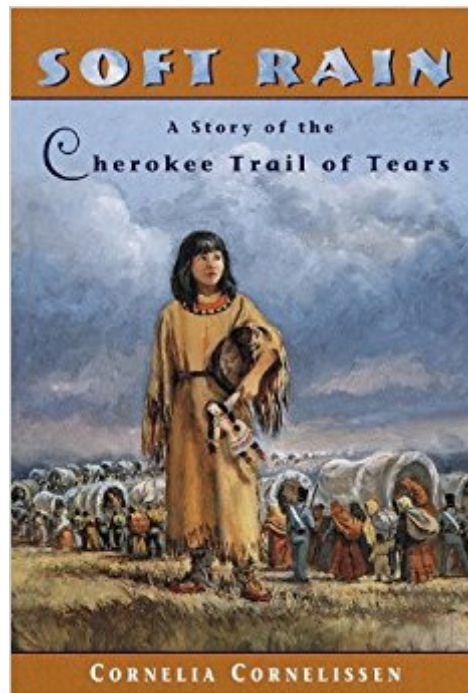




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Soft Rain: A Story Of The Cherokee Trail Of Tears



Synopsis

It all begins when Soft Rain's teacher reads a letter stating that as of May 23, 1838, all Cherokee people are to leave their land and move to what many Cherokees called "the land of darkness". . .the west. Soft Rain is confident that her family will not have to move, because they have just planted corn for the next harvest but soon thereafter, soldiers arrive to take nine-year-old, Soft Rain, and her mother to walk the Trail of Tears, leaving the rest of her family behind. Because Soft Rain knows some of the white man's language, she soon learns that they must travel across rivers, valleys, and mountains. On the journey, she is forced to eat the white man's food and sees many of her people die. Her courage and hope are restored when she is reunited with her father, a leader on the Trail, chosen to bring her people safely to their new land. Praise for Soft Rain: "An eye-opening introduction to this painful period of American history."--Publisher's Weekly "The characters themselves transform a sorrowful story of adversity into a tale of human resilience."--Kirkus Reviews "This gentle child's-eye view will move readers enormously."--Jane Yolen

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

In what PW called "an eye-opening introduction to a painful period of American history," a Cherokee girl recounts the hardships of 1838 leading up to and including the journey along the Trail of Tears. Ages 8-12. (Nov.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 3-5-In the spring of 1838, nine-year-old Soft Rain learns that there will be no more school for the Cherokee children in her North Carolina community. The Tsalagi (as the tribal members refer to themselves) have signed a treaty with the white men and will be moving to new lands in the West. A short time later, soldiers abruptly force Soft Rain and her mother from their home, abandoning the girl's blind grandmother, her dog, and her father and brother out working in the fields. They follow the Trail of Tears, the path taken by 18,000 Cherokee traveling from stockaded holding areas across rivers, valleys, and mountains. Hungry, exhausted, and often ill from the white man's disease, some 4000 people died during the migration. But Soft Rain's story ends more happily; she and her mother miraculously meet up with her father, brother, and an uncle. The author makes clear the hardships these Native Americans endured and the injustice of their exile, but her protagonist remains remarkably positive. Because she has been relatively unaffected, readers may be, too. At one point the grandmother tells a story; at that moment, the book becomes more than just the record of a trip but a glimpse of a disappearing culture. However, there aren't enough of these stories to bring readers closer to this girl and her world. Still, this novel is a readable version of a shameful episode in U.S. history and may find use as a supplement to social studies units. Kathleen Isaacs, Edmund Burke School, Washington, DC Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a very sad story about an even sadder event in the history of this country. This young girl endeavored to survive a horrible time in her life. If you enjoy walking in someone else's shoes for a while, learning about their life and its hardships, this book is well worth reading. It is geared for the younger reader but it is still worth the effort.

Really good book that brings to life the pain, agony suffered by an already established civil society at the hands of greedy European settlers. It is a Trail of Tears for those who endured it and for those who read its history. It is written by an elementary teacher whose grandfather experienced this journey in his youth. It is very well written and would be good for children.

Great book. My 4th grade son and I really enjoyed it!

This US my favorite book of all Time!! I certainly recommend this book to you and either it's based on a true story or it is a true story. Either way the Trail of Tears is real.

This is a child's viewpoint of the Trail of Tears that is real, but appropriate. I read it to my 4th grade class during our history lessons, and they loved it even while being saddened by the plight of the Cherokee. Their empathy was compelling.

Good coverage of an often unmentioned chapter in American history for about the third grade reading level.

My 4th grader and I read this together. Very very good book. He doesn't like to read, so I have to search for books to really catch his attention. This book certainly did the trick.

This book gave a lot of insight on the Trail of Tears, but it was kind of sad. The author was very good at making this horrible historical event so real

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