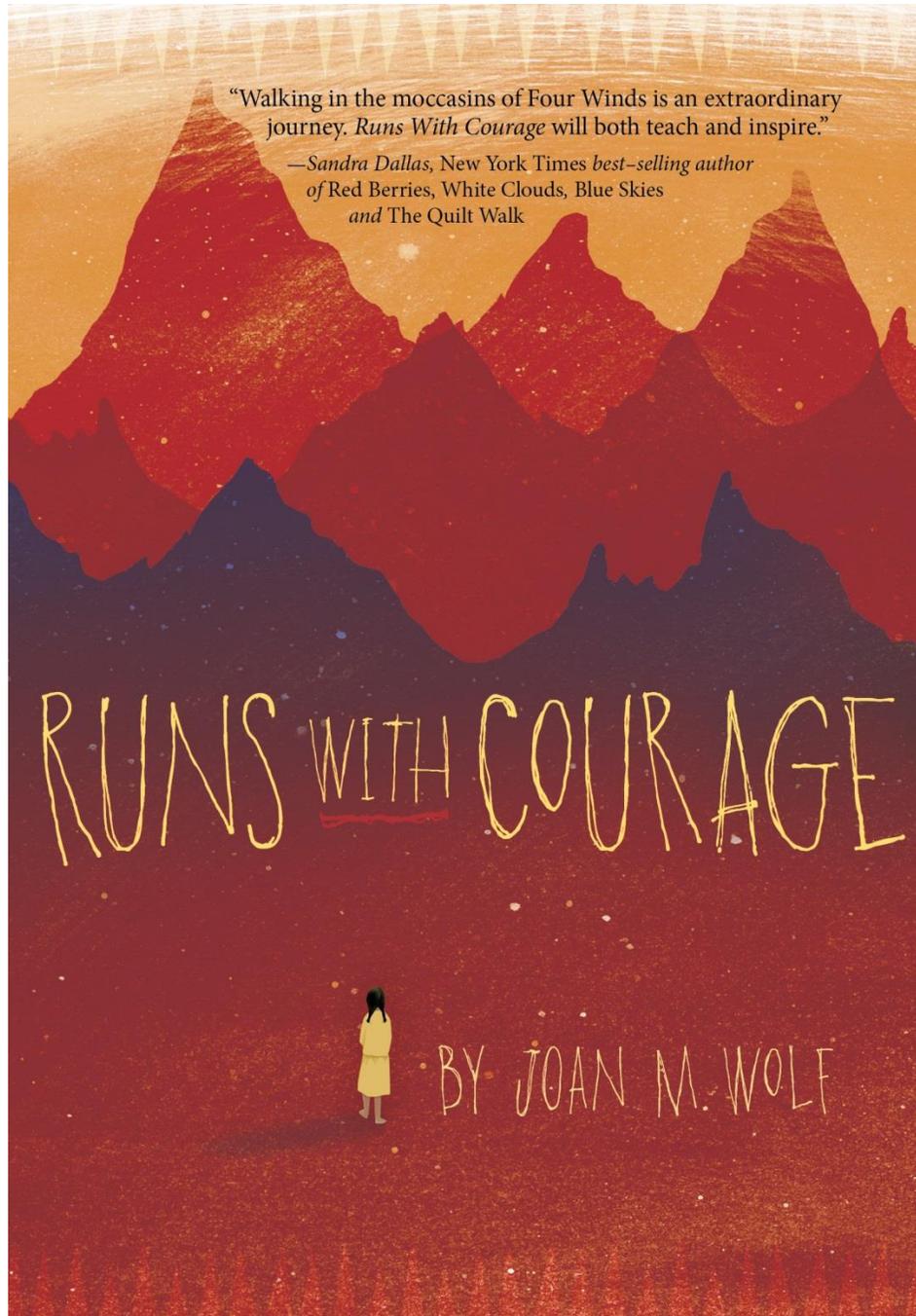


Runs With Courage

Teacher's Guide



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Introduction

The lives of the Lakota people are rich both in history and important life lessons. In the following teacher's guide, you will find several different ways to use *Runs With Courage* in your classroom. Activities can be used in a whole group setting or in small guided reading groups.

