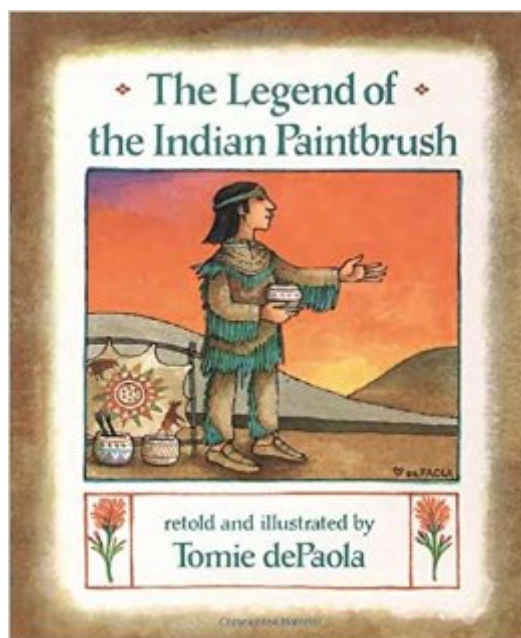


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# The Legend Of The Indian Paintbrush



## Synopsis

In spring, the hills and meadows of Texas and Wyoming are ablaze with the reds, oranges, and yellows of the Indian Paintbrush. How this striking plant received its name is told in an old Indian legend. Many years ago, when the People traveled the Plains, a young Indian boy had a Dream-Vision in which it was revealed that one day he would create a painting that was as pure as the colors of the evening sky at sunset. The boy grew up to become the painter of the tribe, but although he found a pure white buckskin for a canvas and made paints from the brightest flowers and the reddest berries, he could not capture the sunset. How the young Indian artist finally fulfills his Dream-Vision is lovingly told and illustrated by Tomie dePaola, in words and pictures that capture the spirit and beauty of this dramatic legend.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD840L (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Putnam & Grosset; 1st edition (1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0698113608

ISBN-13: 978-0698113602

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (49 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #26,521 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans](#) #28 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#) #63 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Folklore & Mythology](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: 02 and up

## Customer Reviews

A great story for children of all ages. Teachers could use this book when studying the Plains Indians, Geography of the Plains States or wildflowers. When children know a legend associated with a plant they will retain the knowledge of that plant longer.

This story is about Little Gopher who was sad because he couldn't keep up with the other boys

who were always riding, running, shooting their bows, and wrestling to prove their strength.' Luckily for him he had his own special talent, a talent for painting and creating. When Little Gopher went out into the hills to think about becoming a man, he had a dream vision. This vision told him to find a white buckskin and to 'keep it and one day you will paint a picture that is as pure as the colors in the evening sky.' Little Gopher got the white buckskin soon after, but didn't have the right paints to paint the sunset. He kept trying to achieve the right colors. Every morning he mixed paints in hopes that these ones wouldn't be dull and flat like the others, but to no avail. One night a voice told him to go up on top of a hill next evening at sunset, 'Because you have been faithful to the People and to your true gift, you shall find the colors you are seeking.' Little Gopher went to the hill the next evening and, lo and behold, there are brushes full of paint the color of the sunset waiting there for him to paint his masterpiece. Little Gopher painted his masterpiece and when he got done he walked back to his tent, leaving the brushes strewn across the hillside. In the morning the brushes had multiplied and turned into flowers, and little Gopher became known as He-Who-Brought-the-Sunset-to-the-Earth. This book carries several good messages about being true to yourself and not giving up in the face of adversity. It is also a wonderful retelling of a Native American Legend. The book flows wonderfully and the pictures are bright and colorful. Loggie-log-log-log

This legend is based on how the Great Plain Indians were given the colors of the sunset by one of the talented Indians. This book shows how Little Gopher, the Indian that painted the colors of the sunset for his People, remained true to his destiny. Even though he felt like he didn't have a special gift, Little Gopher continued to stay dedicated, until he was guided in the right direction by an old grandfather and young maiden in his Dream-Vision. The overall theme of this legend is that perseverance pays off in the end. This book could be used by teachers to introduce the lesson of how those who are dedicated to a dream or goal can succeed in the end. The plot of the story can be used to demonstrate and teach students how to do story maps. Also, other activities this book can be used for in the classroom are for Literature Circles and Idea Circles.

This could have been told much better. It uses stilted language that is used in so many pseudo-Native American legends. It makes it less accessible to kids. This is a very nice story. I don't know if it is a "real" legend or made up but it is a good story with reasonable plot and good for cultural learning but it could have been better written. Illustrations are fine for kids, clear and descriptive.

I like this legend because it tells the story of a young boy who works hard to achieve his goal despite being unable to join his peers in some of their activities. It introduces children to a different way of life in words and with wonderful illustrations.

This is a simple book with beautiful pictures. The story and illustrations have been a favorite of mine since I was a child. When I rediscovered this book as an adult I was as enamored as ever! Recommended for anyone, especially ages 3-10.

I love these books by Tomie dePaola. He tells the story that my kids love to read and listen on a regular basis. Ask them a question about state flowers and they can not only answer the question but tell you how the legend behind it. In this case, the Legend of the Indian Paintbrush.

These books were given as gifts to Texas cousins. I used them when teaching 3rd grade, in art projects, literature, and Soc. St. They are really wonderful. The characters in Legend of the Indian Paint Brush, and Legend of the Blue Bonnet are children so children can identify with the story. And, there is always a little lesson without being preachy.

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