

**WE ARE
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THAN
CENSORSHIP**



Book Title: *Chula the Fox*

Written by: Anthony Perry

Publisher: White Dog Press, an imprint of Chickasaw Press

Year: 2018

ISBN #: 9781935684626

Age Range: 10-12 years old

Grade Range: Grade 4 –6 (recommended by School Library Journal)

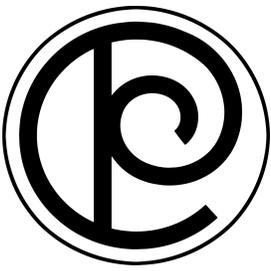
Let's Get Ready to Read

About the Book

Chula, a Chickasaw boy, is suddenly thrown into the murky and treacherous worlds of warfare and adulthood after a traumatic ambush costs him his father. Left haunted by a restless spirit, Chula concludes, in line with the customs of his time, that only vengeance will make things right again. With the help of his Uncle Lheotubby, and armed with a brand-new musket, Chula hones his skills to become one of the revered Chickasaw warriors. He vows to join a raid against the enemy, regardless of his youth, to avenge his father and put his spirit at peace. But Chula, his heart full of questions, finds that the greatest war rages within himself. It seems he is foiled at every turn by his nemesis, Nukni, and inwardly he is ambushed by self-doubt. Is Chula destined for the path of the warrior, or will a different future await him? *Chula the Fox* is a middle-grade historical novel, steeped in Chickasaw language and culture and set in our tribe's Homeland, near present-day Mississippi. It tells an honest and often frank story about Chickasaw lives and the challenges our Native American ancestors faced during the early eighteenth century. (from Chickasaw Press)

About the Chickasaw People

The Chickasaw People's origin story can be traced back to two brothers: Chiksa' and Chahta'. Chiksa' and Chahta' were part of a group of Native ancestors heading east in search of a new homeland. Along the way, it was determined that splitting up would make travel easier. Chiksa' led one part of the group, and his brother Chahta' the other. After a slow and painful expedition, both groups came across a magnificent sight which they had never seen in their



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lifetime: The Mississippi River. The group rejoiced, and many thought they'd reached their homeland, however, the sacred pole that had been guiding their journey told a different story. The group once again split up, with Chiksa' heading west. Those that stayed are today known as Choctaws, and those that followed Chiksa' are known as the Chickasaw people.

To learn more about Indigenous/Native American history and culture, please read the [AmazeWorks Indigenous/Native American Primer](#).

Reflection and Discussion Questions

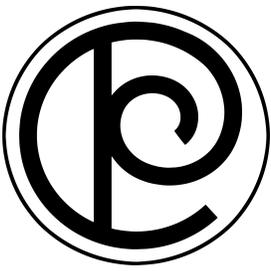
Reflection Questions:

Before you read this book:

- This book includes scenes that show the devastating impact of losing a family member, as well as the grieving rituals of the Chickasaw people. Before reading this book, reflect on your own experiences with loss and grief. Take time to process these feelings with members of your community. Below are a few questions to guide your reflections:
 - When you think of a loss you've experienced, what emotions come up for you?
 - How do you give yourself grace during grief?
 - How have you received support from others while grieving?
 - What have you learned from grief and loss?
- Consider spending some time journaling about the different ways you've had to be resilient in your own life. What are some of the challenges you've had to overcome, and how did your community support you in overcoming those challenges?

Discussion Questions:

1. Early on in the story, Chula struggles to stand up to a bully in his community. Even though Chula is supported by his friends and family, he can't seem to find his voice and ends up second-guessing himself, which results in a costly mistake.
 - a. Have you experienced a time similar to Chula, when you doubted yourself and weren't able to speak up? What did you learn about yourself from that experience?



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2. Throughout the story, we follow Chula as he struggles to find courage and stand up for himself.
 - a. Share a time in your life when you also struggled to stand up for yourself. How were you able to find courage? How did it feel when you were able to stand up for yourself?
 - b. What advice would you give to others who experience similar struggles to Chula?
3. When Chula's village is attacked, he is committed to getting revenge, even as a young warrior who lacks the combat skills of his elders.
 - a. How do you feel about Chula's commitment to revenge?
 - b. Why do you think the author included this theme in the story?
4. Family is another important theme of the book. We learn about the importance of Chula's family and how his loyalty to his family motivates him to find his voice and dig deep for courage.
 - a. Which of Chula's family members did you connect with the most? Why?
 - b. In what ways are Chula's relationships with his family similar and/or different from your own?
5. At the end of Chapter 5, Chula mistakenly mentions his father as if he's still alive, and wonders if "things would ever truly be that way again."
 - a. What do you notice about how Chula is processing the loss of his father?
 - b. How might Chula's experiences connect to your own experiences with loss? If you haven't experienced loss, how do you imagine your experiences might be similar or different from Chula's?
6. Chula decides to join a raid against the Chickasaw enemies.
 - a. Why do you think Chula makes this decision?
 - b. Why do you think the author chose to portray the journey of a young Chickasaw warrior like Chula?



