

Rez Dogs

Author: Joseph Bruchac

NC Kids Digital Library [ebook](#) & [audiobook](#) available

Related Books:

The Powwow Thief by Joseph Bruchac

[Talking Leaves](#) by Joseph Bruchac

Mountain Dog by Margarita Engle

[Fry Bread](#) by Kevin Noble Maillard

[Wish](#) by Barbara O'Connor

[New From Here](#) by Kelly Yang

Websites:

[Joseph Bruchac author website](#)

[Rez Dogs Discussion Guide](#)

Book Trailer:

<https://youtu.be/Kt7loldrT5k>

Book Talk:

A novel in verse set during the COVID-19 pandemic about a Wabanaki girl's quarantine on her grandparents' reservation and the local dog that becomes her best friend. (*from the Penguin books Book Tasting sample*)

[Rez Dogs book talk from Milwaukee Public Library](#)

Discussion Questions

- Malian struggles with technology issues and internet access while trying to attend her school in Boston remotely. Did you attend school remotely? How did you feel about that experience? How was it similar to and different from learning in person?
- How does Malsum protect Malian?
- What is a “rez dog?” Are rez dogs just animals?
- In what ways are words and names important in the book?
- How do Malian's grandparents share Native American culture and history with her? How does this help her while she stays with them?

Activities:

- Malian and her grandmother work together on Native American beading projects. Explore beading [here](#), then try designing and assembling beadwork of your own.
- Recreate Malian's class project. Invite students to share what they want the class to know about them and their family (pp 166-167). Invite students to bring in photos, play music,

or show family artifacts. If desired, tailor the activity to the spring of 2020 and the 2020-2021 school year to make the project Covid specific.

- Explore the [People of the First Light interactive map](#).
- Try out a [recipe](#) for fry bread.
- Watch a fourth grade class from Queens, New York face-off against author Joseph Bruchac in answering questions about the book - <https://youtu.be/nQrema3KMpo>