A list of vocabulary words from the book is provided, as well as a list of words that aren't necessarily in the book but are related to the story. Encourage students to create their own lists of vocabulary words that they can connect to things from the story.

You will also find discussion questions and several ideas for writing activities. Additionally, there are a number of ideas for social studies research projects that students can choose from.

At the back of this guide you will find several online resources. The online collection from The Library of Congress is filled with primary sources for hundreds of historical events and times. For the Lakota people in particular, the Akta Lakota Museum has a wealth of information about customs, traditions, and ways of life.

Vocabulary

Book Vocabulary

- Tiospaye – Lakota term for an extended family group living together in a small community.
- Tribe – Two or more groups of tiospayes (tiospaye ki) whose members collectively form a larger group of Native Americans.
- Reservation – Land that is legally designated for a Native American tribe and legally run by such tribe as a sovereign nation.
- Counting Coup – The ultimate act of bravery in which a Lakota warrior touches his enemy in battle without causing the enemy harm.

Additional Vocabulary

- Genocide – Acts of violence committed against groups of people with the intent of destroying the existence of the group.
- Identity – How one sees him or herself in the world.
- Indigenous Peoples – People who lived naturally in a certain region or environment and were there first.
- Sovereignty – A people's independent right to govern themselves.

Discussion Questions

1. Which character do you feel most drawn to in the story? Which character do you feel is most like you? Least like you?
2. The culture of the school is one that is completely different from that of Lakota life. What are some of the differences? How did the teachers use those differences to control the students?
3. The teachers sometimes referred to the students as “savages.” Are there words or phrases today that are used to classify others in a negative way? In a positive way?
4. Catches Fire has learned to count coup in his own unique way. At one point, Four Winds says to him, “I’m not like you. I can’t hide inside myself and stay protected.” What are ways that she has learned to protect herself at the school?
5. Have you ever felt the need to be protective about something? What have you done to stay protected?
6. The arrival of Laughing Deer marks a turning point for Four Winds. Why do you think this is? What parallels can you draw between Laughing Deer and Bear?
7. When Four Winds runs back to her family, Uncle says to her, “Sometimes you have to stay. And sometimes you have to run. It takes courage to know the difference.” What does he mean by this? Do you agree? Do you think there is a situation where it is always best to stay or always best to run?

8. Why do you think Runs With Courage was not allowed to have contact with Catches Fire after she had left the school?

Activities

Social Studies Topics

1. Buffalo Study – Buffalo were an integral part of Lakota life. To learn more about this, research the following:
 - a. Besides meat for food, what are the other ways the Lakota used the buffalo? What tools and implements of daily life did the buffalo provide?
 - b. What is the story of White Buffalo Calf Woman? Why is this story of the greatest importance to the Lakota people?
 - c. By the 1880's, buffalo were nearly extinct, with only a few thousand left in the United States. What were some of the reasons for this?
2. Indigenous People - The Lakota tribe is one of many indigenous tribes living in the United States. Research at least two other tribes and find out:
 - a. In what ways is each tribe distinct? How is each similar?
 - b. How did each tribe's lifestyle in the 1800's adapt to climate and geography.
 - c. What are some of the customs or beliefs specific to each tribe?

Writing Ideas

1. Names are important in Lakota life and are not given freely or haphazardly. Find out how you received your name and write about what went into the process. Were you named after a specific person or place? Do you have a nickname that is different than your given name?
2. Write about a time when you needed to show courage. Did you show courage in a manner that others could see or was your courage quieter?

3. The natural world is an integral part of Lakota life. If you were to find something to keep with you from the natural world, what would you choose and why? Would you choose a rock, a leaf, a shell?

Additional Information

- Lakota Life and History
 - Akta Lakota Museum and Cultural Center, Chamberlain SD
 - http://aktalakota.stjo.org/site/PageServer?pagename=alm_homepage
- Fort Laramie treaty and Black Hills information
 - National Archives (National Archives and Records Administration)
 - http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/american_originals/sioux.html
- Winter Counts and Historical Information about Lakota
 - Smithsonian Online Exhibits
 - <http://wintercounts.si.edu>
- Photographs, documents, first person sources of historical periods
 - Library of Congress digital archives
 - <http://www.loc.gov/library/libarch-digital.html>