

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Anne Petty, 850-926-3464

[anne@kitsunebooks.com](mailto:anne@kitsunebooks.com)

### **Young Native Voices Tell Their Story, in Poetry, Prose, and Art**

*Here I Am a Writer* contains poems, stories, and artwork produced by Native American students involved in teacher Christopher “Kit” Mcllroy’s ArtsReach program in Arizona. A decade or more after these intensive creative writing sessions took place, Mcllroy went in search of the young authors who’d opened their hearts in his classes, to see how they’d fared in the intervening years and if they were still writing at all. What he chronicles is as much his journey of discovery as theirs.

Loosely framed as a memoir by Mcllroy, the real focus of the book is the students themselves. Wise beyond their years, Yaqui and Tohono O’odham boys and girls tell of their daily lives and ancient culture in unflinching detail and sincerity. Respected author Simon Ortiz describes the book as “a moving, powerful voice that evolves from the dynamic traditions of on-going Indigenous languages that are always in creative flux.”

A bonus for educators is the Activities section in which Mcllroy details his own approach to teaching creative writing for Native American students, or any students, for that matter. Terry Ann Thaxton, Director, ArtsBridge and The Literary Arts Partnership at the University of Central Florida, says that *Here I Am a Writer* “is indeed a book that allows us to see the effect of writing on children, not through test scores, but through their writing—through their imaginations.”

*Here I Am a Writer* is moving, evocative, and ultimately inspirational. In Ortiz’s words, “Highly recommended!”



*Here I Am a Writer*

By Christopher Mcllroy

Cover art: Jeffery Antone, Sr.,  
and Marcelino Flores

Published by Kitsune Books: June 1, 2011

\$15.00, trade paperback, 250 pages

ISBN: 978-0-9827409-1-0

