

# Jingle Dancer

## A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

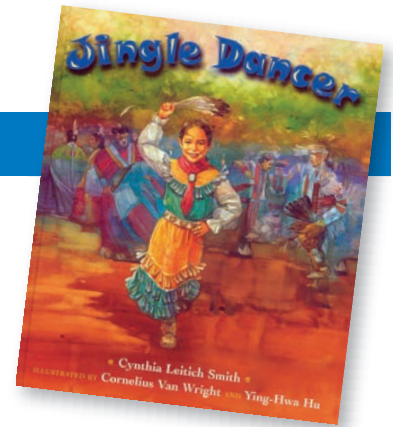
**Themes:** American Indian Culture, Tradition, Celebration, Sharing, Family

**Grade Level:** K to 3rd grade

**Book Brief:** A young girl finds a way to make her dress “sing” so she can jingle dance at powwow.

**Author:**  
Cynthia Leitich Smith

**Illustrators:**  
Cornelius Van Wright  
& Ying-Hwa Hu



## TIME TO READ!

**Before reading:** Ask the children if they know what a powwow is. Have they ever been to one? Find out what kinds of festivals, holidays or gatherings they participate in. How do they participate? Do they dance, like Jenna? Do they play certain games or eat special food?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### LINE DANCING (AGES 5-12)

Have children form a big circle and put on a good dancing song. Pick one child to start. This child should perform one dance move, like a shimmy or a spin. The next child in the circle should do the same move and add a new, different move of their own. Keep going down the line like this. See how complicated your dance can get before someone forgets a step! The child who messes up should start the next round.

### PINCH POTS (AGES 5-12)

Materials: modeling clay, toothpicks

Roll a chunk of modeling clay to form a ball. Using your thumbs, press down into the center of the ball to create a well. Keep pinching until you have a pot. Wipe outside of pot with damp cloth to prevent cracking. Use toothpick to draw designs on outside of pot. Let dry.

### DANCE CHARADES (AGES 5-12)

Materials: paper, pen or pencil, small container

Write down on small slips of paper the names of books your group has read recently. Put the slips in a container and let each child or small group of children choose one. Make sure they keep it a secret! Have them act out the plot of the story using a dance. Let the other children guess the name of the book.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURE

*Powwow's Coming*, Linda Boyden (2007), *A Boy Called Slow*, Joseph Bruchac (1998), *Coyote Places the Stars*, Harriet Peck Taylor (1997), *Saltypie*, Tim Tingle (2010), *Home to Medicine Mountain*, Chiori Santiago (2002).

### TECHNOLOGY LINK FOR KIDS

[www.rif.org/kids](http://www.rif.org/kids)



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