

# TEACHING AMERICAN CULTURAL DIVERSITY TO ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

## *The Orange Slipknot*

by Jan Young

- Children must be educated to our own cultural diversity
- Children assimilate cultural facts and historical data best when they are encapsulated in a gripping story.
- Many city kids (and grown ups) believe that the life of a cowboy is a creation of Hollywood or a relic of 1800's history.

*"This gripping coming-of-age story combines vibrant local color with a backdrop of timeless and universal themes. The young adults I teach will be sure to enjoy this book—a good read that carries a punch."*

**Jeffrey D. Wilhelm Ph.D.**

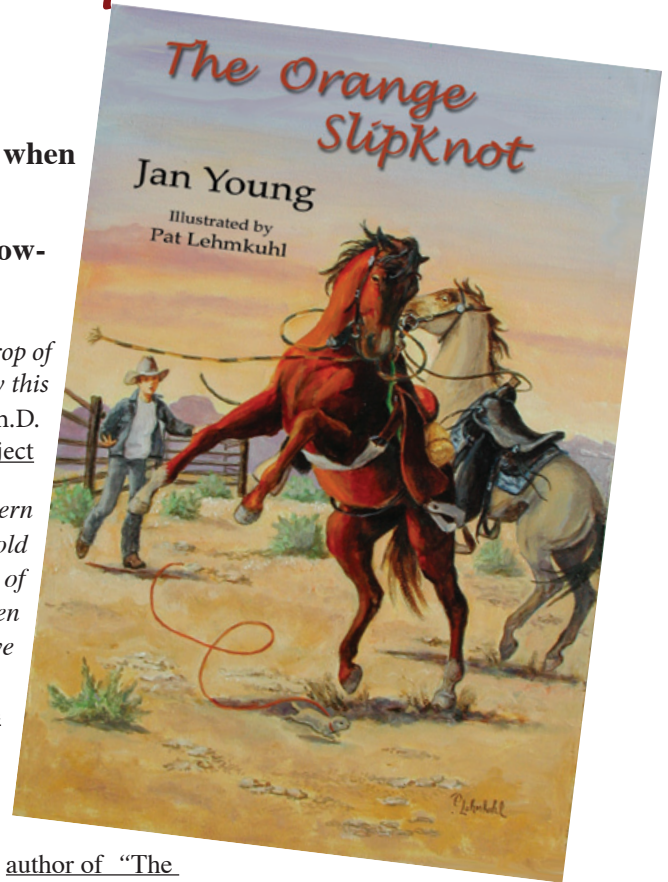
Professor of English Education and Director of Boise State Writing Project

*"This is an exciting story of cattle ranching in the Great Basin of western United States. Here, modern ranching techniques and practices mix with old Spanish vaquero tradition.... Author Jan Young fills her story with details of ranching life: ... four-wheelers, horses, rifles, and wildlife. With a fourteen page glossary of "Ranching Terms & Cowboy Slang" and a comprehensive study guide, the book could be a useful tool for classroom instruction."*

**Larry Neitzert, Reviewer, ForeWord Magazine**

*As our nation's urban population grows, I feel the gap in understanding of rural problems also widens. Realizing our youth are our tomorrow, I was excited to read Jan Young's "The Orange Slipknot." Her story,*

*directed to young readers, brings 'country life' alive. **Milly Hunt Porter**, author of "The Horse Gods" and "Hey, Elko" and editor of "Think Harmony with Horses" by Ray Hunt, and other books.*



There is a shortage of stories and studies of the various cultures within our own country. How many know, for instance, that the "cowboy" is neither make-believe nor a figure of a distant past? The truth is that the "buckaroos" of the old west are still alive and well in the modern western U. S.

We believe there is no better way for children to learn than through "True Fiction" — stories based on real experiences but fictionalized to make both reading and education a pleasant experience for today's youth. The benefits are threefold. 1) Engaging "True Fiction" spawns a love for books in the reluctant reader. 2) Children remember facts much easier and longer when they are wrapped in an interesting story. 3) "True Fiction" confronts issues and solves problems in ways that help kids identify and confront emotions and solve problems of their own.

The Orange Slipknot will: 1) spark an interest in reading with the fast-paced adventures of true-to-life characters. 2) educate with its extensive glossary of terms commonly used and customs practiced today in the ranching country of the Great Basin of the western United States. 3) foster self-confidence and teach problem-solving and relationship skills as the reader relates to the very real turmoil of the young protagonist and the solutions he finds.

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