

## Interdisciplinary Ideas

### LANGUAGE ARTS

1. With a partner, write a bio-poem about Crazy Horse using this or a similar pattern:  
 line 1 Curly  
 line 2 [descriptive words]  
 line 3 who showed [attributes]  
 line 4 when he [actions]  
 line 5 [descriptive words]  
 line 6 Crazy Horse

\* Visit [www.heartwoodethics.org](http://www.heartwoodethics.org) and choose Teaching Heartwood, Culture Keys, for more on the history, culture, and geography of this book.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

2. Read the "Author's Note" at the back of the book to find out how Lakota children are named. Do research to find out more about Native American naming ceremonies. Report findings to your class.
3. Write a short story about a girl or boy who experiences a "rite of passage" in the USA today.
1. In Lakota tradition, a vision quest is a rite of passage into adulthood. Research and write about vision quests.\* List traditions you have that symbolize moving from childhood to adulthood.
2. Research to find out about Crazy Horse's adult life.\* Take notes and report to your class.
3. In small groups, research the seven nations that make up the Lakota peoples: the Oglala, Brule, Minniconju, Sans Arc, Black-foot Lakota, Two Kettles, and Hunk Papa.

## Crazy Horse's Vision

Joseph Bruchac  
 2000  
 New York: Lee and Low Books

**COURAGE**  
 Native American  
 Historical Fiction  
 Reading Time: 6 minutes

### CONCEPTS

Courage  
 Hope  
 Generosity  
 Honor

### SUMMARY

This gripping tale of Crazy Horse's childhood captures the spirit of one of the Lakota Nation's bravest leaders. As a young boy he tames wild horses, hunts buffalo, and leads friends to explore the highest cliffs. When Lakota Indians are threatened by white settlers, Crazy Horse shows great courage in seeking a vision to help his people. Artist S.D. Nelson incorporates traditional Plains Indians symbols in his bold illustrations.

### OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to define and discuss courage, hope, generosity, and honor as they apply to this story. The student will explore other ethical character traits related to the story.

# After the Story

## Crazy Horse's Vision

### DISCUSSION

1. As a young boy how does Crazy Horse (Curly) show courage? If you lived then do you think you would have followed Crazy Horse's lead as he explored his surroundings? Why or why not? What kind of courage does it take to be a leader? Explain.
2. What happens at Crazy Horse's first buffalo hunt? What does this tell you about his character? How are courage and generosity related?
3. How and why does Crazy Horse break with tradition by going on a vision quest? Why is his father angry? Have you ever made a decision on your own without asking others for permission? Explain. How does Crazy Horse change during the three years he waits to explain his vision and earn his father's name?
4. What interpretation does Tashunka Witco give to Crazy Horse's vision? What hopes does he have for his son? For his nation? What hopes do you have for yourself? Your family? Your nation?
5. How was Crazy Horse an honorable man? Were the settlers honorable? Explain. How are honor and trust related to keeping promises? What are the consequences of breaking promises? How do you learn to trust someone? How are you honorable? Give examples.

### ACTIVITIES

1. Locate the states of Wyoming and South Dakota on the world map.
2. More than a century later, Native Americans are still inspired by the courage and generosity of Crazy Horse. Choose a contemporary hero who inspires you and think about his or her characteristics. Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast that person with Crazy Horse. Share in small groups.
3. In groups of three or four, brainstorm character traits you think Crazy Horse possessed. For ideas use dictionaries or thesauruses, or make copies of "Other Ethical Attributes" (from [www.heartwoodethics.org](http://www.heartwoodethics.org), Teaching Heartwood, Attributes). Give reasons for your choices and share with the class.

### JOURNAL

1. Divide your paper in half vertically. On one side list things you want to keep for yourself and on the other side list things you would be willing to give away and/or share with others. Discuss responses with the class.
2. Crazy Horse was born at a time in history when his people needed to defend themselves in battle. Do you think he would still be remembered if he had lived in peaceful times? Why or why not? Write a brief response and discuss in class.

### HOME CONNECTION

1. Ask family members to tell about a favorite hero who showed great courage.
2. Ask family members about rites of passage they have experienced. Ask permission to share with the class.

### VOCABULARY

**burial scaffolds**  
**vision quest**  
**sweat lodge**

**resistance**  
**legend**