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7. After Chula loses his father, he is confronted with trying to honor and preserve his father's legacy.
 - a. Based on what you learned about Chula's father, how would you explain his father's legacy?
 - b. How would you describe the legacy of the important people in your family and community?
 - c. Why is legacy important to communities?
8. Even though Chula experiences struggle and hardship, there are also moments of joy throughout the novel.
 - a. Which moments of joy resonated with you the most?
 - b. How have you experienced joy alongside struggle or challenging situations?

Inspire, Educate, and Connect

Learn More

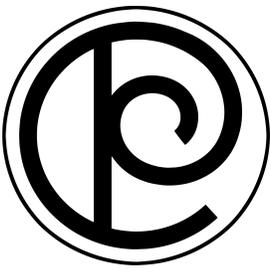
- Check out [The Chickasaw Nation Website](#) to learn more about the Chickasaw people.
- To learn more about the author, check out [Anthony Perry's website](#).
- Learn about the Chickasaw language with this short video [Speaking Chickasaw](#).
- Explore the migration story of the Chickasaw people with this short informational video [The Chickasaw Migration Story](#).
- Check out [Chickasawculturalcenter.com](#) for a more in-depth understanding of the Chickasaw culture.
- Read the [AmazeWorks Indigenous/Native American Primer](#) to deepen your understanding of Indigenous/Native American history and culture.

Talk About It

- Host a gathering of community members to discuss some beloved Chickasaw traditions. Check out the [Chickasaw Stomp Dance](#) as a great place to start.

Take Action:

- Watch this [Earring Beading](#) video to learn about the significance of beading practiced by the Chickasaw people.



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- Support Native American artisans in your local community. To support Chickasaw artisans, visit the [Chickasaw country website](#).

About Book Banning

About the *We Are Stronger Than Censorship* Project (IBPA) :

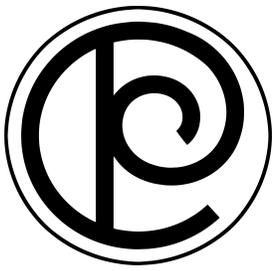
"[We Are Stronger Than Censorship](#) aims to combat the rising tide of book banning and censorship by empowering readers, supporting independent publishers, and ensuring that diverse voices are heard. The [Independent Book Publishers Association \(IBPA\)](#) and [EveryLibrary Institute](#) have teamed up to spread light and inclusive books to readers in communities across the US impacted by efforts to restrict the availability of books featuring Black, Queer, and other under-represented characters and themes."

Resources to Learn More About Book Bans and Censorship:

- [PEN America](#)
 - [Book Bans FAQ](#)
 - [Banned in the USA report:](#)
 - During the 2024-2025 school year, PEN America recorded 6,870 instances of book bans across 23 states and 87 public school districts.
 - Student access was removed to nearly 4,000 unique book titles.
 - Authors whose books are targeted are most frequently female, people of color, and/or LGBTQ+ individuals.
- [Unite Against Book Bans](#)
- [Soft and Quiet: Self-Censorship In An Era of Book Challenges](#), Book Riot
- [National Coalition Against Censorship: Kids' Right to Read Project](#)
- [Books Unbanned](#)
 - [#TruthBeTold Campaign](#)

Taking Action Against Book Bans and Censorship:

- [BE STRONG! Things to do about Book Banning](#)
- [Unite Against Book Bans Action Toolkit](#)
- [PEN America: Tip Sheets for fighting book bans](#)
- [The Free Expression Educators Handbook](#)



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About AmazeWorks

The mission of [AmazeWorks](#) is to champion equity and belonging for all. We believe that every child should see their families, identities, and lived experiences reflected in positive mirrors and windows into the lives of others who are different from them. AmazeWorks is happy to partner on the We Are Stronger Than Censorship program and offers this discussion guide because we all believe in the power of stories to inspire, educate, and connect us all.