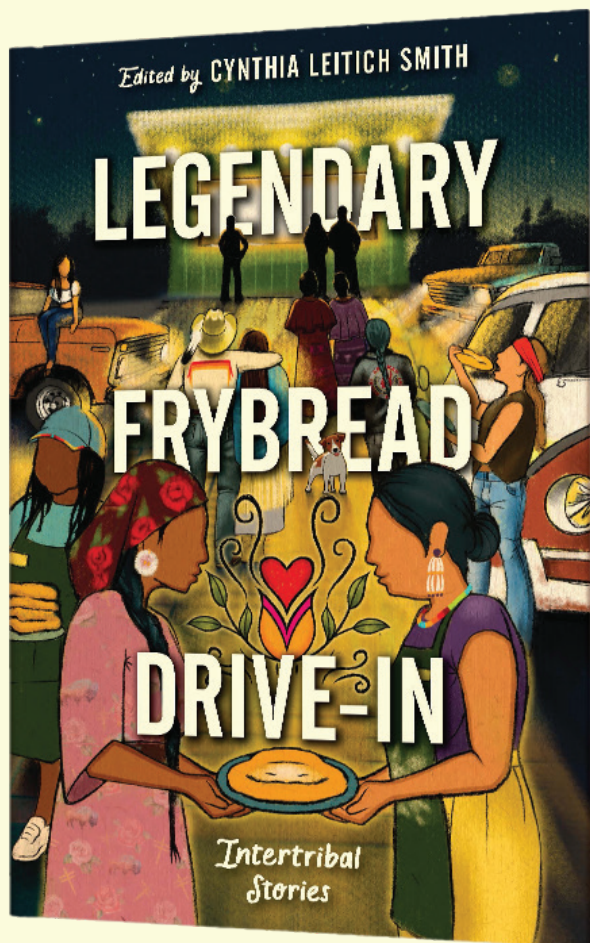


# Educator's Guide

*Edited by* CYNTHIA LEITCH SMITH

# LEGENDARY FRYBREAD DRIVE-IN

*Intertribal  
Stories*



## About the Book

Imagine a place that feeds your body and your spirit, where you can visit with Elders and feel connected to an intertribal community. Welcome to Sandy June's Legendary Frybread Drive-In, where anything and everything is possible. All are welcome!

## Featuring Stories and Poems By

Kaua Māhoe Adams  
Marcella Bell  
Angeline Boulley  
K. A. Cobell  
A. J. Eversole  
Jen Ferguson  
Eric Gansworth  
Byron Graves  
Kate Hart

Christine Hartman Derr  
Karina Iceberg  
Cheryl Isaacs  
Darcie Little Badger  
David A. Robertson  
Andrea L. Rogers  
Cynthia Leitich Smith  
Brian Young



## About the Editor

**Cynthia Leitich Smith** is the bestselling, acclaimed author of books for all ages, including *Firefly Season*, *Jingle Dancer*, *Indian Shoes*, *On a Wing and a Tear*, *Sisters of the Neversea*, the Blue Stars series, *Rain Is Not My Indian Name*, *Harvest House*, and *Hearts Unbroken*, which won the American Indian Youth Literature Award. Cynthia is also the anthologist of *Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids*. She has been honored with the American Library Association's Children's Literature Lecture Award and has been named the NSK Neustadt Laureate. She is the author-curator of Heartdrum, a Native-focused imprint at HarperCollins Children's Books, and served as the Katherine Paterson Endowed Chair on the faculty of the MFA program in writing for children and young adults at Vermont College of Fine Arts. Cynthia is a citizen of the Muscogee Nation and lives in Denton and Austin, Texas.





## Discussion Questions

1. This book is a collection of short stories that includes different characters and storylines. Which story would you like to read more about? What questions were you left with? Which character(s) do you wish you could meet in real life?
2. This collection of stories centers upon a frybread stand in the middle of . . . everywhere! What is unique about Sandy June's, and why do you think food shows up in many of the stories?
3. A visit to Sandy June's Legendary Frybread Drive-In gives its visitors what they need—even if it's something they don't know they need. Which character's need resonated with you? What answers would you hope to find if you were lucky enough to visit the drive-in?
4. In several of the stories, characters wrestle with what it means to be Native. Assumptions are made about Indigenous people who are light- or dark-skinned or if they aren't tribally enrolled. What kind of culture policing happens in your community? Have you experienced feelings of not being "enough" in your community, like some of the characters in the anthology? If so, how have you handled these feelings?
5. On page 305 in "Open Mic at the Drive-In," author Cynthia Leitich Smith writes of "Good medicine on the menu, stories on the side." What do you think "good medicine" is? What is good medicine in your life?
6. While many of the stories are written in the style of prose that we see in most novels, "Game Night" by Darcie Little Badger and "Braving the Storm" by Kaua Māhoe Adams give readers a new way to explore the drive-in. How do these stories challenge what is perceived as literature?
7. Even though the stories were written by different authors, you can see glimpses of their characters across storylines. Choose a character and follow how they interact with others throughout the book. How is interconnection a central theme of this book?
8. This book introduces readers to characters from Indigenous Nations across Turtle Island, but it also provides us with a chance to appreciate how they are similar. What shared values show up in these stories?
9. How does this book challenge your understanding of space and time? Were the authors' stories believable or were you distracted by the impossible possibility of it all? Discuss.
10. Angeline Boulley ("Jilly Bean and Jessa Jean") and Byron Graves ("Love Buzz") use Ojibwe language in their stories. The Ojibwe word for old woman is *mindimooyenh* (min-dih-moo-yay), a respectful term that translates to "one who holds the world together." How do Sandy June and the other Elder women hold the stories together? How is this view of Elders similar or dissimilar to those of your own community?

*\*Miigwech to James Vukelich Kaagegaabaw for his language help.*





## Extension Activities

**Sandy June's 2.0** A frybread drive-in makes sense for Indigenous folks to visit, but it may not be the ideal representation of your culture. Design your perfect gathering space. Who would be able to visit? Where is it located? And most importantly, will there be food?!

**Turtle Island Tracking** The writers who contributed stories to this collection represent a variety of Nations across North America, known to Indigenous peoples as Turtle Island. Using the “About the Contributors” section, map where the writers are from. How do their stories give readers glimpses of the places they call home?

**Frybread Fantasy** While frybread isn't a food Natives ate before settlers arrived, you'll find it today in food trucks, restaurants, powwows, and drive-ins. A common way to eat it is like a taco (an “NDN taco” according to Simon on page 228). Find a recipe on the internet or, better yet, collaborate with a Native person and make a batch for your class. Along with a pot of soup, this could be a great way to share lunch with family members as you share stories.

**Real Life Sandy June's** In “A Note from Cynthia Leitich Smith” at the end of the book, the editor explains some of the ways the writers collaborated on this project despite their physical distance. How are the writers like the characters in their stories? Choose one of the writers to reach out to by email or written letter to ask more about the process of how the team interwove stories with so many collaborators.

**Choose Your Next Adventure** *Legendary Frybread Drive-In* is unique because it gathered a team of successful Native writers to collaborate on this project. The contributors have written other books or articles. Choose your favorite author and explore their other writings; select one of the works you'd like to read and share your findings with your classmates. Discuss why it's important to read books written by people who have different perspectives than you. If you chose an author from your own tribe, discuss why it's important to read books that reflect a culture you have in common.

## More YA Titles from Heartdrum



Guide prepared by Odia Wood-Krueger, a consultant who focuses on community engagement and curriculum writing projects. She is Métis from Saskatchewan, Canada, and currently calls Minneapolis home.