**Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code: A Navajo Code Talkers Story**

by Joseph Bruchac; pictures by Liz Amini-Holmes

Forced to attend a missionary boarding school, Betoli was forbidden to speak Navajo and given the English name Chester. Chester adapted as best he could to the forced assimilation but refused to give up his language and heritage—which he and other Navajo soldiers used to create an unbreakable code that was key to ending World War II.


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**November 2018**

**November is:**
- Native American Heritage Month
- National Picture Book Month
- National Novel Writing Month

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After reading *Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code*, work as a class to create an “I Am” poem. Ask students to share their ideas about how they think Chester would complete each part of this structured poem that typically begins: I am, I wonder, I feel, I hear, etc. Then challenge students to create their own anonymous “I Am” poems that describe their special, unique qualities and express the way they feel, what they think, dream, etc. Share poems by reading them aloud to the class, highlighting how each student’s unique identity makes the community richer and more diverse.

**Try these titles to inspire additional “I Am” poems:**
- Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph became the World’s Fastest Woman by Kathleen Krull
- Danzal Amália Hernández and El Baile Fakhríco México by Duncan Tomah
- Silent Days, Silent Dreams by Allen Say
- Jim Thorpe’s Bright Path by Joseph Bruchac and S.D. Nelson
- Whosah!: Lonnie Johnson’s Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions by Chris Barton

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