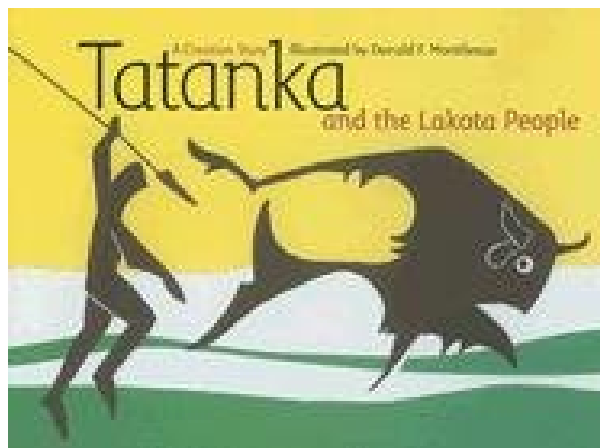
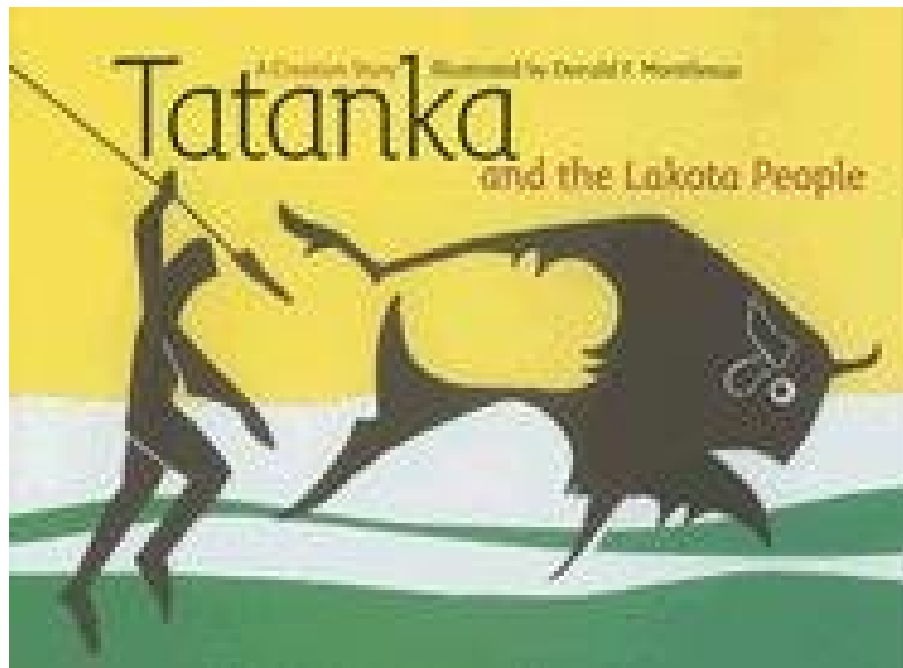


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Grade 1–4—An introduction identifies this story as part of the longer Lakota creation legend that was passed from generation to generation as oral history. The story begins with the Great Spirit Skan, who created "our ancestors," taking "our bones from Stone, our bodies from Earth, and our souls from himself and Wind and Thunder." The Lakota lived in the Underworld until Spider, the Trickster, sent Wolf to persuade Tokahe, the strongest man, that life would be easy on the surface. However, Tatanka, the holy man, warned him not to go. When the people found life was difficult, Spider laughed at them, but Tatanka helped them by turning into a buffalo able to communicate with the Spirits and to give the people the sustenance they needed to survive. Montileaux, an Oglala Lakota artist, illustrates the text with paintings rendered in a two-dimensional format that reflects traditional buffalo-hide paintings. The colorful, stylized images match the formal tone of the story. The English telling is clear and concise, with the corresponding Lakota text appearing alongside. This is a good choice for multilingual collections, communities in need of Lakota language books, or libraries seeking folk material.—G. Alyssa Parkinson, Highland Township Library, MI  
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From the Inside Flap

After the Great Spirits created the world, Tatanka, the holy man, turned himself into a buffalo and sacrificed his powers to help the Lakota people survive. With all that Tatanka provided, the Lakotas adapted to the world around them and prospered.

About the Author

Donald F. Montileaux is an Oglala Lakota artist, illustrator, presenter, and consultant on Lakota culture. He lives in Rapid City, South Dakota, USA with his family.

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