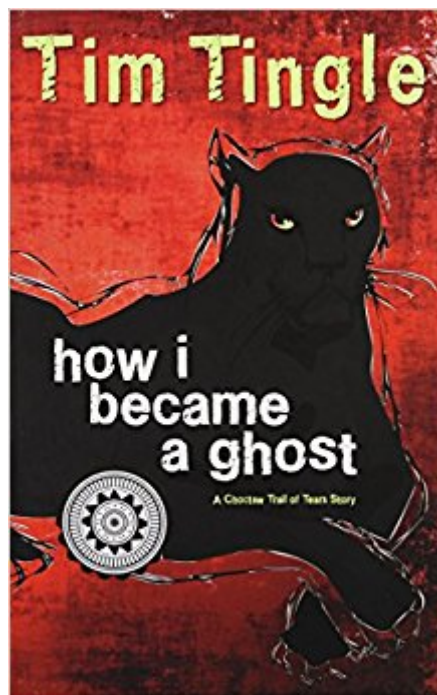




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# How I Became A Ghost – A Choctaw Trail Of Tears Story (Book 1 In The How I Became A Ghost Series)



## Synopsis

A Choctaw boy tells the story of his tribe's removal from its Mississippi homeland, and how its exodus to the American West led him to become a ghost --one able to help those left behind.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 480 (What's this?)

Series: Book 1 in the How I Became A Ghost Series

Paperback: 141 pages

Publisher: Roadrunner Press (September 8, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1937054551

ISBN-13: 978-1937054557

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.5 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 36 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #56,151 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans #83 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s #240 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Spine-Chilling Horror

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

"The beginning of a trilogy, this tale is valuable for both its recounting of a historical tragedy and its immersive Choctaw perspective." KIRKUS, STARRED REVIEW --Kirkus Reviews, June 15, 2013"...a thrilling caper . . . a recommendation for reluctant readers who like their history tinged with the otherworldly." RECOMMENDED --The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Literature"Tingle, a Choctaw storyteller, relates his tale in the engaging repetitions and rhythms of an oft-told story . . . spare and authentic." --Dean Schneider, THE HORN BOOK MAGAZINE2014 American Indian Youth Literature Award --American Indian Library Association, ALA2014 Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People --National Council for the Social Studies & Children's Book Council2016 Sequoyah Master List Title --Sequoyah Master List Committee2014 Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People --National Council for the Social Studies & Children's Book Council

Told in the words of Isaac, a Choctaw boy who does not survive the Trail of Tears, *How I Became a Ghost* is a tale of innocence and resilience in the face of tragedy. From the opening line, "Maybe you have never read a book written by a ghost before," the reader is put on notice that this is no normal book. Isaac leads a remarkable foursome of Choctaw comrades: a tough-minded teenage girl, a shape-shifting panther boy, a lovable five-year-old ghost who only wants her mom and dad to be happy, and Isaac's talking dog, Jumper. The first in a trilogy, *How I Became a Ghost* thinly disguises an important and oft-overlooked piece of history.

This was a really good book for young adult literature. My kids were in 4th and 6th grade when reading it. I wouldn't recommend lower than 4th grade in tackling this book due to the nature of the content. It takes the reader along the Trail of Tears, and there is lots of heartache in the book. It lets you know from the time and first page of the book that the main character is going to 'become a ghost', so you know what it going to happen. However, the Trail of Tears is long and there are lots of tears along the way. With that being said, the book is amazing. I read it with the kids as they prepared for a literature circle and was just as enthralled as they were. Good story telling, lots of historical facts and introduction to culture, but still some elements to place this squarely in the historical fiction category. Definitely recommend for children that can handle books without Disney endings.

Though *How I Became a Ghost* is listed as a middle grade novel, its attraction goes far beyond the target audience. This is truly a great work with crossover appeal, for early teen through adult readers. In fact, in a culture where everything must be labeled, this book transcends labels. When all the elements are considered, the reader is treated to quite the literary buffet. The story is a rich exploration of Choctaw history and culture, family roles and dynamics, coming of age, generational wisdom, supernatural fiction, classic struggle of good versus evil, ecology, the hero's journey, transformation and redemption...yet to focus your lens too sharply on any one part is to lose sight of the greater merit of this amazing work. It is written from the perspective of the main character, a 10 year old boy, in a deceptively naive, at times even lighthearted voice--one that is capable of finding humor even in the most dire situations. Yet the boy, who is thrust into tragic circumstances, seems to comprehend their severity and responds with maturity and resolve that both reflect and go beyond his age. It is a delicate balancing act that Tim Tingle's fluid narrative walks with passion and dexterity. Don't be fooled by its easy, and even sparse, conversational style, *How I Became a Ghost*

plays masterfully on a broad range of human emotions. This is storytelling at its finest--put it on the top of your "must read--now" list. It is a book that will stay with you long after you finish it.

NOTE: There's spoiler in this entry I loved the book up until Isaac became a ghost, but I felt like after that everything progressed way too quickly. There could be more character development as well. Each character could have more detail, more personality to them. Still, a great children's book. I am not a child but I loved reading it.

My 11 year old son loved this book. He said it was a great adventure story with lots of twists and turns and is glad he chose this book for his summer reading project for school.

An excellent book. Accurately portraying the Choctaw's experience. Sad and poignant.

Tim Tingle is a legendary storyteller and he brings his skill to the written page in this middle grade novel. It is a magical combination of characters that feel like old friends, a story that grips your heart from the start, and a mood that somehow hangs on to hope in the direst of circumstances. Don't let the "historical fiction" category fool you, it's just plain good reading for kids and adults alike. So good, that I took time out to write my first review just so others might share in my love of this book.

My daughter loves the story line, but has to put it down from time to time, because of the sadness it elicits. Great story of how things happened on the trail of tears. An educational story all children should read.

As an educator with a history concentration I would recommend this book to grades 4th and up. It is a story of an Indian Tribe that is forced from their land. Great story of strength and determination.

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