

The First Woman Cherokee Chief

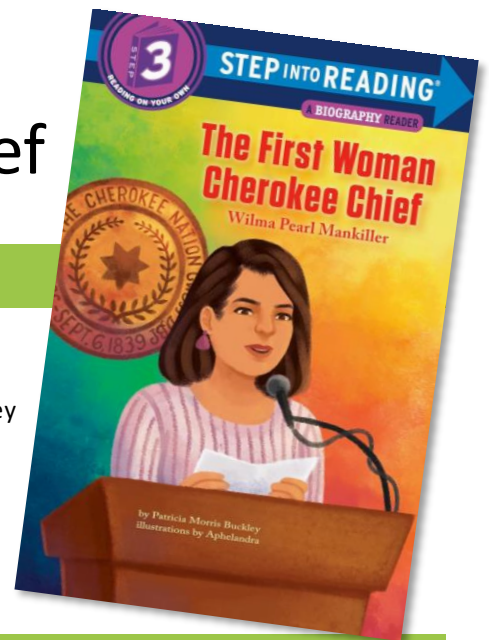
READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Community, Native American Culture

Book Brief: In 1985, Wilma Pearl Mankiller became the first woman Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. She had to convince her people that the chief should be the best person for the job, man *or* woman.

Author:
Patricia Morris Buckley

Illustrator:
Aphelandra



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the story based on the cover.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice about Pearl.

Prior Knowledge: Ask students, "Think about a way you can help someone else. What can you do to make a difference?"

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

Purpose for Reading: "As we read today, pay attention to Pearl's challenges and how she overcomes them."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Compare and contrast women's rights during Pearl's time with those today.
- Describe Pearl's feelings about her new home and school in San Francisco.
- How does the idea of *gadugi* impact Pearl?
- Why do you think Pearl was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: Pearl ended up becoming the first woman Cherokee Chief. What were some of her challenges and how did she overcome them?

Extending Our Thinking: Pearl accomplished many things for Native Americans. Using [RIF's Time = Parts](#), have students retell Pearl's life by highlighting her major accomplishments in chronological order.

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 about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.