



Toypurina: Japchivit Leader, Medicine Woman, Tongva Rebel

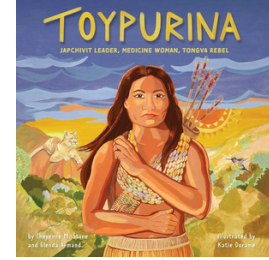
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Grades K-5

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Reading Guide by Stephanie Johnson, Southland Council of Teachers of English

Discussion Questions

1. What do you notice about the cover of the book? What words might describe the person featured on the cover? What animals do you recognize on the front and back covers and throughout the pages of this book? What do these animals often symbolize?
2. Read the three dedications from the two authors and the illustrator: what words or ideas stand out to you?
3. What seems to be the setting of the book: where and when does this story take place? What words or pictures can help you to describe and determine the setting? Do the pictures show places you recognize?
4. In the opening pages, what frightens Toypurina and the other children? How does Grandmother's story and actions comfort the children?
5. What are the roles or jobs of the people in Toypurina's village? How does everyone learn the important skills and crafts needed for the whole village to thrive?
6. When Toypurina turns nine years old, what happens that changes the village, and how is it changed? Who arrives?
7. As she becomes an adult, what skills does Toypurina learn? What roles does she serve for the people in her village?
8. When Toypurina turns 25 years old, what convinces her to take action against the invaders?
9. Was the rebellion led by Toypurina on October 25, 1785 successful? Why or why not?



**LOS ANGELES
CONSERVANCY**

10. What item did Toypurina take with her as she was forced to leave her village of Japchivit? Why does she take this item above anything else?
11. Who or what has witnessed Toypurina's entire life in the village? What might it say about all it has seen? If you were to draw a portrait of this witness or write a story about it what words or pictures would you include to show all it has experienced?
12. Look back at the dedications at the start of the book: how has this book been a window and a mirror for you?
 - **Window: What new words and ideas did you encounter in this book? What did you learn?**
 - **Mirror: What aspects of this book were familiar to you? What parts of it might reflect who you are or what you already know?**
13. How might this book be a way to help to honor ancestors and preserve traditions of the Tongva and other indigenous communities?

EXPLORE

Beyond This Book

Tongva means "people of the earth." How is that meaning conveyed throughout this story?

To learn more about the Tongva, read the book *Waa' aka': The Bird Who Fell in Love with the Sun* featured on the [L.A. Conservancy's "People + Places" book list for 2021](#).

On what tribal lands have you lived or traveled? You can use this L.A. Conservancy webpage to help you learn more about L.A. County's original people and their villages, including the Tongva: <https://www.laconservancy.org/land-acknowledgment/>

You can consult the [interactive maps available from Native Land Digital](#) to learn more about the lands, languages, stories, and traditions of indigenous peoples around the world.

