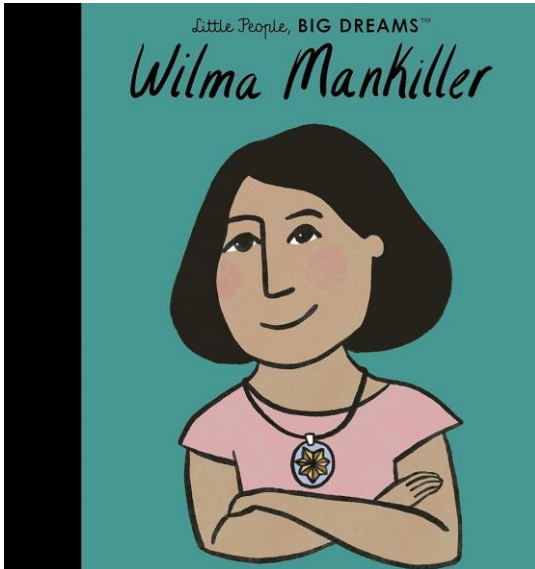


Discussion Guide for Families



Wilma Mankiller (Little People, BIG DREAMS)

Author: Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara

Illustrator: Alexandra Bowman

Themes: Environment and Sustainability

Book Brief: Wilma Mankiller grew up embracing her Cherokee heritage but faced the harsh reality of prejudice against Native Americans after moving to San Francisco. As an adult, she became a trailblazing leader, fighting for Native American rights and making history as the first female Chief of the Cherokee Nation.

READ ALOUD

Before Reading: Build Background

- Ask your child “What do you think makes a strong leader? Can you think of someone who is a good leader and why?”

While Reading: Make Connections

- Why were members of the Cherokee tribe and other tribes forced to leave their homes?
- How was Wilma treated at school in San Francisco, and how did it make her feel?
- What are some specific ways Wilma acted as a leader in her community before becoming Chief?

After Reading: Ask Questions

- Wilma Mankiller faced many challenges but still became a strong leader. What can we learn from her actions about how to overcome obstacles and create positive change?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

If your child enjoyed this book, consider:

- Encourage them to talk about it during other conversations.
- Check out RIF’s [Sustainable Futures](#) center to learn more about sustainability with related books and resources.