DEAR READERS,

Welcome to the 2022 Reading Across Rhode Island program. On behalf of the dedicated group of volunteers who read dozens of books and discussed their merits as our state read, we are honored to offer to you Angeline Boulley’s debut novel Firekeeper’s Daughter. We have no doubt it will pull you into its story and keep you riveted through its twists and turns, and we hope that it will inspire you to engage in our programming events to help us all consider its connections to our lives here in Rhode Island.

Daunis Fontaine is a narrator you won’t soon forget. Like many other teenagers navigating her post-high school experience, she is making weighty decisions that will affect not just herself but the well-being of her whole community. Living in the author’s own home of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, Daunis exists along international as well as cultural borderlands. Her mother a member of the wealthy white elite, her father a hockey star of the Ojibwe tribal community, and Daunis who must figure out where her allegiance lies as secrets are slowly revealed that force her to question her most trusted relationships.

Angeline Boulley explains that she “set out to write Firekeeper’s Daughter because there are simply too few stories told by and about Native Americans, especially from a contemporary point of view. We exist and have dynamic experiences beyond history books or stories set long ago.” We hope that this story will inspire us to share our stories, to build our interconnectedness across our own diversity of generational and geographic territories. We invite you to join us for any and all of our extensive array of programming that allows for a variety of ways to engage in the conversation about the book and learn more about its relevance to us in our state today. We encourage you to share this book with friends, families, and colleagues to welcome them into our reading community. There is so much to learn from each other, so thank you for taking the time to read this book and listen to our community share its impact on us.

And if, like me, this book whets your appetite to deepen your understanding of its themes, we have once again offered a robust list of “RARI Companion Reads” to broaden our audience and increase intergenerational experiences. We are thrilled to offer book sets as well as upcoming virtual author visits for the following titles: the poetic biography Braiding Sweetgrass, by Robin Wall Kimmerer; the picture book We are Water Protectors, by Carole Lindstrom; the Middle Grade short story anthology Ancestor Approved, edited by Cynthia Leitich Smith; and the poetry collection Voices of the Warp and Weft, edited by Amber Bliss and Madeleine Hutchins.

Great stories like these help us step outside of ourselves, to activate our imaginations to see the world through another’s eyes while also helping us understand our own experience. We hope this year’s RARI program is a rich one for you, as it has already been for us in its planning. We look forward to meeting you at our virtual events and hope you will reach out to us to keep the conversation going.

Maureen Nagle
Reading Across Rhode Island Education Chair
mnagle@mosesbrown.org
2022 Reading Across Rhode Island Programming Guide

Reading Across Rhode Island Virtual Kick Off
January 25 | 7:00-8:00 pm
Readers are invited to join moderator, Jim Ludes, Executive Director, Pell Center for International Relations and Policy, Honorary Chair Lorén Spears, Silvermoon Mars LaRose, Assistant Director of the Tomaquag Museum and Reading Across Rhode Island Education Chair Maureen Nagle for engaging introduction to the book. [Register Here!]

RARI Webinar for Librarians (TBD)
February 2 | 10:00-11:00 am
Join us for this virtual event for librarians to learn more about Reading Across Rhode Island and enjoy an introduction to this year's selection and companion reads. Consider possibilities for public programs and partnership opportunities with educators. [Register Here!]

RARI Evening for Educators Live Webinar
February 15 | 6:30-8:00 pm
For educators interested in learning more about Firekeeper's Daughter, our webinar hosted by Rhode Island PBS offers resources and teaching strategies to engage your students. New this year: free classroom book sets to attendees (while supplies last) and virtual roundtable discussions in the spring and fall for teachers to discuss the book and continue to share resources. Professional Development Certificates provided. [Register Here!]

