

N Scott Momaday

Kiowa born February 27, 1934

Early life

- Born in Oklahoma 1934
- homestead
- dad artist, mother storyteller
- Moved when 12 to Pueblo reservation
 - Rode horseback and imagined ancestors
- Went away to college
 - UNM BA
 - Stanford Phd



Later life

- Poet, artist, writer
- 1969 Pulitzer Prize
- Tenured at Stanford
- Visiting storyteller
- Active now, at 87
- Featured in American Masters Nov. 2019







Excerpts from Benign Self Portrait

A mirror will suffice, no doubt.
The high furrowed forehead,
The heavy-lidded Asian eyes,
The long-lobed Indian ears.
Brown skin beginning to spot,
Of an age to bore and be bored.
I turn away, knowing too well
My face, my expression
For all seasons, my half-smile.

I see the mountains as I saw them
When my heart was young.
But were they not a deeper blue,
shimmering under the fluency of skies
Radiant with crystal light? Across the way
The yellow land lies out, and standing stones
Form distant islands in the field of time.
here is a stillness on this perfect world,
And I am content to settle in its hold.
I turn inward on a wall of books.
They are old friends, even those that
Have dislodged my dreams. One by one
They have shaped the thing I am.

In the Bear's House



N. SCOTT MOMADAY

From forward:

Bear and I are one, in one and the same story.. My Indian name is Tsoaitalee, which in Kiowa means Rock-tree boy. Tsoai, "Rock Tree" is Devils Tower in Wyoming, That is where, long ago, a Kiowa boy turned into a bear and where his sisters were borne into the sky and became the stars of the Big Dipper. From the time the name Tsoaitalee was conferred upon me as an infant, I have been possessed of the Bear's spirit.

Works

- *The Journey of Tai-me* (1967), folklore
- [*House Made of Dawn*](#) (1968), novel
- [*The Way to Rainy Mountain*](#) (1969) (illustrated by his father, Alfred Momaday), folklore
- *Angle of Geese* (1974), poetry chapbook
- *The Gourd Dancer* (1976), poetry
- *The Names: A Memoir* (1976), memoir
- *The Ancient Child* (1989), novel
- *In the Presence of the Sun* (1992), stories and poetry
- *The Native Americans: Indian County* (1993)
- *The Indolent Boys* (Play) Premiered on the [Syracuse Stage](#) during the 1993-94 season
- *Circle of Wonder: A Native American Christmas Story* (1994), children's book
- *The Man Made of Words: Essays, Stories, Passages* (1997), stories and essays
- *In the Bear's House* (1999), mixed media
- *Four Arrows & Magpie: A Kiowa Story* (2006), children's book
- *Three Plays: The Indolent Boys, Children of the Sun, and The Moon in Two Windows* (2007), plays
- *Again the Far Morning: New and Selected Poems* (2011), poetry
- *The Death of Sitting Bear* (2020), poetry
- *Earth Keeper: Reflections on the American Land* (2020), poetry

Honors and awards

- In 1969, y won the Pulitzer Prize for his novel "House Made of Dawn" ([Pulitzer.org](#)).
- featured in the [Ken Burns](#) and [Stephen Ives](#) documentary, [The West](#) (1996), for his masterful retelling of Kiowa history and legend.
- He was also featured in [PBS](#) documentaries concerning boarding schools, [Billy the Kid](#), and the [Battle of the Little Bighorn](#).
- was honored as the Oklahoma Centennial [Poet Laureate](#)
- In 1992, received the first Lifetime Achievement Award from the [Native Writers' Circle of the Americas](#).
- In 1993, Momaday received the Golden Plate Award of the [American Academy of Achievement](#).
- Awarded a [National Medal of Arts](#) in 2007 by President [George W. Bush](#).^[21]
- In 2018, Momaday won a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards
- In 2019,warded the Ken Burns American Heritage Prize.