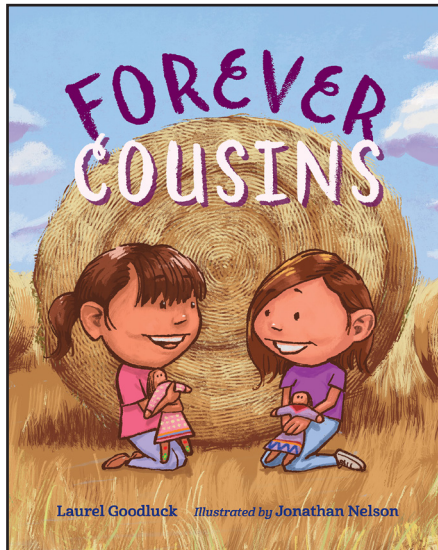


FOREVER COUSINS

ACTIVITY KIT

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Laurel Goodluck
Illustrated by Jonathan Nelson
978-1-62354-292-4 HC
e-book available

About the Book

Kara and Amanda are best-friend cousins. Then Kara leaves the city to move back to the Rez. The girls hate being separated. At the family reunion, each girl worries that their friendship has changed. But once they reconnect, they realize that they are still forever cousins. This story highlights the ongoing impact of the 1950s Indian Relocation Act on Native families even today, and reminds readers that the power of friendship and family can bridge any distance.



About the Author

Laurel Goodluck writes picture books with modern Native themes. Raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Laurel comes from an intertribal family and is an enrolled Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation and Tsimshian tribal member. Laurel has degrees in psychology and community counseling and family studies. She lives in Albuquerque, NM, where she and her husband raised two children.



About the Illustrator

Jonathan Nelson is a Navajo graphic designer, graphic artist, and illustrator. He is Kiiyaa'áanii (Towering House Clan) and Naakai Dine'é (Mexican Clan). Jonathan lives outside Denver, Colorado, with his family.

FOREVER COUSINS

Activity Kit

Discussion Guide

Use these questions to kick off classroom discussion, guide pre-thinking and post-reading responses, or inspire a writing or drawing assignment!

1. How are Kara and Amanda related? Who else is in their family? Do you have cousins or other relatives your age? What is special about Kara and Amanda's relationship?
2. How do Kara and Amanda feel about being separated when Kara moves away? How do you know? Do their feelings about being separated change over time? What helps them stay connected to each other when they're far apart?
3. Have you ever moved to a new home? What was that experience like? Were you moving close to or far from family and friends?
4. Have you ever said goodbye to a friend or family member who was moving away? What was that experience like?
5. How are Amanda and Kara's lives different now that Amanda lives in the city and Kara lives on the Rez? How are they still similar? What are some of the things they do throughout the year?
6. When Amanda's family goes on their road trip, they all cheer when they cross the first state border. Do you have games you play or traditions you observe when traveling with your family? Do you travel often or seldom? How do you usually travel?
7. Kara and Amanda both like to dance at powwows. Have you been to a powwow? If not, where would you look to find out what a powwow is like? From the text and illustration in *Forever Cousins*, can you figure out what specific kind of powwow dancing Kara and Amanda do?
8. As a class, read the author's note together and discuss. What is a Reservation? What is the Indian Relocation Act? Why do some families live close together and others live far apart? What are some historical reasons why Native families like Kara and Amanda's might be spread between the Rez and other locations?
9. Kara and Amanda's family are from the Hidatsa tribe. What do you know about the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation (aka the Three Affiliated Tribes located on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in central North Dakota)? Where could you go to learn more?
10. Kara and Amanda's magúu makes them matching dolls. Who is their magúu? Do you have family members that you call by titles in languages other than English?
11. On the last day of their family reunion, Kara and Amanda's family have a ceremony. What do they do together at this ceremony? Look at the illustration. What expressions do you see on people's faces? What else do you notice about this image?
12. Why do Kara and Amanda swap their dolls at the end of the story?

FOREVER COUSINS

Activity Kit

Kids in My Family

Use the space below to draw the kids in your family: siblings, cousins, step or half-siblings, foster siblings, honorary cousins, neighbors, or family friends! On the back, write their names and explain how you know them or are related to them.

FOREVER COUSINS

Activity Kit

Write to Me

Kara and Amanda write to each other to stay in touch when they're far apart. Use the postcard below to write a message to a friend or family member. Remember to use a salutation and closing! When you're done, cut out the postcard and draw a picture or glue a photo to the back.

STAMP
HERE

TO

FOREVER COUSINS

Activity Kit

Road Trip

Let's plan an imaginary visit to a friend or family member who lives far away!

Where are you going?

Who's coming with you?

How will you travel?

How long is your trip?

What do you need to bring?

What will you do at your destination?

FOREVER COUSINS

Word Search

Activity Kit

B Á T S P I N K E Ú
A C G H D T A N T F
P O W W O W D K C R
É U W O L I Q M E I
P S D N L Y D R R E
U I B D S É R E E N
R N R P Z M T Z M D
P S M A G Ú U F O A
L H J S F X L W N Z
E R E U N I O N Y L

COUSINS
FRIEND
REUNION

POW WOW
REZ
DOLLS

MAGÚU
PURPLE
PINK
CEREMONY

FOREVER COUSINS

Activity Kit

More Resources

Pair *Forever Cousins* with the books and curriculum resources below for an enriched learning experience! Recommended activities will pair especially well with the themes and concepts in *Forever Cousins*, but we encourage you to explore all the activities on offer.

Paired Reading

Griffin, Molly Beth, and Maribel Lechuga. *Ten Beautiful Things*. Charlesbridge, 2021.

- The *Ten Beautiful Things* [activity kit](#)

Leitner, Inbal. *The Longest, Strongest Thread*. Charlesbridge, 2022.

McManis, Charlene Willing, and Traci Sorell. *Indian No More*. Tu Books, an Imprint of Lee & Low Books, 2020.

Nelson, S. D. *Buffalo Bird Girl: A Hidatsa Story*. Abrams, 2015.

Roots Magazine, a publication of ImagiNative Inc.

Sorell, Traci (Cherokee), and Frané Lessac. *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*. Charlesbridge, 2018.

- The *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga* [activity kit](#)

Lessons of Our Land

www.lessonsofourland.org

Recommended:

“[Create a Neighborhood Map](#)”

The National Indian Education Association

www.niea.org/learning-at-home-resources

Recommended:

“[Native American Dolls](#)”

“[Fry Bread: A Native American Family Tradition](#)”

National Museum of the American Indian's Native Knowledge 360° Education Initiative

<https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360>

Teaching Native American Histories

<https://teachnativehistories.umass.edu>