

T·A·L·K·I·N·G IN C·O·D·E·S





Talk About It

Name some different kinds of codes. What are some situations in which you might want to talk in code?



Find out more about codes at www.macmillanmh.com

Vocabulary

corridor	shield
reservation	location
enlisted	sagged
invasion	creased



Context Clues

Context Clues are words or phrases that surround an unfamiliar word and can help you define it. They can appear in a nearby sentence or somewhere else in the paragraph.

Rita, the Storyteller

by Nina Gabriel

My friend Rita is excited about her new baby sister. She stood in the busy hospital **corridor** watching the baby sleep as people passed by.

Rita's new sister is the newest member of the Meskwaki tribe. Some members of this tribe have never lived on a **reservation**, land set aside for Native Americans by the United States government. Meskwaki are proud of their own traditions, especially storytelling.

The Meskwaki pass on their stories to the very young. Rita loves telling stories. She is very excited to tell her new sister a true story she learned from the elders. It is about the brave Meskwaki code talkers of World War II.



In 1941, twenty-seven men from the Meskwaki tribe **enlisted** in the army because they wanted to fight for their country. From this group eight men were chosen for a secret mission. They became code talkers who used their native language to send secret messages.

Before the code talkers, U.S. troops were not able to move around safely. The enemy was able to understand the messages sent to the troops. The United States turned to the Meskwaki because members of this tribe had their own language that few outsiders understood. They could pass on important information without the enemy knowing what was being said.

The group of eight code talkers was sent to North Africa. During an **invasion** some of these code talkers entered enemy territory. The mission took place at night when the **shield** protecting them was

darkness. They used walkie-talkies to tell the **location** of the enemy. The position of the enemy was said in code. This information was passed to other code talkers back at camp.

The code was never broken during World War II. The code talkers helped the United States win the war. However, they got little recognition.

When Rita first told me this story, I felt sad. The eight code talkers should be heroes! Rita saw how my shoulders **sagged** down from my disappointment. My forehead was **creased** as I frowned.

“Don’t worry!” she smiled. “In Meskwaki culture we pass down stories about our heroes. The code talkers will never be forgotten.”



Reread for Comprehension



Generate Questions Author’s Perspective

An Author’s Perspective Chart helps you ask questions to determine an author’s opinion or point of view. Use your Author’s Perspective Chart as you reread “Rita, The Storyteller” to find the author’s perspective.

Clues	Author’s Point of View