever think of reading this book, you will get scared as well as being bored to death. Thank you.

Lea Ann says

A fast-paced, exciting tale told through the eyes of Chief Joseph's daughter, this book tells of the attempted relocation of the Nez Perce and the subsequent battles that took place between the waning members of the tribe and the "Blue Coats" who pursued them through Idaho and Montana. Included in this story is the event surrounding Chief Joseph's famous and heartbreakng surrender speech. Finished after O'Dell's death by his wife, Elizabeth Hall, this novel is a poignant look at the last days of a proud people. Would make a great read aloud or novel set for a middle grades classroom.

Vanessa says

Heart-wrencher. For form 2b Westward Expansion
