

Chief Powess writes that “The English called us the Five Nations. The French called us the Iroquois. They were unable to say Haundenosaunee. That’s not too hard to say. But Haundenosaunee is not in your history books.” This illustrates how the winner has written history; no one calls the Haundenosaunee by their own name, only the names their colonizers gave them. Colonizers have been unwilling to learn the culture of the Native Americans who lived there, and instead erased everything about them from their history, including their name. By referring to the Haundenosaunee by their real name in this book, Powess is decolonizing our idea of who these people are.