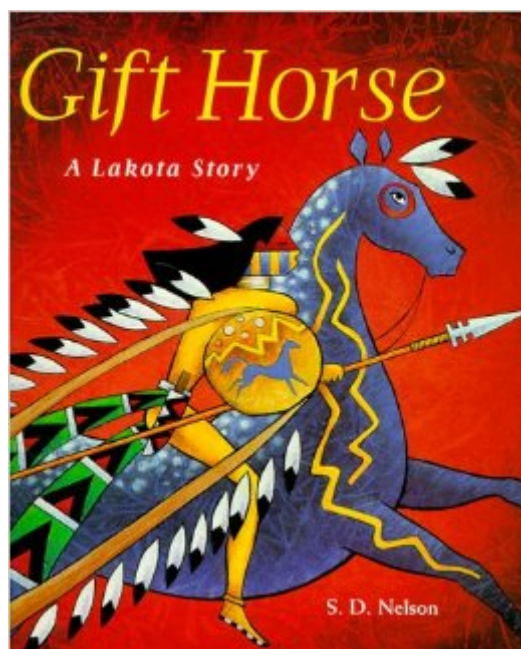


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# Gift Horse: A Lakota Story



## Synopsis

When his father gives him a gift horse, marking the beginning of his journey to manhood, Flying Cloud, and the horse Storm, spend their days hunting and roughhousing. But, when an enemy raiding party steals his beloved Storm, Flying Cloud faces the ultimate rite of passage.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD610L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Harry N. Abrams (November 1, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0810941279

ISBN-13: 978-0810941274

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.4 x 10.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #552,432 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #387 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans](#) #607 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s](#) #11741 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life](#)

Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

This is a beautifully told and illustrated story inspired by the author's great-great grandfather, a Lakota Indian named Flying Cloud. In the story, Flying Cloud earns his name from the way he stirs up dust as he flies across the Plains on Storm, his horse. The relationship between boy and horse inspires several adventures: they get lost in a storm, they hunt buffalo, and when Storm is stolen by Crow horse thieves, Flying Cloud must rescue her. But this is more than the story of a boy and his horse. Nelson also concentrates on Flying Cloud's desire to prove himself and become a great Lakota Warrior. Different aspects of the lifestyle of Plains Indians are depicted, including the buffalo hunt, the sweat lodge, and the vision quest. The illustrations are particularly beautiful, and the writing is both spare and poetic. Highly recommended!

When he begins his journey to manhood, a young Lakota boy is given a Gift Horse by his father,

who had brought some new horses back from a trading visit with the Cheyenne. Flying Cloud names the horse Storm and the two become the best of friends. Storm is so fast that the boy is named Flying Cloud by the people. The two play games together and when Flying Cloud becomes lost in a raging prairie blizzard it is Storm that gets him home. Most of this story tells of not only the adventures of Flying Cloud and Storm, but also of what it was like for a young Lakota boy preparing to enter manhood. The climax of the story comes when a group of Crow, the enemies of the Lakota, steal most of the horses from Flying Cloud's tribe, including Storm. S. D. Nelson is a member of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe in the Dakotas, and Flying Cloud was the name of his great-great grandfather. In an extensive Author's Note in the back of "Gift Horse," Nelson explains about the history of the Lakota (including how history books ended up calling them the Sioux instead) and focuses on the importance of horses in the culture of the Plains Indians and the rite of passage by which a Lakota boy entered manhood. For young readers who are interesting in finding out more about these subjects, Nelson gives them plenty to look over before they go on to other books or start searching the Internet. The colorful artwork is done in acrylic paint on a wood panel and is based on the ledger book drawings done by Plains Indian artists done between 1865 and 1935. The bold illustrations will capture the attention of young readers, but the story is impressive as well, especially in terms of how it depicts the life of a young Lakota boy. "Gift Horse" is Nelson's first children's book and since this came out in 1999 he has added "The Star People: A Lakota Story." He has also illustrated other children's books as well, most notably "Crazy Horse's Visions" and "Jim Thorpe's Brightest Path."

S.D. Nelson's book *The Gift Horse* is a beautiful story of a young boy's coming of age. The story teaches values of becoming a man that include all nationalities. The illustrations are breath taking. The colors are vibrant and alive. Drawn in the traditional style supports the traditional way of the Native Americans. A new book is *Crazy Horse, the Legend*

Bought this for a homeschool unit on Native Americans. Really enjoyable read. It tells a great story while weaving in themes of manhood, culture, warriors, Spirit Quest, bonding with animals, and other things while holding the attention of my kids (ages 3-7). Really fun illustrations, too. One of my favorite books we read during our Native American unit in homeschool.

The book is amazing! The story and the pictures are breathtaking. I purchased the book for my kids and myself as well since for the last 40 something years I have been an admirer of Native American

culture and history. Thank you!

S.D.Nelson's artwork is wonderful, full of bright colors, and details. The story was beautiful.

It is a beautiful book about the Lakota Indians - where my granddaughter is presently teaching.

This book is lovely -- the illustrations are beautifully done-- and the story is excellent.

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