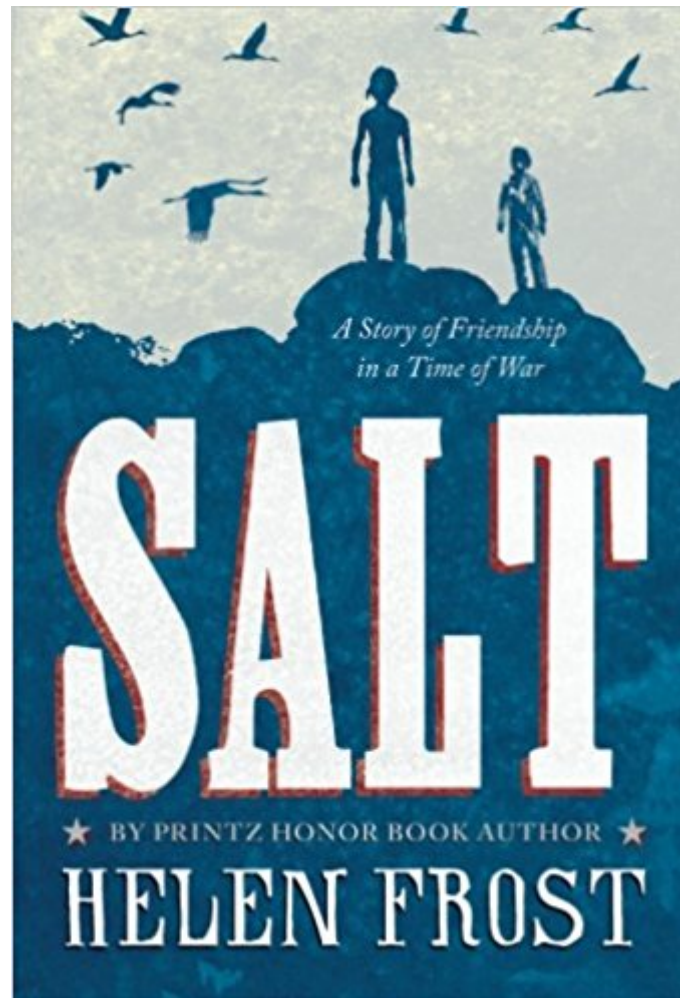


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# Salt: A Story Of Friendship In A Time Of War



## Synopsis

Anikwa and James, twelve years old in 1812, spend their days fishing, trapping, and exploring together in the forests of the Indiana Territory. To Anikwa and his family, members of the Miami tribe, this land has been home for centuries. As traders, James's family has ties to the Miami community as well as to the American soldiers in the fort. Now tensions are rising—the British and American armies prepare to meet at Fort Wayne for a crucial battle, and Native Americans from surrounding tribes gather in Kekionga to protect their homeland. After trading stops and precious commodities, like salt, are withheld, the fort comes under siege, and war ravages the land. James and Anikwa, like everyone around them, must decide where their deepest loyalties lie. Can their families—and their friendship—survive? In *Salt*, Printz Honor author Helen Frost offers a compelling look at a difficult time in history. A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2013 A Frances Foster Book

## Book Information

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; Reprint edition (December 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250062896

ISBN-13: 978-1250062895

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 12.6 x 194.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 34 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #49,379 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in Books > Children's Books >

Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans #69 in Books >

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in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Stories In Verse

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5-7-Though the year 1812 rings ominously in the ears of any American history student, for Anikwa and James it is simply their 12th year, one that they expect will unfold like those that came before it. Anikwa, a member of the Miami tribe, and James, the son of traders living just outside Fort Wayne, have an easy friendship filled with trapping, fishing, and exploring the surrounding woods and river. Yet as outside events begin to converge, the first signs of betrayal and confusion enter

their world as all is turned upside down. Frost, as readers have come to expect, fully embraces the stylistic possibilities of the verse form; James's poems run in long parallel lines visually representing the stripes of the American flag, while Anikwa's mirror Miami ribbon work. The two voices-and therefore forms-alternate easily throughout the story. The titular salt is sprinkled throughout the narrative, both as the subject of short poems that "give readers pause" between events (according to Frost's notes) and as a symbol of the fragile friendship between frontiersmen and Native Americans. James's father uncharacteristically withholds salt from Anikwa's people as tensions rise; yet pages later he watches as James takes great risk to get salt to Anikwa outside the stockade. The verse is succinct, yet beautiful, and the story is rich in historical and natural details. Fans of frontier and survival stories will find much to love within these pages.-Jill Heritage Maza, Montclair Kimberley Academy, Montclair, NJ (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

**\*Starred Review\*** Set during the War of 1812, near the present-day city of Fort Wayne, Indiana, *Salt* is the story of the friendship between Anikwa, a Miami Indian boy, and James, the son of a trader. As both British and American armies advance on the area, other Native American peoples arrive hoping to fight with the British against the Americans. The plan fails, and Anikwa's peaceful people must flee. Will they have to abandon their traditional home, and will the friendship between the boys be sundered? Printz Honor Book author Frost (Keesha's House, 2003) has written, with artful economy, another affecting novel in verse. Interspersed among selections narrated in the alternating voices of the two boys are poems about the salt that is necessary to the survival of both peoples. Frost explains that the form of Anikwa's verses, rich in Miami words, evokes the diamond and triangle shapes of Miami ribbon work, while James's more linear form suggests the stripes of the American flag. While acknowledging the uncertainties, misunderstandings, and occasional animosities of war, Frost also celebrates the relationship of both the Miami people and the Americans with the land and with each other. Explanatory notes and a glossary of Miami words are appended to this lovely evocation of a frontier America and the timelessness of friendship. Grades 5-8. --Michael Cart --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

An interesting read about local history. Not too excited about the page by page, in person story then the next lay out. However it may be best this way for young readers to remain invested in their reading. Love the glossary.

I got this for my 12 year old nephew and he loved it! He read the whole thing in less than a week.

This is a book to be savoured.... I am not one to re-read a book, but I am so happy I bought it because I do plan to not only share it, but also read again. I know there is more to it than I was able to appreciate the first time around. Full of history and Native American/nature lore, spare but highly descriptive language, and a message of the beauty and sacrifice of friendship..... Thank you, Helen!

Good historical fiction book for young boy.

10 year old loves it and had the author sign it =)

Good

Good

Wonderful, this disc will go in my collection with a flourish. Loved the music, the booklet was great, James Newton Howard is perfect.

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