



School-Home Connection

Your child is reading a story called “Sees Behind Trees” by Michael Dorris. In this story, a Native American boy named Walnut is unable to learn to shoot a bow because he has difficulty seeing. When it is time for the boys his age to prove themselves in a test of shooting, Walnut is sure he will fail. This year, however, there is a new test to find a person with the special ability to hear what others cannot, one who “sees behind trees.” Because Walnut has sharpened his sense of hearing to compensate for his poor eyesight, he passes the test and earns a new name, *Sees Behind Trees*.

Native Americans in Literature

If your child enjoyed reading “Sees Behind Trees,” he or she might like to read other books by Michael Dorris, such as the following which you might find at your public library.

- *Guests*, Hyperion Press, 1992.
- *Morning Girl*, Hyperion Press, 1992 (winner of the Scott O’Dell Award for Historical Fiction).

Many other excellent books on Native American subjects, both fiction and nonfiction, are also available. Your librarian may be able to offer suggestions.

Vocabulary

Living Vocabulary

While reading “Sees Behind Trees,” your child has learned the following new vocabulary words:

tread	compose
exaggerate	moss
sternly	quiver (case for carrying arrows)

Check your child’s understanding of these words by asking him or her to demonstrate their meanings. For instance, you might ask your child to show you how to walk with a light *tread*, how someone might *exaggerate* the size of a fish he or she caught, or how to take an arrow from a *quiver*.



TIME TO READ

Encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes outside of class each day.

New Names

Ask your child to tell you how the characters in “Sees Behind Trees” receive their grown-up names. Then you and your child can think of similar names that emphasize the good qualities or accomplishments of family members, friends, and neighbors.

