Book: *Walking the Choctaw Road*, by Tim Tingle

Reviewer: Sally Ianiro

Level of Difficulty: Medium

My thoughts about the book and its suitability for my group:

If I were teaching an intermediate to high class, this book would definitely be on my list. It is a collection of short stories by Choctaw Storyteller Tim Tingle. He is an amazing writer. The language and descriptions are spare and lean, yet he manages to create vivid images. His character development is also first-rate. I was pleasantly surprised by this book, and I can see why the International Reading Association chose it as a Notable Book for a Global Society in 2003.

Students’ reactions to the book:

I think tutors will need to give the students some background history and geography to put the Choctaw experience in context. I knew very little about the march called the Trail of Tears, in which the Choctaw people were forced to leave their homeland in Mississippi and walk to Oklahoma. The author described it well, but I would have liked to have seen a map.

Tips for other tutors who may want to use this book:

Although this is a book of interconnected short stories, it seems as compelling as a novel to me. I think the students would stay interested for a whole term, but I’d love to hear about your experience teaching the book.