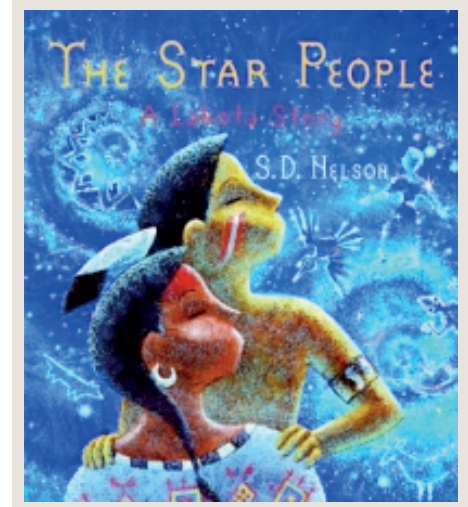




**Title:** The Star People - A Lakota Story  
**Author:** S.D. Nelson  
**Genre:** Myth  
**Cultural Connection:** Astronomy, Environment, Ancestral Guidance



## PLOT SUMMARY

Young Wolf and Sister Girl wandered far across the prairie. They lay on the dry grass and watched the clouds form into animal shapes and faces. After some time, Sister Girl noticed that the clouds were turning dark and lightning was striking the prairie grass. *Rabbits, deer, and other animals bounded past, their eyes wide with fear. Something was terribly wrong. "I smell smoke!" said Young Wolf. A prairie fire!* The children ran for their lives. They tripped in the dense smoke, rolled down a hill and fell into a creek. They hunched down into the deepest spot until the fire passed. Darkness fell and the two were wet, alone and still far from their village. Above them the stars took animal and human shapes and danced around the children. They were the spirits of the Old Ones who once had walked on the earth. Dancing among them was Elk Tooth Woman, their Grandmother. She drew them close and they fell asleep in her arms. In the morning Elk Tooth Woman led them to some berry bushes so that they could eat their fill. After that the grandmother led the children across the burnt prairie until they reached their village. *But ever after, when my little brother and I walked beneath the star-filled heavens, we felt comfort. For we knew our grandmother and all of the Star People were watching over us.*

## LEARNING INTENTION

### Focus Reading Connection: #4 Predicting

Readers predict when they use their prior knowledge, as well as all of the information that they have gathered from the text and illustrations, to come up with a guess about what the story will be about. When talking to students about predicting it is important to emphasize that:

1. There is no right or wrong answer.
2. There are many clues in the text and in the pictures.
3. Their prediction might stay the same, or it might change, when new information is added to their prior knowledge.
4. Predicting is something that good readers do before they start reading the story.
5. Readers continue to predict while they are engaged in reading the story.

**This lesson uses structured partner talk as a learning strategy. To learn more about partner talk please refer to the Educator's page on our website.**

## MATERIALS REQUIRED

- 1 copy of The Star People
- 1 copy of the predicting worksheet for each student



## BEFORE

- Read through the story and place a sticky note on these two pages:
  - page 8 next to the text *"A prairie fire!"*
  - page 15 next to the text *"They are the spirits of the old ones...."*
- Explain to the class what a prediction is (using prior knowledge plus the clues in the book to make a smart guess as to what the book is about-or what will happen next).
- Explain that there is no right or wrong answer when you are making a prediction.
- Explain that you might want to alter your prediction after you gather new information or find new clues in the story.
- Explain that today they are going to make 3 predictions about a story based on the information in the text and in the pictures.

## DURING

- Distribute a copy of the predicting worksheet to each student.
- Show the students the cover of the book. Look at all of the details in the picture. Read the title. Ask each student to turn to a partner and talk about what they think the book might be about.
- Have several students report out their predictions to the whole class. Ask them to justify their thinking *"I think that...because...."*
- Have the students record their prediction on the worksheet.
- Begin to read the book. Stop to look at the pictures and consider the details. Stop when you reach the first sticky note- *"A prairie fire!"* Have each student talk to the same partner and discuss what they think will happen next.
- Have several students share their prediction with the whole class. Again, have them justify their thinking.
- Have each student record their prediction on the worksheet.
- Continue to read the story and stop at the second sticky note.
- Repeat the above process.
- Continue to read to the end of the book.

## AFTER

- Have each student share their written predictions with a partner. Have them discuss whether their predictions were close to the actual events in the book.

### **Suggested Supplemental Resources:**

Click on the Kids tab and go to the Science category to find similar stories such as:

- Sky Sisters by Jan Waboose
- Star Boy by Paul Goble
- All The Stars In The Sky: Native Stories From The Heavens by CJ Taylor



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Star People: Making Predictions

1. When I looked at the cover I predicted \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. After reading chunk #1 I predicted \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. After reading chunk #2 I predicted \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_