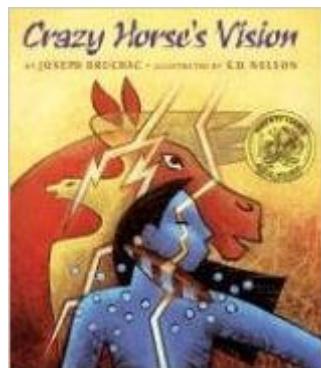


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# Crazy Horse's Vision



## Synopsis

Crazy Horse's Vision (PB)

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 600 (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: National Geographic School Pub; 1 edition (June 23, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1584302828

ISBN-13: 978-1584302827

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.1 x 10.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #393,394 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #184 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > United States #271 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans #438 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s

Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

## Customer Reviews

As he did in *Gift Horse*, Sioux artist Nelson blends contemporary and traditional elements for the striking illustrations that accompany this story of the legendary Lakota warrior. Bruchac (A Boy Called Slow: The True Story of Sitting Bull) traces Crazy Horse's boyhood, zeroing in on a pivotal event in his life and highlighting an important Native American rite of passage. As a youth, Crazy Horse (then known as Curly) witnesses U.S. Army soldiers brutally and unjustly attack his people. Troubled, he embarks on a vision quest and sees a figure on horseback riding untouched through a storm of lightning, hail and bullets. His father interprets the vision, telling him that "the man on that horse is the one you will become" and that he is destined to defend his people. Bruchac's description of the vision quest is compelling, and his decision to limit his canvas to a few select events demonstrates his understanding of his audience; an afterword describes subsequent events in the warrior's life. Endmatter also illuminates Nelson's approach. The artist explains his approximations of the Plains Indians' traditional ledger-book style (characterized by indistinct facial expressions and flat, two-dimensional figures) and his symbolic use of color (Crazy Horse is painted

blue, representative of a connection with the spirit world). His sweeping vistas and somewhat ghostly textured brushwork bolster the book's visionary theme. Ages 6-up. (May) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Kindergarten-Grade 5-Crazy Horse is the revered Lakota warrior who defeated General Custer during the Battle of Little Bighorn. Bruchac provides this information and much more in an author's note, but the main narrative involves scenes of his subject's youth. He presents details from oral history, such as "Curly's" quiet nature, early leadership skills, and vision quest. The boy sought divine inspiration after his tribe was invaded by white settlers; the vision, which taught him to "Keep nothing for yourself," was to guide him throughout his life. Nelson's note acknowledges the influence of his ancestors' ledger-book style on his acrylic paintings executed on wood panels. The artist uses stylized figures, symbolic color, and texture to create dynamic scenes. While there are many stylistic similarities to Nelson's art in *Gift Horse* (Abrams, 1999), here the artist has a stronger sense of book design, and takes better advantage of double-page spreads, full bleeds, and tight croppings. Older children will appreciate comparing the images to the 19th-century ledger-book drawings reproduced in Russell Freedman's *The Life and Death of Crazy Horse* (Holiday, 1996). A fine introduction to a hero long overlooked. Wendy Lukehart, Dauphin County Library, Harrisburg, PA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Well written for the childrens audience.

The illustrations themselves are worth having the book! It is a positive role model for boys and learning to listen.

Great book and rest shipping services! !!

Loved it

This beautifully illustrated book is one to read to your children many times over. It tells a story all American children should hear, and it has a magical feel to it.

I bought this book for my daughter who is in Gr.2. I am deeply troubled by the approach to history I see in American schools. The children are taught to celebrate Christopher Columbus Day (The man

who "discovered" America! Never mind that he was actually looking for India ...), Thanksgiving Day (A day in which we should all be thankful for having come to America, because it is a privilege to live here! Tell that to an African-American whose great-grandfather was brought here as a slave), learn all about Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, etc. But these young Americans are taught nothing about Native American history, slavery, Crazy Horse or Frederick Douglass. What I see in my child's school is a curriculum light on facts, heavy on patriotism - designed to impress upon young minds America's exceptionalism based on a heavily redacted, thoroughly sanitized history. This was how it was in apartheid South Africa ... It does not lead to anywhere good, let me tell you. A nation only truly achieves progress when it reckons truthfully with its past. So I must supplement my little American's school history with whatever I can find that will give her a fuller picture of her country's real history. I love the unique narrative voice of this book. And the art work based on the style of the people of the story makes it extra special - a Lakota story, told in their voice and imagery. This is a great story for young children to begin their journey into Native American history and its key figures. Note that, this book ends with an allusion to the coming conflict with the white settlers, but does not go there, and therefore does not mention Crazy Horse's murder either. But my daughter did ask what happened to him ...

As with many other people I have heard or at least known about the legend of Crazy Horse and his fierce battles. I especially have known about the Battle of Little Big Horn with Custer's defeat. What I did not know was Crazy Horse had another name given to him as a child or the fact his adult name was actually after his father, Tashunka Witco. "Crazy Horse" is the English translation of his name and most well known. The origins of names always fascinate me. I was impressed to find out the many things about Crazy Horse that lead him to the person he is known as today. I will not reveal all but one most impressive was that he was actually a very gentle man among his people. That is a truly different picture of the man, isn't it? The book was fantastic in itself but the added illustrations are top notch. The pictures, according to the illustrator, whom writes in the back of the book, were all done with acrylics on wood. He did them in the traditional style of ledger books from the Lakota people using the same colors the nation would use. To me, that adds to the authenticity of the book. This book is without a doubt a 5 star book for me. The book also won the Parent's Choice Gold Award and should be on all children's books shelves. Disclosure: I was given a copy of this book in exchange for my open and honest opinion. The views expressed here are 100% my own and may differ from yours.

Marie Sandoz' autobiography of Crazy Horse was the first book I read about Native Americans. It inspired a life long interest. Bruchac has used her work to describe Crazy Horse's youth for the young reader. His moral character is a model of Dakota values: generosity, bravery, respect for relatives, and putting others before self. Crazy Horse serves as an example for all youth. His story culminates in his Vision Quest when he learns his personal fetish and finds supernatural guidance in choosing face paint and symbols. He also earns his name, when his father bestows his own name on Crazy Horse. S.D. Nelson captures these symbols and colors in his beautiful illustrations and gives us a lesson in art history. His back covers are ledger book art which he explains in an end note. The style obviously inspires his own work, but Nelson has added dimension and expression and action to give us a unique style. Interestingly, the dimension and expression come through most visibly in his animals. Crazy Horse reveals no emotion. My grandchildren were fascinated with the art but at five and three a little young for the story.

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