

We Are Grateful

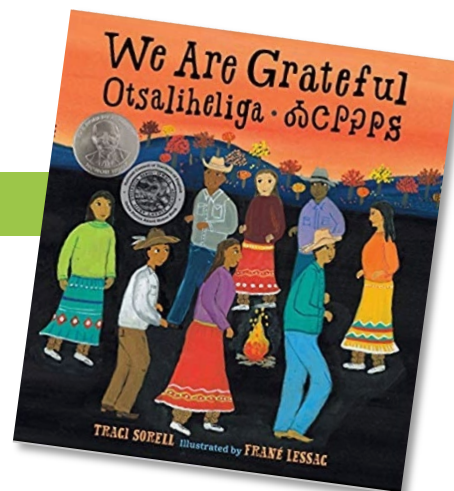
READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Cherokee heritage, Family, Gratitude, Seasons

Book Brief: The word *otsaliheliga* (oh-jah-LEE-hay-lee-gah) is used by members of the Cherokee Nation to express gratitude. Beginning in the fall with the new year and ending in summer, follow a full Cherokee year of celebrations and experiences.

Author:
Traci Sorell

Illustrator:
Frané Lessac



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Read the title. Say, “The word *ostaliheliga* (oh-jah-LEE-hay-lee-gah) is Cherokee for ‘we are grateful.’”

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

The Pictures: Flip through some of the pictures. What are some of the things that the family in this book do together?

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, think about how the family changes with the seasons.”

Prior Knowledge: Cherokee culture places a strong emphasis on expressing gratitude. What are some ways that you show gratitude in your family or community?

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- As you read, point out the Cherokee words and syllabary for each of the seasons.
- What are some things the family does in (fall, winter, spring, summer)?
- What are some ways the family cares for one another?
- Do you like to do any of the things that this family does? What do you and your family do that is different than the family in this story?
- Why is it important to be grateful all year long?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: How did the family’s actions change with the seasons throughout the story? What stayed the same?

Extending Our Thinking: As a class, explore more about Cherokee culture and literature by visiting the author, Traci Sorell’s, website: <https://www.tracisorell.com/>

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more by reading other books written by Traci Sorell such as *We Are Still Here!: Native American Truths Everyone Should Know* and *Contenders: Two Native Baseball Players, One World Series*.