Firekeeper's Daughter Book Club Panel with the Tomaquag Museum TBD late March/early April
RISD Museum Teachers' Lounge | March 14 | 1:00-3:30 pm
Best Practices for Teaching and Learning about Native People, Part 2: Engaging with Native Art and Objects in Museums. Link to register will be posted on events for March 14 at [https://risdmuseum.org/exhibitions-events/events](https://risdmuseum.org/exhibitions-events/events). Questions? Please contact mlefast@risd.edu

Angeline Boulley RARI Virtual Visit for High Schools
May 26 | 1:00 pm
High school students and educators are invited to join us at 1:00 pm for this live virtual event broadcast from the Tomaquag Museum where Angeline will be in conversation with Honorary Chair Loren Spears. [Register Here!]

Angeline Boulley, In-Person at Salve Regina University
May 26 | 6:30 pm
Join us for this in-person author event with Angeline Boulley with the Pell Center at Salve Regina University. Registration and tickets will be available on the Rhode Island Center for the Book website in March.

Companion Reads Virtual Author Visits
Register at ribook.org
Robin Wall Kimmerer, Author of Braiding Sweetgrass, April 5th, 7:00pm
Hosted by Barrington Books
Carole Lindstrom and Michaela Goade, Author/Illustrator of *We are Water Protectors*, May 4th, 1:00 pm, Hosted by Rhode Island Festival of Children’s Books and Authors

Cynthia Leitich Smith, Editor of *Ancestor Approved*, April 6th, 1:00 pm, Hosted by Rhode Island Festival of Children’s Books and Authors

Amber Bliss and Madeleine Hutchins, Editors of *Voices of the Warp and Weft*, TBD

**Read to Lead**

Share a book and a good conversation with your co-workers today! Read to Lead encourages Rhode Island businesses and other organizations that may not typically be involved with literature programs to start up a workplace book club. If your organization already has an established book club group, we encourage you to join us too! Email kate@ribook.org to get started.

**Living Literature**

Now celebrating its 25th year, presents a 30 minute readers theatre version of *Firekeeper’s Daughter*. Visit ribook.org to see performance schedule. Contact tanyarmartin3@gmail.com to book a performance for your library, classroom, business or bookclub.

**Check with your local library for more Firekeeper’s Daughter, programs, events and bookclubs!**
2022 Reading Across Rhode Island Resources Directory

Content Warnings from the Publisher: Substance Abuse, Murder, Grief, Sexual assault, Racism, Kidnapping, Death by suicide, Gun violence

Common Sense Media Review

Firekeeper's Daughter Teacher's Guide
Firekeeper's Daughter Book Club Guide
Tomaquag Museum Educator Resources
First Peoples of Rhode Island Rhode Tour
Ojibwe Dictionary with recorded pronunciations by fluent speakers

A Celebration of Indigenous Literature with Angeline Boulley and Louise Erdrich, from the National Congress of American Indians, Video Linked Here

Enrollment, Acceptance, and Tribal Sovereignty: Using Firekeeper’s Daughter to Engage in Critical Conversation (shared with permission from Professor Ricki Ginsberg, Colorado State University), Linked Here

Using the Library of Congress Archives in Student Research and Historical Argumentation

In this session the Rhode Island Historical Society and the Tomaquag Museum each demonstrate what is available in their archives and how students access materials, either digitally or in person physically. They also highlighted several resources available for teachers and students for student research in Rhode Island topics. The Tomaquag Museum gives a brief overview of recognizing bias in research with respect to research about Indigenous peoples.

Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology This Land is Home virtual module Educator’s Guide for This Land is Home

Resources for further reading about King Philip’s War with primary source material
Finding Roger Williams - http://www.findingrogerwilliams.com/topics/native-american
IllumiNative “a new nonprofit initiative designed to increase the visibility of – and challenge the negative narrative about – Native Nations and peoples in American society.”
Oyate, “We review children’s literature and advocate for Native Americans/American Indians to be portrayed with historical accuracy, cultural appropriateness and without anti-Indian bias and stereotypes.”
American Indian Library Association, “a membership action group that addresses the library-related needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives. AILA is committed to disseminating information about Native Americans and addressing issues affecting Native people to the broader profession.”
American Indians in Children’s Literature, “On American Indians in Children’s Literature, we publish analyses of children’s books, lesson plans, films, and other items related to the topic of American Indians and/or how this topic is taught in school.”
Akomawt Educational Initiative, “dedicated to furthering knowledge of Native America
through innovative learning approaches designed to impact how we teach history and contemporary social issues.

