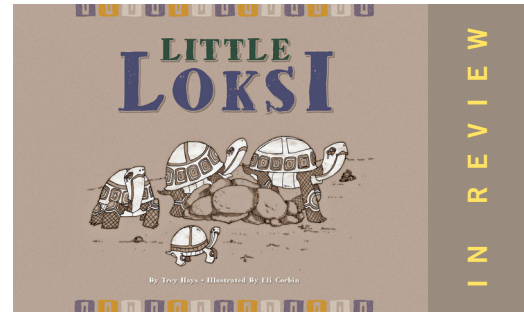


CHILDREN'S BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Roxanne Dixon

Little Loksi

Written by Trey Hays/Illustrated by Eli Corbin
White Dog Press, 2018



for it previously existed. Corbin's illustrations also reflect Chickasaw culture, echoing design from Chickasaw pottery with sepia and umber/black line drawings with whitewashing on heathered tan (the first day), purple (through the night), and gold (the second day) paper. The illustrations are simple, engaging, and expressive. Though published as a paperback, the paper stock is sturdy and clear.

Perhaps partially because of the "journeying" nature of guiding students through creative experiences, Orff Schulwerk teachers often find journeying stories to bring to life within our classrooms. *Little Loksi* is a welcome addition to this literary category. As when setting other such tales, "traveling music" for this story could range from simple to complex, depending on the needs and goals for the students involved. For example, establish a broken bordun ostinato and invite students to improvise the turtles' walking music over the top. How might the music change when they walk along a "rough and rocky place," "dry creek beds and creek beds with trickles of water bubbling through the rocks," and "past a pond with waves splashing against the shore?"

As readers will note, Hays's text suggests different musical qualities and potential instrumentation. Guide children to work together to conceive and execute music for when Little Loksi is upended by the surprise wave and his family worriedly gathers around, unsuccessfully attempting to push him over. Consider giving students turns to serve as the conductor, listening and cueing an ocean drum, cymbals, or a barred instrument tremolo and glissando.

Stories with a succession of characters such as the animals who step forward to help

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“**M**ay you use your talents to help others along your journey.” The author’s inscription in my copy of *Little Loksi* summarizes the message of this lovely, simple book. Inspired by Chickasaw culture, Oklahoma music teacher and author Trey Hays and illustrator Eli Corbin collaborate to tell of Little Loksi, a young turtle, and his diverse community.

On a walk one day, Little Loksi is splashed by a big wave and turned upside down. One by one, various animals help him, at first trying unsuccessfully to flip him over, then recognizing other ways they are equipped to help him in his predicament. Chukfi the rabbit (a common trickster in Chickasaw stories) shares a wise tale and entralls the animals through the night with stories of the moon and stars while Little Loksi lies stuck on his back. Other animals from a wolf to a skunk are inspired to help in their own unique ways. Finally, a spider and an eagle cooperate to right Little Loksi. Wise Nashoba the wolf then reminds all the animals how important each one and his or her special talent is in the “great cycle of life.”

Hays gives his characters Chickasaw animal names and provides a key and pronunciation guide at the back of the book. The Chickasaw Nation actually created a descriptive name for porcupine just for *Little Loksi*, because no word

Little Loksi also offer a perfect opportunity for developing student solo work, both with drama (pantomime, puppetry, or creative movement) and instrumental motives. These and other openings make *Little Loksi* particularly well-suited for extended classroom work or expanding into an Orff-based performance. Embedded within the story are Chukri's retelling of the race between their grandfathers, the tortoise and the hare (itself a fun potential sidebar), and a beautiful depiction of nightfall and moonrise in the woods. Lying on his back, "Little Loksi had never seen the sky in such majestic beauty before," provides a perfect invitation for modal music and small-group movement compositions. The book concludes with "an animal song and dance," including descriptive movement language perfect for exploration and inspiration—even an enticing invitation to incorporate a weaving circle

as the animals dance around the spider's web.

Not a folk tale, *Little Loksi* is actually loosely inspired by the author's process as he recovered from an automobile accident and the diverse ways people assisted him along the way. Nevertheless, in message, language, and structure, the story reflects a folk tale spirit, honoring the collaborators' Oklahoma Chickasaw roots in a beautifully accessible and inspiring way. *Little Loksi* is a wonderful book to treasure, share, and bring to life together—one that illustrates the impact we each can have on one another! ■

ROXANNE DIXON is an elementary music teacher in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, where she seeks to inspire her students to be "their best selves" through shared creative experiences. Roxanne holds a master's degree in music education with an Orff concentration from the University of St. Thomas, Minnesota. She serves on the editorial board of *The Orff Echo*.

CHILDREN'S BOOK REVIEW

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Reviewed by **Kelly A. Grace**

One Minute till Bedtime

Edited by Kenn Nesbitt
Illustrated by Christoph Niemann
Little, Brown, 2016



Who would think a book intended for bedtime would have a place in the Orff Schulwerk classroom? *One Minute till Bedtime: 60-Second Poems to Send You off to Sleep* is an anthology of 143 children's poems compiled by

former Children's Poet Laureate (awarded by the Poetry Foundation) Kenn Nesbitt and featuring contributions by notables such as Judith Viorst, Lemony Snicket, and Naomi Shihab Nye. This collection is page after page of witty, thought-provoking, and just plain silly poems that, though intended for bedtime, are certain to inspire your students to sing, say, dance, and play!

A favorite in the collection is a four-line gem by Linda Knaus. "For Pete's Snake" is a