Activities for *Crossing Bok Chitto* and *Stone River Crossing* by Tim Tingle

Searching for blackberries one day, Martha Tom, a Choctaw girl, crosses the Bok Chitto river to where there is a slave-owning plantation. Little Mo, whose family is enslaved, helps Martha Tom get home. Later, it will be Martha Tom's turn to lead as her family helps Little Mo's family. *Crossing Bok Chitto* tells Martha Tom and Little Mo's story in picture book form, and *Stone River Crossing* expands their story in a chapter book.

Visit denverlibrary.org or call 720-865-1111 to check out these books. You can order both of the print books for curbside pickup. *Stone River Crossing* is available as an audio eBook.

Visit youtube.com/denverlibrary and check out the Book Explorers playlists to learn more about the books. Then, try one of these activities to extend the experience.

**Learn Your Family Story**
Interview a family member to learn more about your family’s history. Has your family ever moved from one place to another? Why did your family move?

**Help a Stranger**
Follow the examples of the families in these books. With your family, find a way to help a stranger.
Discussion Questions

1. The Bok Chitto River forms the border between the plantation and the sovereign Choctaw nation. What does it mean for Little Mo and his family to cross the border into the Choctaw Nation? How do you think their lives will change once they have crossed the border?
2. Little Mo and Martha Tom both take a risk to help another person. Why do you think they take those risks?

What to read next

*Powwow: A Celebration through Song and Dance* by Karen Pheasant-Neganigwane - The books *Crossing Bok Chitto* and *Stone River Crossing* occur in the 1800s. Get to know more about contemporary Indigenous culture with this exploration of the powwow. Pheasant-Neganigwane shares the history and significance of this celebration of Indigenous culture that takes place across North America.

*NeverCaught, the Story of Ona Judge: George and Martha Washington’s Courageous Slave Who Dared to Run Away* by Erica Armstrong Dunbar and Kathleen Van Cleve - This compelling narrative tells the true story of Ona Judge, who escaped from slavery and fought for the chance to determine her own future.

*Saltypie: A Choctaw Journey from Darkness into Light* by Tim Tingle - Meet Tim Tingle’s grandmother, Mawmaw, in this intergenerational family history.