

# *The Journey of Crazy Horse* by Joseph M. Marshall II (published in 2005)

## Approved for use in all levels of English IV

### Summary of the Work:

As the brilliant leader of a desperate cause and one of the most perennially fascinating figures of the American West, Crazy Horse crushed Custer's 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry and brought the United States Army to its knees. Now, with the help of celebrated historian Joseph Marshall, we finally have the opportunity to know Crazy Horse as his fellow Lakota Indians knew him. Marshall creates a vibrant portrait of the man, his times, and his legacy. From the powerful vision that spurred him into battle to the woman he loved but lost to duty and circumstance, this is a compelling celebration of a culture and enduring way of life, and the unforgettable hero who remains a legend among legends.

### Rationale:

*The Journey of Crazy Horse* provides students with an example of an American Legend who has become a hero to his people. The book provides insight into the regional history of the Northwest and the people who fought to gain control of the land. The book also provides an opportunity for teachers to infuse Native American history and mythology into the English IV curriculum as required by Indian Education for All. Additionally, the novel and author's reflections offer students a minority perspective on American History.

### Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

- Booklist 10/15/04
- Kirkus Review starred 08/15/04
- Publishers Weekly 09/13/04
- Multicultural Review 06/01/05
- Reference and Research Book News 02/01/05

\* 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:

- See official author's homepage for biography and overview of the author's work.

### Readability:

- Lexile Score: not available at this time
- Readability Level: AD

### Learning Resources Guidelines:

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

### Standard Alignment: ([link](#))

### Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption: 2007

### Notes on the Text:

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

The novel begins with an introduction to a hero story, goes on to develop a historical view of Crazy Horse through his early years, his rites of passage, his growth into a warrior leader, and retells the details concerning his road to Camp Robinson. Additionally, the novel provides reflections from the author on the historical and cultural perspective of the events in the life of Crazy Horse and the Lakota people.

### Connection to the Curriculum:

English IV, World Literature, is devoted to the study of classical World and British Literature, exploring the hero and other archetypes through Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance, and Contemporary periods. First semester stories will concentrate on myth and archetypal patterns in stories about Beginnings, Endings, Monsters, and Monster Slayers and Heroes. Students will be able to recognize, appreciate, and express the unity and diversity of the human experience as expressed through world mythology, literature, and culture. The focus of writing will be refining and expanding effective writing skills through critical and analytical writing, timed writing, and research.

### Additional Connections:

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

Lakota History, The Battle of the Little Big Horn, and the Wounded Knee Massacre