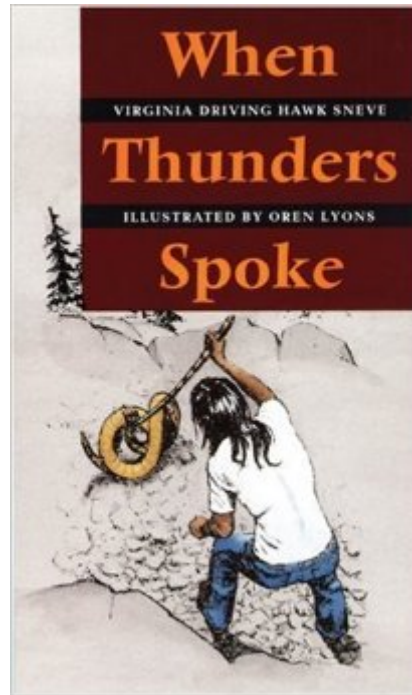


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# When Thunders Spoke



## Synopsis

Norman Two Bull is a modern and savvy fifteen-year-old Sioux who lives on a Dakota reservation with his parents. He is impatient with, if not faintly contemptuous of, the "old ways." Encouraged by his grandfather, Norman makes a perilous climb to the top of a sacred butte, searching for agates where Indian boys had once gone for spirit visions. There, unexpectedly, he finds an ancient relic with the power to make strange things happen—and they do! When Thunders Spoke is a haunting story whose strength often lies in what is not said.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve's "When Thunders Spoke" appears in young adult fiction for Native American literature. Sneve, a Rosebud Sioux, explores present-day life and traditions of Native American tribes. Sneve intends to educate Natives and non-Natives, focusing her novel to young readers. The use of Native vocabulary and a historical base illustrate present day issues, such as the modern evolution of tribal culture, as well as Native struggles between land and identity. I found this book truly entertaining and educational. This novel is a worth-while buy for a Native or non-Native reader. "When Thunders Spoke" tells the story of a fifteen year-old Sioux boy named Norman Two Bull. The young protagonist struggles to find a balance between the modern world and the old ways of his ancestors. Norman refuses his mother's church, deciding it is too strict. However, Norman also refuses his grandfather's traditional lifestyle. Norman has trouble embracing the old ways, which he finds archaic. Throughout the story, readers watch Norman's spiritual journey to connect with his people. His first step is discovering a Wakan (holy) stick. While climbing

the Thunder Butte, he obeys his grandfather's vision and takes it home. Good fortune befalls the Two Bulls thanks to the stick, which magically returns to life. In response, Norman finds spirituality and a new respect for the old ways. "When Thunders Spoke" is an excellent novel to read as younger student and to teach at the university and high school level. Secondary curricula relating to American Literature and Diverse Literature are both ideal courses to utilize the novel. Students can immerse themselves in a story of personal maturity, perhaps a new cultural world, and discover ways an author may educate and entertain readers. At the same time, they are able to assess the importance of finding one's identity and embracing the past as part of the present. The story points out that understanding one's culture maintains it in the future. By honoring the ancient stick, Norman explores ancient beliefs and how they are relevant to present day. In this way, Norman finds his identity, moreover his Native American identity and connection to Sioux culture. It is truly an important lesson for all people.

This book is great

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