



Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code: A Navajo Code Talker's 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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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 hope, 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

Danza! Amalia Hernández and El Ballet Folklórico México by Duncan Tonatiuh

Silent Days, Silent Dreams by Allen Say

Jim Thorpe’s Bright Path by Joseph Bruchac and S.D. Nelson

Whoosh!: Lonnie Johnson’s Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions by Chris Barton

NOVEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
		November is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native American Heritage Month • National Picture Book Month • National Novel Writing Month 				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Veterans Day	12 Veterans Day observed American Education Week begins	13	14 Education Support Professionals Day	15	16 Substitute Educators Day	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
				Thanksgiving		
25	26	27	28	29	30	