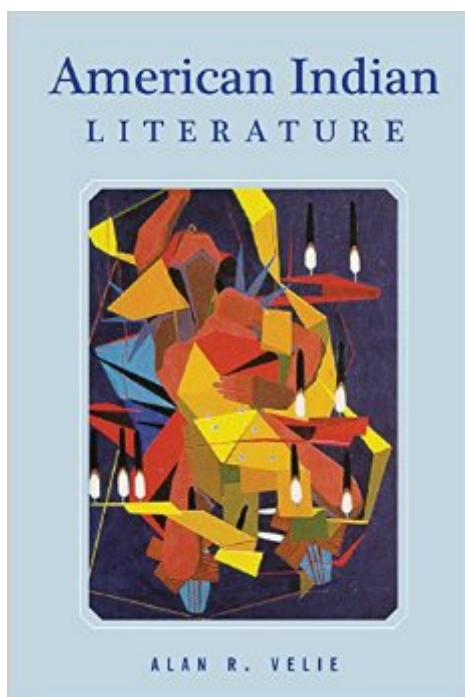


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# American Indian Literature: An Anthology



## Synopsis

Along with the traditional, primarily oral, literature of tales, songs, memoirs, and oratory, this revised anthology offers a large selection of poetry and fiction by American Indian women, including an excerpt from Louise Erdrich's *Love Medicine* and poetry by Paula Gunn Allen, Rayna Green, Joy Harjo, N. Scott Momaday, James Welch, Gerald Vizenor, and Maurice Kenny.

## Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #782,181 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > United States > Native American](#) #881 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Native American](#) #1107 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Anthologies](#)

## Customer Reviews

Velie has put together a fine anthology of all different genres of Native American literature. My one qualm is that in the first edition, published in '79 (I believe), a good many of the "poems" were represented by the work of Frances Densmore: transcribed into western musical notation, along with the original language lyrics, and with a glossary of the native words provided at the bottom of the page. In the revised edition, Densmore's transcriptions are replaced with simple translations presenting the poems as purely literary works. What's lost is the strong sense of these works as songs-- performances, communal play--and the necessity for the reader to get intimately involved in the work by using the glossary to translate the song for him or herself. The new edition's translations also give no clue about the nonsense syllables the singer often slips in between the syllables of a native word--a kind of Indian doo-wop or hey-nonny-nonny.

American Indian Literature An Anthology by Alan R. Velie (Author) was a good book, I wasn't familiar with the American Indian folklore and literature, it was new concepts for me. I did very well in my class and test, some of the readings were dry, others were interesting. None the less it was a perspective into the Native American life, which was interesting to learn about.

Not too many anthologies of American Indian literature exist, but considering that you're limited in options...this book is fantastic! It contains a mix of tribal mythologies, creation stories, and contemporary works by folks like N. Scott Momaday (1969 Pulitzer Prize winner for his book *House Made of Dawn*.) Highly recommend this book if you're into this stuff. Even if you're not, check it out anyway. Something new. :)

This was a great book it came to me fast and was in good condition just like it said very happy with purchase

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