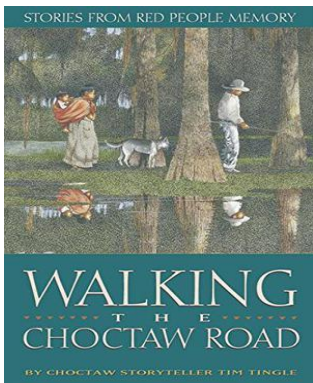


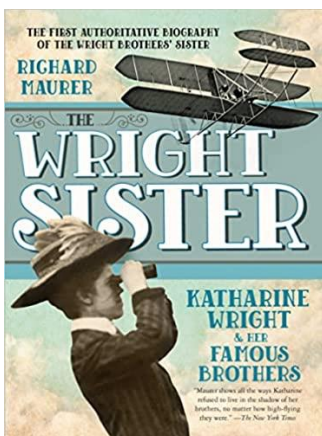
The 2023 Phoenix Award Recipient:



Walking the Choctaw Road by Tim Tingle, Cinco Puntos Press, 2004
To open this collection of stories by Choctaw storyteller and author Tim Tingle is to open a gift.

In these oral tales that he was entrusted to document, Tingle traverses the path his ancestors trod in 19th century Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Alabama. From the forced removal known as the Trail of Tears, to the crossing of the Mississippi River into Oklahoma, to the bonds between African American and Choctaw communities, Tingle honors stories from “red people memory.” And from such memory, readers bear witness to what some might deem impossible: an enslaved family becomes invisible to slave patrols as they cross Bok Chitto into Choctaw territory and freedom; Choctaw agents and friends transform into spirit dancers; eighty-year-old men shape-shift into cougars or owls; bones of Choctaw elders fly into a tornado. With these stories and their mingling of Choctaw and Christian tradition, Tingle highlights themes of forgiveness, honor, respect for others, healing, and tenacity. Readers are welcomed into Tingle’s storytelling world where he preserves tales shared with him by Choctaw elders who took his measure and found him worthy of the task. Tingle’s descriptive, rich narrative is infused with Choctaw humor as well as grief and loss; readers are reminded – and some learn for the first time – that despite centuries of attempted genocide, the Choctaw people and their culture live.

The 2023 Phoenix Honor Book Recipient:



The Wright Sister: Katharine Wright and Her Famous Brothers, by Richard Maurer, Roaring Book Press, 2016

There’s an old saying, “Behind every great man is a great woman.” Success is rarely a purely individual pursuit; after all, someone has to cook and clean and mend, and that someone is almost always a woman. In *The Wright Sister: Katharine Wright and her Famous Brothers*, Richard Maurer presents a biography of Katherine, sister of Orville and Wilbur Wright and the “great woman” behind those men. Drawing from Katharine’s personal papers, letters, and the Wright family archives, Maurer crafts a narrative of a well-educated woman and gifted scholar who gives up her career aspirations to support her father and brothers as they pursue the technological marvel of first flight. The candid photographs that accompany the text chart Katharine’s life from childhood through her college years at Oberlin, her decades supporting and caring for Wilbur and Orville, and her eventual marriage that her brothers would view as betrayal. *The Wright Sister* tells a touching personal story that is also important history, highlighting a lesser-known but essential figure in the story of the Wright Brothers, and casts an intimate spotlight on the origin of the first flying machines and the woman who played an integral part in their invention.