

Approved for use in 8th grade

Summary of the Work:

Determined to sway high school officials to remove disparaging Indian mascots, Evan assumes a struggle that spirals him onto a soul-searching journey and exposes him to a barrage of bullying, taunts, and escalating violence. Marlene Carvell's striking first novel is a timely look at a true story of a mixed-race teen caught up in an exploration of his past, his culture, and his identity.

Rationale:

Standing up for what is right and what you believe in is the central theme of this book, and it is the central theme taught. Also, this text brings in the idea of what it means to be Indian in today's world and all the racism that follows. Another topic of discussion is the controversial discussion of changing school mascots from racial slanderous ones to more appropriate. After he tries, fails, tries, fails, and seems like he has lost the fight for good, what is right and just prevails.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

Through lyrical free-verse poems that span his senior year, readers come to know Evan Hill, an artistic, articulate student who embarks on a crusade begun by his older brother to remove the Indian as their high school's mascot. He shares a Native American heritage with his father, who embodies patience and quiet strength and who draws the teen into his once estranged Mohawk family circle. Evan encounters a mix of hostility, indifference, and silent support for his cause from his classmates. Intolerance and brutality erupt when long-haired Evan is cornered in the hall by scissors-wielding classmates and when his mother discovers the beloved family dog lying dead atop a paper feather headdress. The young man's repeated visits to the school board generate annoyance, frustration, and intransigence, and it votes to ignore his request and to uphold the status quo. But at graduation, when an Indian mascot banner is displayed, cheers fade as sympathizers join Evan in a silent, seated protest. Carvell's first novel carries a clear, thought-provoking message about both intolerance and cultural pride. The protagonist's first-person experiences and insights are affecting. His objection to the shallow, stereotypical portrayal of Native Americans emerges from a spiritual and cultural need to be understood, recognized, and appreciated. Through his campaign, Evan learns a lesson in integrity, perseverance, and courage. -Gerry Larson, Durham School of the Arts, NC Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --*This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.*

King, C. Richard. *Who Will Tell My Brother?*. *Radical Teacher* 74 (Fall 2005): 39(2). *General OneFile*. Gale. Helena School District #1/IMC. 26 June 2008 <<http://find.galegroup.com/ips/start.do?prodId=IPS>>.

* Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.

* Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

Noted Distinction:

- 2003 IRA Children's Books Award

Readability:

- Lexile Score:
- Readability Level:

Learning Resources Guidelines:

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

Standard Alignment: ([link](#))

Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption:

Notes on the Text:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

- Racial hate
- What does it mean to be Indian?

Connection to the Curriculum:

See Rationale

Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)

- Film: *Where the Spirit Lives*