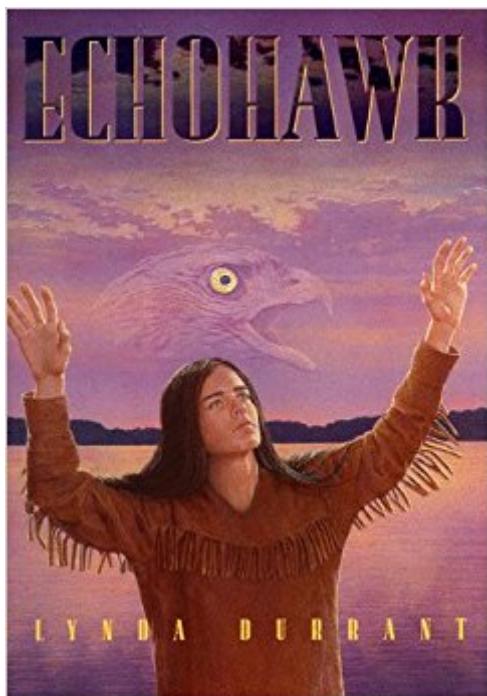


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# Echohawk



## **Synopsis**

Echohawk was a little boy when he was taken from his white family and adopted into a Mohican tribe. For years Echohawk has been speaking and thinking in the Mohican language. He enjoys hunting with his adoptive father Glickihigan and younger brother Bamaineo. Yet as time passes, Glickihigan thinks an English education will help his sons in the changing world and sends them to be schooled by white people. It's then that Echohawk's earliest memories return. Soon the time will come for him to choose between the world of the Mohicans and the world he came from long ago.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Raised since the age of four as a son to Glickihigan, one of the Mohican warriors who massacred his parents in their Hudson Valley encampment, 13-year-old Echohawk (born Jonathan Starr) recalls only vague, disturbing impressions of his early childhood, and nothing of his natural family and native English tongue. Glickihigan, who like his own father has been schooled in the colonists' languages, sends Echohawk and his younger, Mohican brother to Saratoga-on-the-Hudson to live with a white teacher and his wife. The experience awakens in Echohawk long-buried memories and emotions, but the experiment in peaceful coexistence backfires when Echohawk overhears the teacher's plans to prevent him from ever returning to Glickihigan. First-novelist Durran imbues Echohawk's story with solid, atmospheric details about Mohican culture and history; endnotes provide further information about the Native peoples who figure in her story. Although some passages or conflicts seem rushed, the author shows a strong talent for characterization. Readers will be sorry to see the story end. Ages 10-14. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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Grade 5-9?Echohawk was born Jonathan Starr. Glickihigan, a Mohican warrior, finds the boy hiding in a log after an attack on the white camp. Though Echohawk's adoption is the result of violence, he receives enduring love as he grows up. Just as Glickihigan had been sent to school by his father to learn the language of the people in power, Echohawk is sent to learn English. His teacher is strict and disrespectful of the Mohican ways, and when he realizes that Echohawk is actually white, he decides to take him away to Boston. The man's plans trigger memories in Echohawk that culminate in the realization that Glickihigan killed his family, but in the end Echohawk says "I do not blame you." They leave the Hudson River Valley for a Mohican camp in Ohio following the murder of their people by the whites. Devastation and resilience begin and conclude the book. Details of Mohican culture, customs, and beliefs fill the pages, and the tribe's respect for nature is paramount. Durrant presents rich history, vast cultural information, and a story that will trigger discussion. An extensive bibliography demonstrates the author's depth of research. Echohawk could be compared to Conrad Richter's *A Light in the Forest* (Knopf, 1953); it has a great deal to offer.?Renee Steinberg, Fieldstone Middle School, Montvale, NJCopyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

When I read Lynda Durrant's "Echohawk," I got the feeling that she had been heavily influenced to write this story by "The Last of the Mohicans," not the James Fennimore Cooper novel, but the outstanding 1992 movie which starred Daniel Day-Lewis as Hawkeye. At age 4, Jonathan Starr was taken captive by Mohican Indians, adopted into the family of the warrior Glickihigan, and renamed Echohawk. For eight years, he lives among the Mohicans, forgetting his real family, and yearning for the day he can take his place as a man in the tribe. Although, Echohawk knows that he was born white, and indeed faces prejudice from members of the tribe due to his skin color, he really does not dwell on why he has come to live among the Mohicans. However, his adopted father decides that Echohawk has reached an age when he should be allowed to decide whether he wishes to remain a Mohican or return to the people he was born to. So Glickihigan enrolls Echohawk and his blood son, a mischevious seven year old called Bamaineo, in a whiteman's school and has them board at the schoolteacher's home. Glickihigan wants his sons to be able to speak English and understand the whites' ways so they can survive in a world that is coming to be dominated by the Europeans, but he also wants Echohawk to make a decision on who he will be in life. Of course, being immersed in the whiteman's world triggers Echohawk's memories of his former life as Jonathan. These

