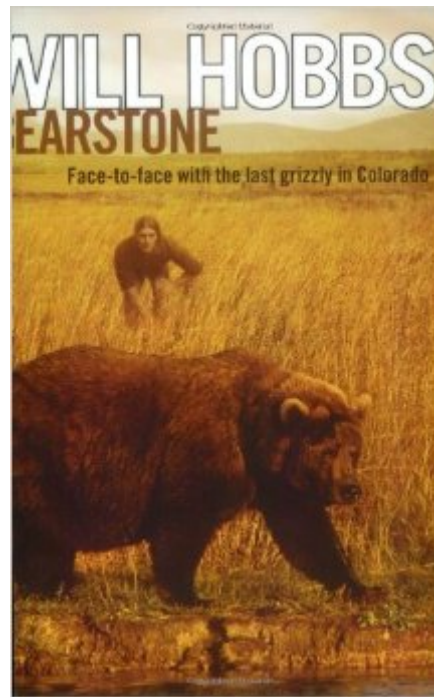


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# Bearstone



## Synopsis

**A Dramatic Tale of Grizzlies and Gold** Fourteen-year-old Cloyd Atcitty has been skipping school for years. He's run away from a group home for Native American boys, and is now being sent to work for Walter Landis, an old rancher on an isolated Colorado farm. In a cave above the ranch, Cloyd finds a turquoise carving of a bear. Knowing that his people, the Utes, have a special relationship with bears, he keeps the small stone, hoping it will bring him strength. A terrible blow-up with Walter ends in near disaster, but the old man offers Cloyd one last chance: they'll ride together into the mountains to reopen Walter's abandoned gold mine. Among the high peaks that harbor Colorado's last grizzlies, Cloyd's courage and loyalty will be tested to the limit.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 510 (What's this?)

Paperback: 154 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers (September 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 068987071X

ISBN-13: 978-0689870712

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.4 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (43 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #113,937 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #105 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans](#) #273 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > United States](#) #388 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Bears](#)

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## Customer Reviews

Cloyd Atcitty has a problem. His poor attitude and rebellious nature have contributed to school and tribal expulsion for this Native American boy. When he is sent by his tribe to live in Colorado, however, a new chance at life unfolds. It remains to be seen whether he can control his impulsive actions enough to make a new beginning. During the time he spends with an elderly white rancher, Cloyd exhibits positive and negative personality traits. The reader has insight into Cloyd's thoughts, especially the fears he carefully hides from others. Some fascinating Native American traits are

brought forth, for example, the practice of pointing with the lips instead of the finger or hand (rude). As an adult reading *Bearstone*, I often felt frustrated with Cloyd's character because he was immature and reactionary. The scene that describes Cloyd's petulant destruction of twenty-two of the rancher's peach trees by chainsaw was particularly infuriating. If this was real life and I was the rancher, I would have gladly sent Cloyd home never to return. In the book, Cloyd does get sent back to the reservation, but he returns, apologizes, and is accepted back by the rancher. This had to happen for the rest of Cloyd's personal growth to occur, but I felt it stretched the believability of the book. Despite this, I felt warmth toward this story, perhaps because Cloyd's character was significantly flawed yet lovable. The description of the Colorado Rockies was beautifully rendered. Several hunting scenes were graphic, but necessarily so to convey their impact on the peaceful Cloyd. This depiction was in stereotypical keeping with the view of Native Americans as nature worshipping sages, yet it was not insulting. *Bearstone* was written in 1989, before the term 'Indian' was viewed as politically incorrect.

This is a wonderful book for many ages. After reading *Kokopelli's Flute* by Will Hobbs I was so impressed I went looking for more. *Bearstone* is absolutely wonderful, refreshing, metaphoric and magical. The quality of Will Hobbs' characters and their sensitivities are extremely well written. I do not feel anyone (I am in my sixties) gets too old for a wonderful story about growing up.

I would recommend this book as a "coming of age" story, especially suited for boys who are interested in wilderness survival settings. In the story, a troubled Indian boy is placed, by his boarding school, with a lonesome old man for the summer vacation. The two characters change as the boy begins to understand and accept the responsibilities of manhood, and the man takes on the unfamiliar role of mentor. By the end of the book, the two have bonded in a reciprocal relationship, having learned to trust, love, and respect each other. The theme stresses the idea that facing troubles, instead of avoiding them, makes people stronger. Like the requirements of wilderness survival, the author is spare with details, giving readers only enough to clarify the characters' inner thoughts. The book is well written and interesting to read for upper elementary and middle school audiences.

I use this book in my 7th grade classroom each year. The students tend to enjoy it until the book begins talking about mining. They do not really get the concept, and the book doesn't describe it in vivid detail. Other than that, the characters are likable and they change throughout the story, so it

allows for multiple references to character traits and dynamic characters. Also, it is about a Native American teenager, so it helps meet standards dealing with multicultural literature.

This book really put the fact that being alone is not a good idea into perspective. The book did have somewhat of a dramatic plot. It was like a heart rate line, the suspense came and went throughout the book. The characters were beyond realistic. Cloyd had a problem with the red-haired man, just like people have problems with other people in the world. This book also had a real place as the setting which was very neat! The book showed that "If you put your mind to it, you can do anything". This statement is true because Cloyd wanted so badly to climb the Rio Grande and he .....WAIT why would I tell you? You'll just have to read it to find out!

This is a pretty good book. The two main characters in the book are Cloyd Atcitty and Walter Landis, an old farmer. This book is about a 14 year old boy named Cloyd who is part of a Native American tribe called the Utes. Cloyd isn't a very intelligent boy because he has been skipping school for years. Cloyd has been sent to Walter in Colorado to help him do some chores. The conflict in this book is between Walter and Cloyd; Cloyd finds out that Walter has some friends who hunt bears. Once Cloyd finds out about Walter's friends, he destroys a part of Walter's farm. The setting of the story is around an isolated farm in Colorado. Near this farm Cloyd finds a turquoise stone in a cave up high in the mountains, it's a carving of a bear. The Utes have a special relationship with bears so this stone is a very special to Cloyd. This book has an action and adventure genre. Bearstone is for those readers who like to read a book about a boy who goes to the mountains alone, and goes to a gold mine with a friend. I think this book has a good story line and readers won't get lost while reading it. Readers of 9 and up will enjoy this book.

Having lived on a reservation and confronted with the problems young Native Americans face I thought this book extremely compelling. I've used it many times for my 4th-6th grade classroom as well as junior high and high school learning disabilities. I love this book.

I ordered this book for my ten year old to use for an AR book for school. She enjoyed it so much she couldn't stop talking about it and urged me to read it. She was right. It is very well written and even for an adult is an enjoyable story.

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Bearstone

