

Keepunumuk: Weeâchumun's Thanksgiving Story



READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Colonization, Perspective, Responsibility, Thanksgiving

Book Brief: In this Wampanoag story told in a Native tradition, two kids from the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe learn the story of the first Thanksgiving.

Authors:

Danielle Greendeer, Anthony Perry, & Alexis Bunten

Illustrator:

Garry Meeches Sr.

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

The Pictures: Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, "How do you feel if you wanted something, but your friend had it first? Would you feel different if you got it first?" (Optional: Think-Pair-Share)

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read today, listen for how the First People reacted to the newcomers."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Describe the Wampanoag People and their traditions.
- What did the authors mean by "Their ears did not know the voices of the land"?
- In what ways did the Fox hold influence, and what factors contributed to this influence?
- Why is it important that we learn about Indigenous cultures?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: "Describe how the First People reacted to the newcomers. What happened because of their arrival?"

Extending Our Thinking: The Wampanoag People taught the newcomers how to grow and harvest Weeâchumun. Using [RIF's Recipe Card](#), have students create either a recipe for kindness to newcomers (or new friends) or research and create a recipe using Weeâchumun.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Read other titles in RIF's [Native American Heritage Month Collection](#).
- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.