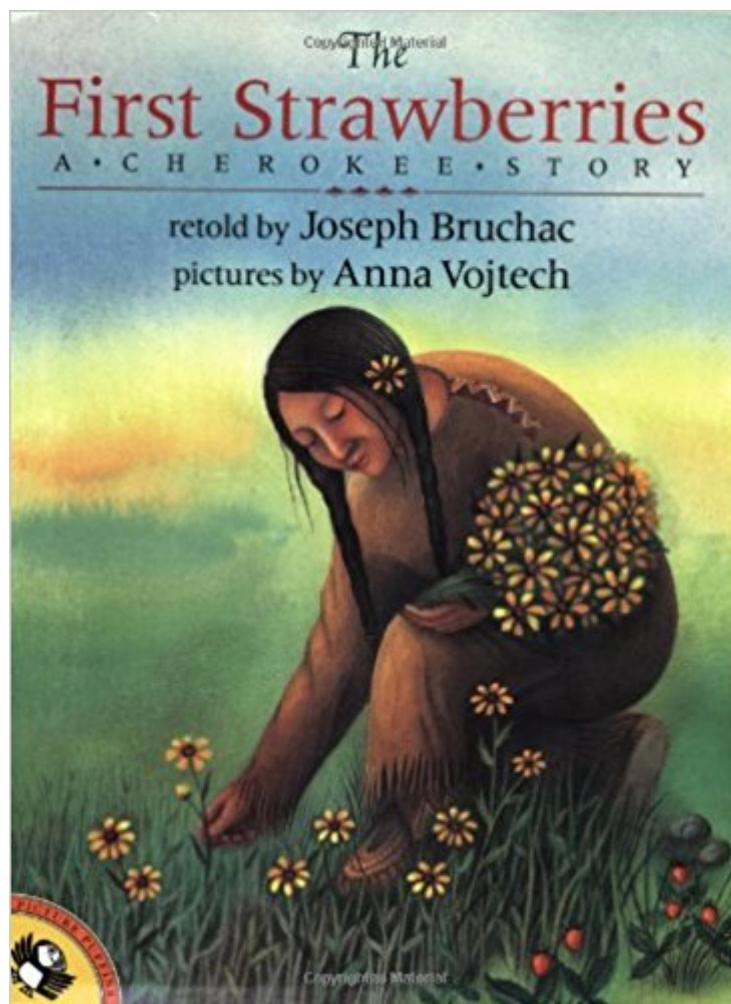


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# The First Strawberries (Picture Puffins)



## **Synopsis**

From an award-winning Native American storyteller comes this captivating re-telling of a Cherokee legend, which explains how strawberries came to be. Long ago, the first man and woman quarrelled. The woman left in anger, but the Sun sent tempting berries to Earth to slow the wife's retreat. Luminous paintings perfectly complement this simple, lyrical text.Â "Complete harmony of text and pictures: altogether lovely."-- Kirkus Reviews, pointer review

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: AD320L (What's this?)

Series: Picture Puffins

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (June 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140564098

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Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 0.1 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #59,542 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > United States #45 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans #58 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Anthologies

Age Range: 3 - 5 years

Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

## **Customer Reviews**

This legend explains the origins of strawberries, grown by the sun to help the first man and woman patch a quarrel. "Spare text, an uncomplicated story line and gentle illustrations keep this quiet but resonant tale accessible to even the youngest child," said PW. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

A gentle story of the Sun's healing of marital discord by a gift of ripe strawberries that magically grow at the feet of an angry woman as she flees her husband's harsh words, thus halting her departure long enough for him to catch up and make amends. Thereafter, the story concludes,

whenever the Cherokee eat strawberries, they are reminded to be kind to one another. Quietly luminous watercolors capture details of dress, dwelling, implements, flora, and fauna against an open landscape of rolling hills. Small touches dramatize the story's moods: a bouquet of brown-eyed Susans flung to the ground in anger; an empty nest in a pine tree as the woman disappears behind the western hills; the glimmer of a single firefly as man and wife are reconciled. Complete harmony of text and pictures: altogether lovely. (Folklore/Picture book. 5-10) -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Touching story. I used to pick the wild sweet strawberries in the wetlands near my former childhood home that is north of here in Michigan. Wonderful example of how couples who experience stress and strain of arguments can successfully work this out even though difficult times and arguments. We should have more stories passed on like this in our current culture. By the way. My hubby was so impressed at my love of these sweet little wild berries we actually found someone that sold the wild indigenous plants, and planted some. Looking forward to the berries & passing on this sweet story of relationships and redemption! :)

This is a nice story for children who are studying the Cherokee people. As a long-time teacher of literature, I am always inclined to encourage children to link what they are reading with other literature in their experience. "The First Strawberries" is a lovely story of the first two people created by the Supreme Being "Yowa" from the Cherokee heritage. Not only is it a very fitting story of how these two come to cherish one another, but it is also very nice for comparison with the Biblical account of the first two people created by God. A child as young as second grade can easily make the connection. This little story embodies what makes for good children's literature: a well written story with a moral, but without a didactic approach. It allows the child to discern for himself with what he brings to the experience.

Again, one of my family's FAVORITE BOOKs. The values and life lessons taught are relatable, rather than some 'princess in a far off land, bla bla bla'.... This is a book about knowing when to stand up for yourself, when to reach out and apologize for your actions, and when to FORGIVE and move on again. Perfect book. Plus the illustrations are superb.

This is a good story about how two people who love each other can argue but later reconcile. The man acts bossy and sexist to the woman but then he is sorry and has to go a long way to apologize

to her. The paintings in the book are gorgeous and they show the loving relationship of the two people as well as their hurt feelings.

I loved the book, read it to my 2nd grade class, then they wrote a summary and drew pictures. They could feel the hurt the woman felt...so could I. It's a sweet story of forgiveness.

Great children's book. Gentle plot and nice pictures. I used it to share with my children a story of the native Cherokee people that does not involve harder, bigger issues that my young children are not ready for.

This Cheyenne tale is a great lesson about how words of anger hurt and about forgiveness. Also a nature pour-quoi tale! Can be shared easily with very young, important message for older boys and girls as well as adults. After reading this, eating strawberries will be just a little sweeter!

I ordered this book sight-unseen as gifts for children in my life because other books by the author were chosen for our community reading program. The story moved me to tears. It is beautiful in the simplicity in which it touches on the expectations we place on human relationships and the beauty of reconciliation. The illustrations are wonderful, too. I plan to give this as a gift going forward to anyone I know getting married!

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