RESOURCES FROM PBS

LOCAL RESOURCES

Native Voices - Rhode Island PBS LearningMedia resources that include a variety of support materials for classroom use:
- Tomaquag Museum
- Social Justice
- Wampum

Rhode Island PBS Weekly: “Coming Home” A report on the Rhode Island Historical Society’s efforts to make amends 350 years after a Narragansett village was attacked.

NATIONAL RESOURCES

Molly of Denali - A PBS Kids show in which Molly, an Alaska Native girl, shares her life and adventures through a vlog. There are a variety of resources to support learning with elementary level students.
- PBS Kids for Parents Hands-on Activities; Articles; Recipes
- PBS LearningMedia Teacher tips, background reading, viewing guides, etc.
- Molly & Elizabeth
- Grandpa’s Drum/Making of Grandpa’s Drum
- First Fish

PBS Digital Studios: Above the Noise - Digital series that empowers teens with the facts behind real-world issues that affect their lives.
- The Lasting Impact of Native American Residential Schools

- Teacher Guide
- Dear Georgina A follow-up short film about a Passamaquoddy elder’s journey into an unclear past to better understand herself and her cultural heritage.
- Viewer’s Guide

Unladylike 2020 - a series of 26 short films and a one-hour documentary profiling diverse and little-known American women from the turn of the 20th century, and contemporary women who follow in their footsteps.
- Indigenous Women Resource Collection

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PBS Virtual Professional Learning Series

- Who Tells Your Story?
- Culturally Responsive Teaching with Molly of Denali
- Indigenous Changemakers | Unladylike 2022
1. This novel is divided into four parts: Waabanong (East), Zhaawanong (South), Ningaabi’i’an (West), and Kewaadin (North). Why has the author chosen to break the book into these sections, and how do the characters and events in each section relate to the symbolic Ojibwe teachings about each direction? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.2; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.R.5; CCRA.R.10)

2. Daunis’s grandmothers, one Ojibwe and one White, come from different backgrounds and experiences. How does each one influence Daunis? How does Daunis interpret her identity through the legacy of each of these women? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.R.10)

3. In Chapter 2 Daunis refers to the “acceptable Anishinaabe Skin Tone Continuum” when comparing her skin color with Lily’s. What does she mean by this? Have you seen evidence of this in your own life? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.10; CCRA.W.10)

4. What is the “secret” and the “scandal” of Daunis’s parents? How have their actions affected her and the way that others view her and treat her? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.R.10)

5. At the beginning of the book Daunis is considered a ‘descendant’ of the Sugar Island Ojibwe Tribe but is not ‘enrolled’. What is the relevance of this distinction? What does being enrolled mean to Daunis? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.4; CCRA.R.10)

6. Daunis has very specific plans for college but then has to reconsider her options. What factors does she weigh and how do her choices show what she values? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.10)

7. How does our understanding of Uncle David’s death change over the course of this book? Show how his character is developed retrospectively, after his death, by the memories and discoveries of other characters. (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.R.10)

8. Consider Lily’s relationship with Travis. What warning signs indicate that this might not be a healthy relationship? Why do you think Lily keeps going back to him? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.10)

9. Daunis’s mixed heritage means that she has deep ties to both Native and White cultures. How does this present special challenges and how does she navigate these challenges? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.R.10)

10. What is the blanket party that Daunis wants to attend? Collect references throughout the book to determine what this is and what purpose it serves. (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.10)
11. On page 55 Daunis tells Jamie about her frustration that her identity gets ‘defined or controlled by other people.’ What do you think she means by this, and do you think her statement applies to everyone, or just people of mixed race? (CCRA.R.2; CCRA.R.10; CCRA.W.10)

