

# A Boy Called Slow

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** American Indian Culture, Family Traditions, Rites of Passage, Growing Up

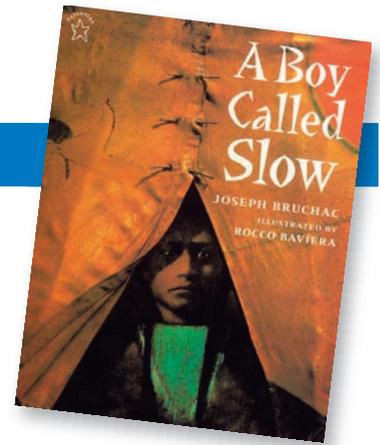
**Grade Level:** 1st to 4th grade

**Book Brief:** This book tells the story of how Sitting Bull, hero of the Lakota Sioux, earned his name.

**Author:**  
Joseph Bruchac

**Illustrator:**  
Rocco Baviera

**Content Connections:**  
Social Studies, Art



## TIME TO READ!

### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** Look at the front and back cover. Who is the boy on the front cover? Is he Slow? Where is he? What do your students notice about him? The back cover explains this is “the true story of Sitting Bull.” Ask your students if they’ve heard of Sitting Bull. Explain that he helped fight for his people’s freedom when the United States was oppressing American Indians.

**The Pictures:** For younger children, take a brief picture walk. Based on the illustrations, where do students think the story is set? When? Who are the main characters?

**Prior Knowledge:** Help students locate North and South Dakota on a map. Explain that the Lakota Sioux are one of the American Indian tribes that live there. (See if students can spot the connection between Dakota and the Lakota, who gave the region its name.)

**Vocabulary:** custom, courage, reputation, inherited, murmuring

**Purpose for Reading:** Students can practice predicting: “Why is *A Boy Called Slow* the title? What do you think will happen to Slow?”



## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Why did Slow get his name?
- ◆ How did Returns Again get four new names?
- ◆ What clues in the text help you understand what a coup stick is?

- ◆ Why was Slow considered a hero?
- ◆ How did his father show that he was proud of Slow?
- ◆ What did Slow’s new name mean?

## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** Revisit the purpose: “What happened to Slow?” “How did your predictions change as the story continued?” “Why was it hard to predict the ending?”

**Extending Our Thinking:** “Is the Sioux method of naming children alike or different from how you were named? How so?” “Returns Again said that the ‘best way to gain respect is to be both brave and wise.’ Do you think Slow showed these qualities? Why or why not?”

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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