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A BROKEN FLUTE: The Native Experience In Books for Children edited by Doris Seale and Beverly Slapin, AltaMira Press, A Division of Rowman & Littlefield, 2005, ISBN 0759107785 , \$90 hardcover, ISBN 0759107793 \$40 paperback, 436 pp. plus index. B&W illustrations.

If you are teaching children's literature to prospective teachers, Head Start staff, librarians or others who make vital decisions about acquisition and use of appropriate books for kids, you have GOT to own this book. If you are teaching Native American kids, you also must OWN this book. It critically reviews and assesses the cultural authenticity and historical accuracy of hundreds of well-known (and elsewhere highly regarded) children's titles of the past ten years with a particular scrutiny for the taint of misinformation, cultural theft, and lack of balance. Reviews and articles from 60 contributors (including Michael Lacapa, Cynthia Leitich Smith, and Joseph Bruchac) defend great books and lambaste the poor ones for their indefensible colonialism, white entitlement, approbation of cultural genocide, and whitewashing of the Indian holocaust. Chapters with reviews are thematically arranged into helpful clusters: books about California Missions, Navajo Long Walk, Indian Residential Schools, poetry, art, writing by children, arts and crafts titles. The issues addressed include: who owns the stories? what do you do about untruths told in books? In the introduction, the editors remind the reader that publication of Indian literature, lives, history, has become Big Business. They win awards. They make publishers and non-Indian authors tons of money. "They are nearly invariably well-received, praised for their beauty and sensitivity...for their ecological messages by reviewers who do not know enough to know that the works in question are inaccurate, inauthentic, patronizing, full of lies, and altogether a huge insult to the people out of whose lives so much money is being made." Doris Seale and Beverly Slapin are the co-founders and of Oyate, as well as co-editors of *Through Indian Eyes: The Native Experience in Books for Children* (1998); and *How to Tell the Difference: A Guide to Evaluating Children's Books for Anti-Indian Bias*. Slapin is also the author of the *Basic Skills Caucasian Americans Workbook* and *10 Little Whitepeople*. Orders can be directed to Oyate, 2702 Mathews Street, Berkeley, CA 94702, (570) 848 6700, oyate@oyate.org. or AltaMira Press, PO Box 191, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214, (800) 462-6420, fax (800) 338-4550. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.