12. In Chapter 8 Daunis attends the pow-wow and helps Jamie understand what people are doing and why. Re-read this chapter, and then summarize your understanding of what the pow-wow means for Daunis’s community. (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.2; CCRA.R.10)

13. Travis changes dramatically over the course of this book. Track his development through Daunis’s memories of him from middle school until the fateful moment that he kills Lily. (CCRA.R.3; CCRA.R.10)

14. Boulley depicts some of the problems faced by the Ojibwe community, from domestic violence to drug and alcohol abuse. How widespread are these problems across other Native American communities? What are some of the causes of these problems and what are some possible solutions? (CCRA.R.7; CCRA.R.10; CCRA.W.7; CCRA.W.8)

15. Relationships with other women are important sources of strength, stability, and resilience for most of the female characters. Pick three of these relationships and analyze how and why they are so important. (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.2; CCRA.R.10)

16. On page 99 Daunis explains the role of the Firekeeper to the Ojibwe. In Chapter 20 she explains more about this story. What does this help you understand about the title of this book? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.2; CCRA.R.5; CCRA.R.10)

17. Why does Daunis decide to help the FBI and become an informant? Do you agree with her decision? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.R.10; CCRA.W.10)

18. In Chapter 18 Daunis visits the FBI meth lab. What does she learn about this drug? How does she connect this knowledge with what she’s witnessed in her own community? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.10)

19. The US Center for Disease Control reports that deaths from drug overdoses have been steadily rising in America for the past 20 years, culminating in an all-time high in 2020. Conduct research to understand what is happening, what the causes may be, and how this issue is affecting individuals and communities. (CCRA.R.7; CCRA.R.10; CCRA.W.7; CCRA.W.8; CCRA.W.10)

20. Track Daunis’s work investigating the source of the meth the FBI is investigating. How does she draw from both contemporary scientific processes, as
21. Explore the complicated role that hockey plays in Daunis’s life. Consider how it connects her with her family, her friends, and herself. What leads her to lose her hockey dreams, and why does she insist on playing in the memorial game for Robin? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.2; CCRA.R.10)

22. Granny tells Daunis that she should “think seven generations ahead when making big decisions, because our future ancestors—those yet to arrive, who will one day become the Elders—live with the choices we make today.” Reflect on what this means and how it might affect the choices we make. (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.10; CCRA.W.10)

23. In Chapter 32 Leonard Manitou tells his story about the Little People. Why is this story significant? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.2; CCRA.R.10)

24. How do the boys on the hockey team talk about girls? What does this indicate about their expectations and attitudes toward women? Does this have larger implications for the way women are treated in this novel? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.10)

25. What is Daunis’s spirit name? What spirit name does she give to Jamie? What are the significance and meanings of these names? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.10)

26. What kind of violence against women is depicted in this novel? What causes this violence and how does it affect the people who experience it? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.2; CCRA.R.10)

27. Analyze the relationship between Levi and Daunis, from what you know of them as children up until the end of the book after Daunis learns what Levi has been doing. How do their understandings of their relationship shift over the course of the novel? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.R.10)

28. Daunis realizes toward the end of the book that the Elders are her community’s greatest resource. She explains the role they play in her community on page 453. Read this passage, and compare Daunis’s view of Elders with the role you think Elders play in your own life and community. (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.2; CCRA.R.10; CCRA.W.10)

29. Why are neither Dana Firekeeper nor Grant Edwards charged for their crimes against Daunis? Conduct additional research to determine how federal and state laws interact with tribal sovereignty. What are some of the benefits and drawbacks of these agreements? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.10)
30. What are the consequences of their crimes for Levi, Michael Edwards, Dana Firekeeper, Grant Edwards, Robert LaFleur, and Stormy Nodin? Do you think that justice was served for these characters? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.R.10)

31. What happens with Jamie and Daunis? Do you think this is the best resolution for them? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.3; CCRA.R.10; CCRA.W.10)