memories cause him to recall his real family and ask the question: what happened to them? And just as important, what was Glickihigan's involvement in how a white boy called Jonathan Starr ended up living as a Mohican called Echohawk? Durrant seems to have written a story that could be very well be construed as a sort of "The Last of the Mohicans: The Early Years" with Glickihigan as Chingachgook, Bamaineo as Uncus, and Echohawk as Hawkeye. In fact, Durrant even describes the destruction of the Mohicans from disease and thus sets the stage for Glickihigan and Bamaineo to be "the last of the Mohicans." As stated before Durrant seems to be more influenced by the film than Cooper's novel, in that, like the movie, the Hawkeye-like character, Echohawk, is the adopted son of the Chingachgook-like character, Glickihigan, and not just a friend as in the novel. Also, Echohawk is starting to develop the skills of an outstanding hunter and marksman- how Hawkeye like! I think young boys between the age of 9-12 might enjoy this book especially if they have interest in American Indians and history. However, it's not exactly an action packed saga, but more of a coming of age story of a boy figuring out his past and what his future will be. And thus, it may not appeal to boys looking for a pure adventure story. Finally, Durrant has written a sequel to this book called "Turtle Clan Journey." It would be interesting to know whether she continues to write about Echohawk and, if so, does she plan on letting him grow into a juvenile literature version of Daniel Day-Lewis' Hawkeye?

Very informative and inciteful view into Indian culture. It was a very interesting story of remarkable forgiveness. Something here for hunters, too.

I love to read books about Native Americans, especially since I'm part Cherokee. This book was no exception. It told about a teenage boy who'd been captured and raised by a Mohican tribe at a very young age. He discovered his heritage when he and his Indian brother Bamaineo were sent to a school for white boys. They struggled in the "civilized" world, although they eventually made friends there. But how will Echohawk deal with his shocking past? Can he forgive his adoptive father Glickihigan and the other men for killing his biological family? I definitely recommend this book. My mother and I read it at the same time and discussed it. We both enjoyed it, and I'm sure you will too.

"Echohawk" literally draws the reader back in time. Durrant describes the life and times of these last Mohicans in a style that is realistic and accurate while at the same time is readable and eloquently written. In telling the story of Echohawk, a white boy who is raised as an Indian, the reader experiences first-hand, the collision of two societies. Never have I read a book for children that is so

successful at being truly entertaining and informative at the same time.

At first I was skeptical about reading "Echohawk" but as I started to read it, it really held my attention and it turned out to be a great book. It is about a boy who is taken by the Mohicans and the boy lives the way the Indians do for 8 years. His adoptive father, Glickihigan, sends Echohawk and his little brother, Bamaimeo, to school to learn English. When he finds out that the teacher is going to take him to Boston, he runs away with his brother.

Adventure of the Indians Echohawk is an Indian and all this weird stuff happens like his father didn't find any deer, the starrfire almost went out, and the nets got ripped. So the men were going to take all the boys to a new hunting ground and he shot some deer in the new land and the sachem told he should us a musket now after his hunt. He and he's father are going to get the guns from the English men. But, for them to get the gun they must trade for it so they traded their bear skin for 3 rifles. So they returned to their camp grounds were he had a vision. This book is ok if you like the way the Indians do the way they think that they should do. I thought that Indians didn't have visions and I thought that they don't have muskets either. I don't know if she added anything to it or was it all true? But it's an ok book and I liked all the animals running for their lives, and the Indians were so dangerous. I think that the legend of Johnny was like this book because it's about a white boy who was raised by Indians.

This book is a very good book it is about a boy's life growing up with the Indians after his parents were killed. He also goes to an english camp to learn english but he and his brother hate it there. The way this book was written made it interesting. It was so exciting that I want my mom to buy this book so I can read it again. Read it because you will like it. I am 13 and really don't like reading but this book was so good that I read it even in my spare time.

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