

UNIT 1 Shaping the New World  
Origins of the American Tradition to 1800

A SEEM school  
**FROEBEL**  
BILINGUAL SCHOOL  
Home of the Space Generation



# *PUEBLO LITERATURE*

*Song of the Sky Loom  
&  
Prayer to the Pacific*

WITH  
**JIM SOTO**



# SPEAK YOUR MIND

Many Native American societies have composed songs and poetry that use the language of **weaving** to reflect on the natural world.

If you could describe yourself in terms of an art form, such as a painting, a sculpture, or a musical work, which would you choose? Why?

Take a minute to consider and answer the question.



# TRADITIONAL TRIBAL SONG DEFINED

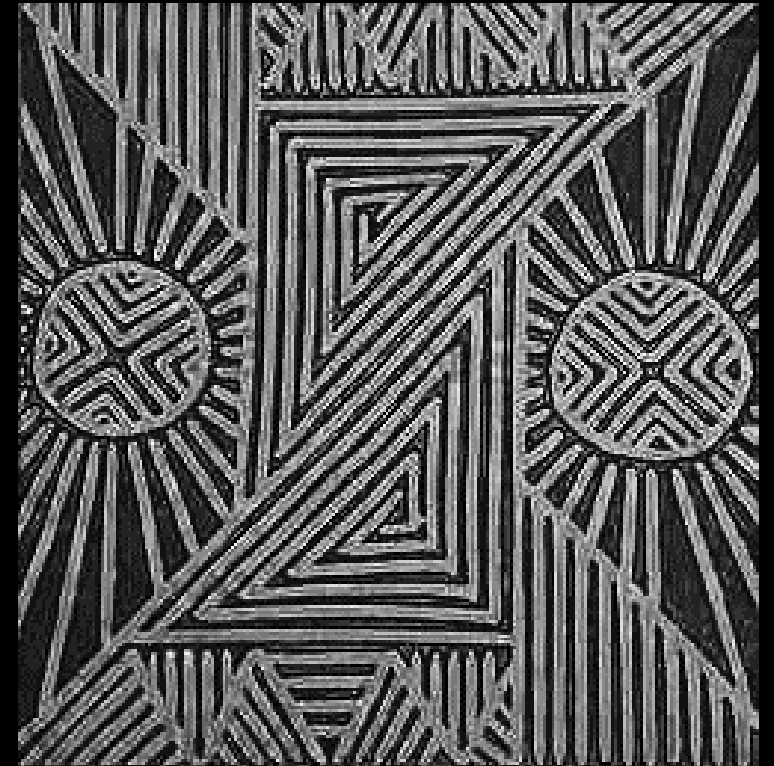
Traditional tribal songs are only a part of the oral traditions that used to validate certain aspects of culture and justify its rituals and institutions. They were/are vehicles of transmission which shows their cultural identity and a diversification of both the tribes in nature and how these tribal groups are associated with nature and the cycle of it. Today we'll read one... and a poem.



# SONG OF THE SKY LOOM

The Tewa are an offshoot of the Pueblo people of the American Southwest who lived in multi-unit adobe structures built into the desert mesas. Like other Pueblo people, the Tewa have a vital interdependence with nature and often perform rituals related to nature, especially to bring much-needed rain.

Song of the Sky loom uses the language of weaving to reflect on the natural world on which they depend. The song also describes the role of the earth and the sky as the weavers, or creators, of the natural world.





# PRAYER TO THE PACIFIC

The writing of Leslie Marmon Silko reflects themes from her Native American heritage, including the relationship between humans and nature and the tensions of living within different cultures. In her poem "Prayer to the Pacific," Silko celebrates nature and tells a myth that explains Native American migration to America.





# LITERARY ELEMENTS

## Metaphor

A figure of speech involving an implied comparison between two unlike things using a form of **be**. Songs often use metaphors to create pictures in the mind of the reader or listener.

## Repetition

Is the intentional reuse of a sound, word, phrase, or sentence; writers often use repetition to emphasize ideas or create a musical effect.

## Concrete Language

Words and phrases that specifically name or describe things. They reference the five senses (e.g. - "*pale water in the yellow-white light of sun*".)

# ASSESSMENT

After reading pages 13-17 in your book, complete the activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
  - Review the chart you created. What natural events, or tenors, are described? What ideas and images, or vehicles, are used to describe them? What is the overall metaphor used to portray the natural world? Discuss what it suggests about Tewa culture and values. What examples of repetition did you identify? What is the effect of repeating these words and phrases? Read the song aloud and consider how repetition contributes to its musical nature.



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