



2014 Chief Standing Bear Essay Winner

Standing Bear's Courageous Struggle: A Heroic Native American

Imagine, you are along a trail walking through the trees. Suddenly, your foot plummets into a hole. You're stuck! You refuse to give up on pulling yourself out. You keep fighting for your position. You persist in pursuit of your freedom. This is what happened to Standing Bear. Many times he was trapped by the situation, and he kept fighting for his position. The only difference was that instead of a hole, he had injustice to deal with.

To show respect for Standing Bear, we should try to carry on his vision of equality. But, it doesn't even need to be only in the United States. It could be in the entire world. Standing Bear wanted every single person to be equal. We could go to other countries and spread his message. We could try to give Indians some land that they would like to have returned. One more thing we could do is maybe just standing up to a bully at recess.

To show respect for Standing Bear, we could make it so that in our hearts and minds we always give everyone a second chance. Maybe then people would realize what other can teach us. Just think if we learned about each other's lifestyles or cultures! WE could find peace in our differences. But, most of all, we must do this because we've made some huge mistakes in our country's history, and changing hearts and minds is the best way to say a HUMUNGOUS sorry!

If Standing Bear were alive today, he would most likely try to carry on his vision of equality and try to help his people. Standing Bear has many ways of fighting for his people's rights. He would visit the President or maybe Nebraska's Governor. He would visit schools to tell children about his past. Lastly Standing Bear would inspire leaders for the future and comfort people who need comforting.

Remember that hole your foot got stuck in? Well the good news is that you are done dealing with it. Many things happened during the struggle, both yours and Standing Bear's but the only difference is that you got free, but Standing Bear didn't. At least not entirely. He got freed from jail and buried his son. He even was recognized as a person by Judge Dundy. However the United States government did not let him out of the hole because they did not give citizen ship to Native Americans. Yet, Standing Bear continued with dignity, peace and respect.

So, next time you get in a jam, you could think, "How would Standing Bear handle this?"

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