32. Read the author’s note at the end of the book. Why did Boulley write this book? Do you think she accomplished what she wanted to? (CCRA.R.1; CCRA.R.2; CCRA.R.6; CCRA.R.10; CCRA.W.10)

**READING ACROSS RHODE ISLAND PARTNERS**

Engaging locally has a direct impact on our friends, family, neighbors, and ourselves. Here are 2022 Reading Across Rhode Island partners doing social justice work, providing community, and connection in RI:

- **EduLeaders of Color** - a people-centered initiative focused on education, working at the intersection of all fields to unite, support, and empower people of color.

- **National Education Association Rhode Island** - a blend of union and professional organization, with a proud history of serving Rhode Island. Since its inception in 1845, its members have been at the center of every struggle to advance the finest of American dreams: the promise of a quality public education for every child.

- **Providence Arts, Culture and Tourism** - ensures the continued development of a vibrant and creative city by integrating arts and culture into community life while showcasing Providence as an international cultural destination.

- **The Rhode Island Historical Society** - the state's oldest and only statewide historical organization, is dedicated to honoring, interpreting, and sharing Rhode Island’s past to enrich the present and inspire the future. Founded in 1822, the RIHS is an advocate for history as a means to develop empathy and 21st-century skills, using its historical materials and knowledge to explore topics of timeless relevance and public interest. As a Smithsonian Affiliate, it is dedicated to providing
high-quality, accessible public programming and educational opportunities for all Rhode Islanders through its four sites: the John Brown House Museum, the Museum of Work & Culture, the Mary Elizabeth Robinson Research Center, and the Aldrich House.

• **Rhode Island PBS Education Services** - provides content and resources to support teaching and learning for educators, students, parents and learners of all ages in our community. Resources leverage high-quality public media content adapted for instructional use, supported by outreach efforts and in-person trainings. In addition, they offer community engagement screenings and events to ensure that we reach our region’s entire diverse audience.

• **RISD Museum** - Established alongside the college in 1877 as part of RISD’s vibrant creative community, the RISD Museum stewards works of art representing diverse cultures from ancient times to the present. The RISD Museum was founded on the belief that art, artists, and the institutions that support them play pivotal roles in promoting broad civic engagement and creating more open societies. As one of the three largest university art museums in the U.S. and southeastern New England’s only comprehensive art museum, our collection currently contains more than 100,000 works of art and design dating from ancient times to today including paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, costume and textiles, and furniture from all over the world.

• **Tomaquag Museum** - A recipient of the 2016 Institute of Museum and Library Services National Medal, the Tomaquag Museum is Rhode Island’s only museum entirely dedicated to telling the story of the Indigenous Peoples of this region and the only Rhode Island museum led by Indigenous people. The Tomaquag Museum’s mission is to educate the public and promote thoughtful dialogue regarding Indigenous history, culture, arts, and Mother Earth and connect to Native issues of today. Tomaquag Museum envisions its future as an Indigenous Cultural Education destination that engages visitors in thoughtful dialogue that promotes understanding and strives to create experiences that transform people’s lives by broadening their perspectives, attitudes, and knowledge of Indigenous Cultures and the interrelationship with the wider world.
OUR PROGRAMS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF OUR SPONSORS:

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Rhode Island Council for the Humanities
Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services
Rhode Island Library Association
Rhode Island PBS
Savoy Bookshop & Café
School Librarians of Rhode Island
ABOUT THE BOOK

Soon to be adapted at Netflix for TV with President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama's production company, Higher Ground.

“One of this year's most buzzed about young adult novels.” — Good Morning America

A TIME Magazine Best YA Book of All Time Selection

Amazon's Best YA Book of 2021 So Far (June 2021)

A 2021 Kids' Indie Next List Selection

An Entertainment Weekly Most Anticipated Books of 2021 Selection

A PopSugar Best March 2021 YA Book Selection

With four starred reviews, Angeline Boulley's debut novel, Firekeeper's Daughter, is a groundbreaking YA thriller about a Native teen who must root out the corruption in her community, perfect for readers of Angie Thomas and Tommy Orange.

