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My Name Is Seepetza



Synopsis

Her name was Seepetza when she was at home with her family. But now that she's living at the Indian residential school her name is Martha Stone, and everything else about her life has changed as well. Told in the honest voice of a sixth grader, this is the story of a young Native girl forced to live in a world governed by strict nuns, arbitrary rules, and a policy against talking in her own dialect, even with her family. Seepetza finds bright spots, but most of all she looks forward to summers and holidays at home.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 720L (What's this?)

Paperback: 126 pages

Publisher: Groundwood Books; Reprint edition (June 11, 1998)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.2 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

This book was very interesting. It showed how Martha Stone kept memories of the ranch she lived on while away at school. These memories took her through the horrible school year where friends were seldom.

Never have I read a book that was more moving. I highly recommend this book as a relatively authentic means of educating ourselves and our youth about the realities of Native American disenfranchisement. It is beautifully written, with well developed characters.

There isn't much of a plot here, but the writing is skillfully done. The story is told in the form of twelve-year-old Seepeetza's diary, which she keeps over the course of one year while attending an Indian boarding school in British Columbia in the 1950s. At the time, the law mandated that all Native American children should be sent to their schools, where they were given Anglo names (hers was Martha) and punished if they spoke their native languages. Seepeetza's school, run by nuns, was a bleak institution where the children's physical needs were taken care of and they got a decent education, but they were bullied and generally treated harshly by the nuns. But she did get to go home on vacations. It's hard to write a novel in diary format and keep it realistic. Most writers go overboard and put way too much details in the diary, which moves the story along and lets the reader know what's going on, but you know nobody would write like that in their diary in real life. But Shirley Sterling struck the right balance here: Seepeetza's diary was detailed enough to be interesting, but short enough to pass for a real diary. It sounds like it really could have been written by a twelve-year-old girl.

Authentic, but not exciting.

Great condition. I received the book in a timely manner. I am pleased with the quality of the project. I recommend the seller.

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