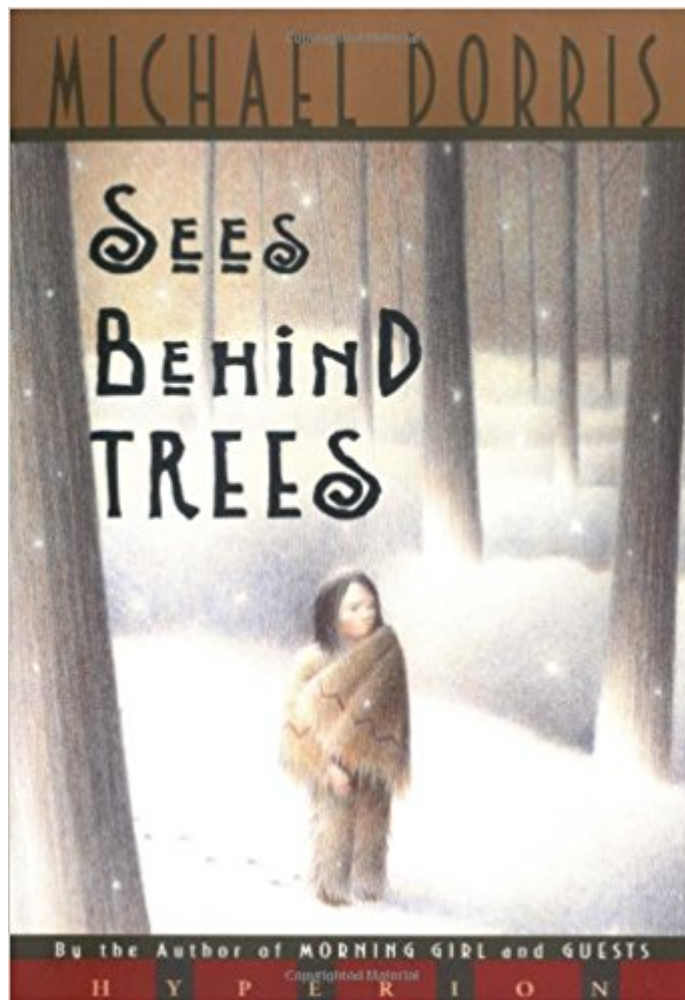


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# Sees Behind Trees



## Synopsis

Set in 16th century America, this richly imagined and gorgeously written rite-of-passage story has the gravity of legend . . . Dorris once again demonstrates that he is a brilliant and deeply humane writer whose words can show you something you have never seen.--Booklist, starred review.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 780 (What's this?)

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Disney-Hyperion; Reissue edition (January 1, 1900)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0786813571

ISBN-13: 978-0786813575

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.2 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 62 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #42,164 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans](#) #94 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs](#) #116 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Intermediate Readers](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

The best adolescent fiction offers more than an escape from teenage turmoil; it instructs as it entertains, giving young readers a view into lives--fictional though they may be--outside their own. Without sentimentality or preachiness but with clear awareness of this power, Michael Dorris tells the story of Walnut, a young Native American boy. Because Walnut can't see well, he has difficulty meeting the challenges, especially feats of skill with bow and arrow, that prove he is ready to receive a new name and become an adult. When a sympathetic uncle invents a new contest to "see what can't be seen," the boy's other senses bring success and earn him the name Sees Behind Trees. Dorris could easily stop there, but he nudges the youngster onward through a series of trials that show adulthood is about more than getting there. (Ages 8 and up) --This text refers to the School & Library Binding edition.

Dorris's (*Morning Girl*) eloquent, beautifully crafted coming-of-age tale centers on Walnut, a near-sighted Native American boy whose uncanny ability to use his other senses earns him the adult name Sees Behind Trees. Set in the distant, pre-colonial past, the story finds the boy moving hesitantly into adulthood?gradually gaining confidence in himself and his perceptions; learning humility when he prizes his talents too highly; earning the respect of his tribe when he escorts an elderly wise man on a dangerous journey. Both sharply and lyrically observed, fraught with emotion, the first-person narrative should connect strongly with a young audience, who will quickly learn that, no matter the century or the culture, the fundamentals of growing up remain very much the same. The authenticity of the characterizations and setting will ease readers toward acceptance of the quasi-mystical adventure that crowns the story. It's a thrilling read, with the pleasures compounding at every turn of the page. Ages 8-up. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the School & Library Binding edition.

This is a great book for every young boy/girl to read. Its a great book.

A moving story, my 5th grader and I loved it!

Great Read

Great price, Fast shipping and wonderful condition. Was very pleased with this purchase. Bought four others from other dealers and its been a week yet they have not shown up. So this dealer beat them all out!!!

This is a marvelous book for all ages. It helps us all think about what abilities WE have. It is so sad that this author is no longer alive and could write other books to encourage us.

Good read

Excellent book, authentic take on American Indian culture, author is California Indian

Let me just quickly preface my review by saying that there are 11 kids reviews here which were all written on the same day. Looks like a teacher might have used the book as assigned reading, then

had the kids write reviews. That's unfortunate; students who are not readers tend to be critical of the books they are assigned. I love this book, and I'd give it my highest recommendation to parents who have kids who are visually impaired--as I was, when I was a child. Those with clear vision can have no idea what it's like to see people and objects as blobs. So much is missed when we can't see the facial expressions of those we interact with. In my case, it made me withdrawn as a child. In this poignant story, "Walnut," who later becomes "See Behind Trees," is gently made to realize that he, too, is an integral part of his tribe, despite not seeing the way others see. But this is not a superficial treatment of the passage into manhood; there is sorrow and loss here, carefully but honestly presented. Sees Behind Trees and the other children's books by Dorris are wonderful books for parents to read aloud with their children because they offer opportunities for many issues to be discussed openly, but beyond that, the writing is indeed lyrical, resonant and beautiful, giving kids the opportunity to hear rich language usage from an early age.

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