Eighteen-year-old Daunis Fontaine has never quite fit in, both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. She dreams of a fresh start at college, but when family tragedy strikes, Daunis puts her future on hold to look after her fragile mother. The only bright spot is meeting Jamie, the charming new recruit on her brother Levi's hockey team.

Yet even as Daunis falls for Jamie, she senses the dashing hockey star is hiding something. Everything comes to light when Daunis witnesses a shocking murder, thrusting her into an FBI investigation of a lethal new drug.

Reluctantly, Daunis agrees to go undercover, drawing on her knowledge of chemistry and Ojibwe traditional medicine to track down the source. But the search for truth is more complicated than Daunis imagined, exposing secrets and old scars. At the same time, she grows concerned with an investigation that seems more focused on punishing the offenders than protecting the victims.

Now, as the deceptions—and deaths—keep growing, Daunis must learn what it means to be a strong Anishinaabe kwe (Ojibwe woman) and how far she'll go for her community, even if it tears apart the only world she’s ever known.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Angeline Boulley, an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, is a storyteller who writes about her Ojibwe community in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. She is a former Director of the Office of Indian Education at the U.S. Department of Education. Angeline lives in southwest Michigan, but her home will always be on Sugar Island. Firekeeper's Daughter is her debut novel and was an instant #1 NYT Bestseller.

"I'm thrilled that FIREKEEPER’S DAUGHTER has been selected for the Rhode Island One Book, One State book. What an honor! I look forward to chatting with everyone." – Angeline Boulley

READING ACROSS RHODE ISLAND HONORARY CHAIR

Lóren Spears

Lorén M. Spears, Narragansett, Executive Director of Tomaquag Museum, holds a Master’s in Education and received a Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa in 2017, from the University of Rhode Island and Doctor of Education, Honoris Causa from Roger Williams University in 2021. She is an author, artist and shares her cultural knowledge with the public through museum programs. She has written curriculum, poetry, and narratives published in a variety of publications such as Dawnland Voices, An Anthology of Indigenous Writing of New England; Through Our Eyes: An Indigenous View of Mashapaug Pond; The Pursuit of Happiness: An Indigenous View and From Slaves to Soldiers: The 1st Rhode Island Regiment in the American Revolution. Recently, she co-edited a new edition of A Key into the Language of America by Roger Williams.

As an Indigenous educator, it is my pleasure to be the Honorary Chair for the 2022 Reading Across Rhode Island. Fire Keeper's Daughter is a page turner allowing the audience to learn about the complexities of Indigenous life in the 21st century. We look forward to engaging the community in enriching dialogue around this intriguing mystery novel.
Companion Reads

**ELEMENTARY COMPANION**
**We Are Water Protectors**
by Carole Lindstrom, illus. by Michaela Goade

May 4th @ 1PM
hosted by the Rhode Island Festival of Children’s Books & Authors

**MIDDLE GRADE COMPANION**
**Ancestor Approved**
anth. by Cynthia Leitich Smith

April 6th @ 1PM
hosted by the Rhode Island Festival of Children’s Books & Authors

**YA & ADULT COMPANION**
**Voices of the Warp and Weft**
ed. by Amber Bliss, tales and poetry from six Indigenous authors from tribes across the US

Event coming Spring 2022

**ADULT COMPANION**
**Braiding Sweetgrass**
by Robin Wall Kimmerer

April 5th @ 7PM
in partnership with Barrington Books

Participate in Reading Across Rhode Island with our Companion Reads this year! No matter your age or reading level, we’ve selected a title to extend your engagement with our 2022 Reading Across Rhode Island title, *The Firekeeper’s Daughter* by Angeline Boulley.

Register for all events at ribook.org!

Contact kate@ribook.org if you would like copies of books for your classroom or library