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Quiet Hero: The Ira Hayes Story



Synopsis

Growing up on the Gila River Indian Reservation in Arizona, Ira Hayes was a quiet, shy boy. He never wanted to be the center of attention, and at school, he felt lonely and out of place. By the time Ira was in his late teens, World War II was raging. When the United States called its men to arms, Ira answered by joining the Marine Corps. He believed it was his duty to fight honorably for his country, and with his Marine buddies by his side, Ira finally felt as if he belonged. Eventually they were sent to the tiny Japanese island of Iwo Jima, where a chance event and an extraordinary photograph catapulted Ira to national awareness and transformed his life forever. Filled with all the patriotism and tragedy of wartime and its aftermaths, *Quiet Hero* is the story of one person's courage in the face of both military and personal battles. It is a poignant tribute to Ira Hayes.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 930 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

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Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.1 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #766,928 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #440 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Military & Wars](#) #476 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1900s](#) #553 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans](#)

Age Range: 7 - 13 years

Grade Level: 1 - 8

Customer Reviews

S.D. Nelson, tells the story of one of the five Marines (and one Navy corpsman) who raised the flag on Mount Suibachi during the battle for Iwo Jima. Hayes was from Arizona and a Pima Indian. Sent to the government run Phoenix Indian School as a teen, Hayes was a shy and lonely young man. He joined the Marines following Pearl Harbor and was sent into the Pacific war theater. Nelson recreates the historic flag-raising and subsequent media frenzy when the three surviving Marines

returned home. Felix de Weldon's statue of Rosenthal's photograph became the Marine Corps Memorial in Arlington, Va. Hayes faced great difficulty adjusting to life following the war and died within ten years of the flag-raising. He is buried at Arlington Cemetery. This is a book that will be of great interest to those kids with an interest in the military and WWII. The illustrations make the book accessible to kids of all reading levels. An author's note at the end includes photographs of Hayes, the island of Iwo Jima as well as Rosenthal's famous photograph. A bibliography is also included which is an excellent way to demonstrate how authors cite their sources. While watching the movie, "The Sands of Iwo Jima," recently, I was very interested in the scenes of the fighting on Iwo Jima. In the movie as John Wayne and his men arrive at the summit of Mount Suribachi, Wayne's character calls for a detail to find a standard and raise the flag. As Wayne hands them the flag the shot is perfectly framed to include three men receiving the folded flag. The real Rene Gagnon, Ira Hayes, and John Bradley, the three survivors among the five Marines who raised the flag on Mount Suribachi, were the ones receiving the flag in the scene.

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