

# Jingle Dancer

## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

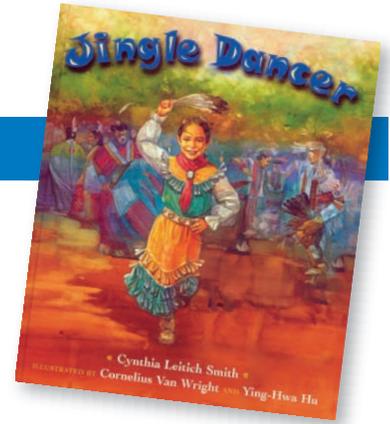
**Themes:** American Indian Culture, Tradition, Celebration, Sharing, Family

**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, make connections:

Find out what your child knows about powwows. Have they ever been to one? What do they think happens at a powwow?



**While reading, pay attention to the language:** This book uses a lot of *figurative language*, like “Jenna’s dress could sing.” What does that mean?

### After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ Why did Jenna want to dance?
- ◆ Why did she have to borrow jingles?
- ◆ Why did everyone let Jenna borrow their jingles?
- ◆ Has anyone ever let you borrow something really important? If so, what?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### WORD ART

Materials: paper, pencil, colored pens or thin markers

On the paper, have your child draw their face in pencil. Along the pencil lines, have them use colored pens or markers to write phrases or sentences describing themselves figuratively. (For example, write “My eyes are chocolate” around the eyes.) Erase the pencil lines to enjoy a picture painted in words!

### OUT AND ABOUT

Powwows are usually free and open to the public. Find one near you at: [www.powwows.com/calendar](http://www.powwows.com/calendar). (Check to make sure it is open to everyone before you go.) You can also go online to watch real jingle dancers at: [www.youtu.be/BZFefZKIR3g](http://www.youtu.be/BZFefZKIR3g).

### INDIAN FRY BREAD

Ingredients: 4 c. flour, 1 tbsp. powdered milk, 1 tbsp. baking powder, 1 tsp. salt, 1 1/2 c. warm water, oil

1. Mix dry ingredients. Add water. Knead until soft, then set aside for one hour.
2. Shape into small balls. Flatten each ball into a circle with a rolling pin or by hand.
3. Fry in a pan half-full of oil until golden brown on both sides.



## 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).



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY ★macy’s  
©2011 Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.

Reading Is  
Fundamental