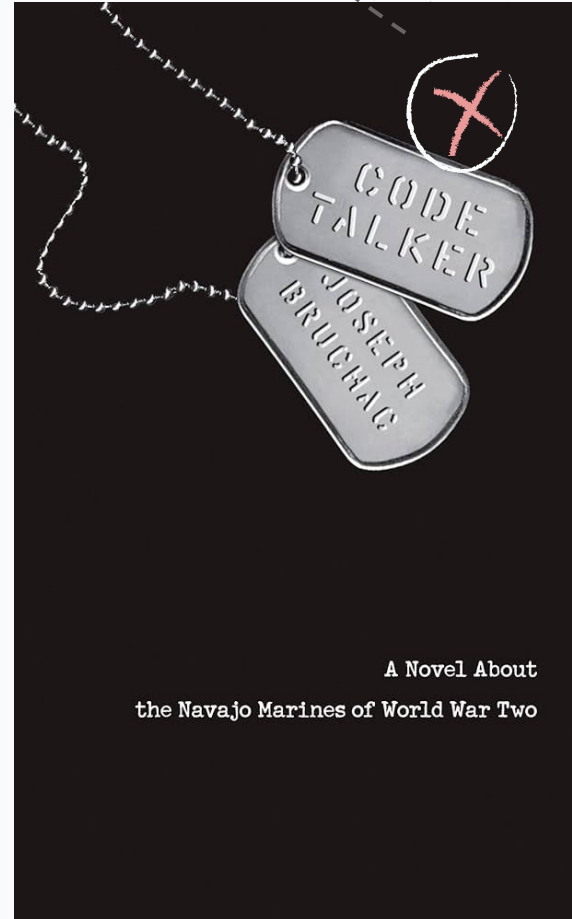


The Earhart Literacy Community Presents

# Code Talker

A Novel About the Navajo  
Marines of World War II  
By Joseph Bruchac



"Strong words outlast the paper they are written on."

- **Joseph Bruchac**



# Code Talker is

the story of Ned Begay, a fictional man, of the Navajo/Diné tribe. It's about how he started his journey in the most difficult of circumstances, but went on to serve in one of the most important roles in World War II in secret - a code talker for the United States military.



Actual code talkers!



Although Ned is a made-up character, his life is based on the very real experiences of other Native American people.

Some of the events in the story are about boarding schools, enrollment in the Marines, serving in World War II and the horrors that come with war, and the constant struggle of being an American citizen and a member of a Native American tribe.

You can learn so much as you see through his eyes what it must have been like to live through all of it.

His story is heartbreaking, thrilling, exciting, saddening, but ultimately one of triumph and perseverance.



# Here are some comments from students:

**It was hard to hear what happened at Saipan, but I learned that you need to keep going when things are hard.**

- Brock



**I liked the whole thing and I learned a lot about the Marines and World War II.**

- Trevan

**I like that Ned was brave, but it was hard when he had to go to boarding school. We can be brave every day.**

- Penney



Although Ned is fictional, he is based on these real, brave men.

297th PLATOON U.S. MARINE CORPS  
SAN DIEGO  
1943  
U.S. MARINES — FIRST TO FIGHT

THE NAVAJO CODE ALPHABET (Note: Some letters of the alphabet have more than one code name.)

ALPHABET	NAVAJO WORD	ENGLISH TRANSLATION	ALPHABET	NAVAJO WORD	ENGLISH TRANSLATION
A	WOL-LA-CHEE	ANT	K	KLIZZIE-YAZZIE	KID
A	BE-LA-SANA	APPLE	L	DIBEH-YAZZIE	LAMB
A	TSE-NILL	AXE	L	AH-JAD	LEG
B	NA-HASH-CHID	BADGER	L	NASH-DOIE-TSO	LION
B	SHUSH	BEAR	M	TSIN-TLITI	MATCH
B	TOISH-JEH	BARREL	M	BE-TAS-TNI	MIRROR
C	MOASI	CAT	M	NA-AS-TSO-SI	MOUSE
C	TLA-GIN	COAL	N	TSAH	NEEDLE
C	BA-GOSHI	COW	N	A-CHIN	NOSE
D	BE	DEER	O	A-KHA	OIL
D	CHINDI	DEVIL	O	TLO-CHIN	ONION
D	LHA-CHA-EH	DOG	O	NE-AHS-JAH	OWL
E	AH-JAH	EAR	P	CLA-GI-AIH	PANT
E	DZEH	ELK	P	BI-SO-DIH	PIG
E	AH-NAH	EYE	P	NE-ZHONI	PRETTY
F	CHUO	FIR	Q	CA-YEILTH	QUIVER
F	TSA-E-DONIN-EE	FLY	R	GAH	RABBIT
F	MA-E	FOX	R	DAH-NES-TSA	RAM
G	AH-TAD	GIRL	R	AH-LOSZ	RICE
G	KLIZZIE	GOAT	S	DIBEH	SHEEP
G	JEHA	GUM	S	KLESH	SNAKE
H	TSE-GAH	HAIR	T	D-AH	TEA
H	CHA	HAT	T	A-WOH	TOOTH
H	LIN	HORSE	T	THAN-ZIE	TURKEY
I	TKIN	ICE	U	SHI-DA	UNCLE
I	YEH-HES	ITCH	U	NO-DA-IH	UTE
I	A-CHI	INTESTINE	V	A-KEH-DI-GLINI	VICTOR
J	TKELE-CHO-G	JACKASS	W	GLOE-IH	WEASEL
J	AH-YA-TSINNE	JAW	X	AL-NA-AS-DZOH	CROSS
J	YIL-DOI	JERK	Y	TSAH-AS-ZIH	YUCCA
K	JAD-HO-LONI	KETTLE	Z	BESH-DO-TLIZ	ZINC
K	BA-AH-NE-DI-TININ	KEY			

**For your activity, use the Navajo code to decode my message by using the phrases in Navajo to find the English letters.**

After you decode my message, make your own and have a friend decode it.

Lin wol-la-chee cla-gi-aih ne-zhoni tsah-as-zih dah-nes-tsa dzeh tse-nill chindi tkin tsah jeha!

**There are also some coloring pages. Have fun!**