A New Educational Resource for 4th Grade Teachers and Libraries

Lands of our Ancestors by Gary Robinson tells the story of a 12-year-old Chumash boy and his family who become captives at a Spanish Mission over 200 years ago. This 200-page historical novel was created to provide a Native American perspective on early mission life and is based on thorough historical and cultural research. The book and the accompanying teacher guide offer educators an instructional package that meets the revised state standards for teaching mission history in 4th grade. The guide was designed by Native educator Cathleen Chilcote Wallace specifically to maximize the book’s educational effectiveness with 4th grade students. Lands of our Ancestors was reviewed and approved by the Santa Ynez Chumash Elders Board and Culture Dept. The book and guide can also be used in a cross disciplinary context with English teachers, as well.

Praise for the book:

My students described Lands of our Ancestors as adventurous and exciting and hope the author will consider a sequel or series. Mr. Robinson succeeded in hooking them, and they are dying to know whether Kilik and the children made it to Sacred Mountain... One student described it as the best "mission story" he'd heard and another as the best "Native" book he'd read. --Dessa Drake, 4th Grade Teacher, Templeton, CA

Lands of Our Ancestors addresses a difficult and extremely important subject in an engaging and readable children’s historical novel, perfect for inclusion into 4th grade California history curriculum. The story of how native peoples experienced enslavement by the Spanish Catholic founders of the Mission system in California is told from the perspective of a young Chumash boy, Kilik. There is much to appreciate as Gary Robinson’s light but sure touch involves us in Kilik’s world, grounded in a sense of place and knit together with close family ties and cultural traditions. --Carey McKinnon, Branch Supervisor, Santa Barbara Library System

Rather than building a mission model in fourth grade, students should read this book to gain a better understanding of the violence and upheaval caused by the Spaniard's "civilizing" mission. Highly recommended. --Paul H. Gelles, Ph.D.; Former Professor of Anthropology, University of California.

Prices:
Lands of our Ancestors (paperback) - $14.95 each (discounts available)
Printed 70-page Teacher’s Guide - $12.95 each (discounts available)

Available from:
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