

Powwow Day

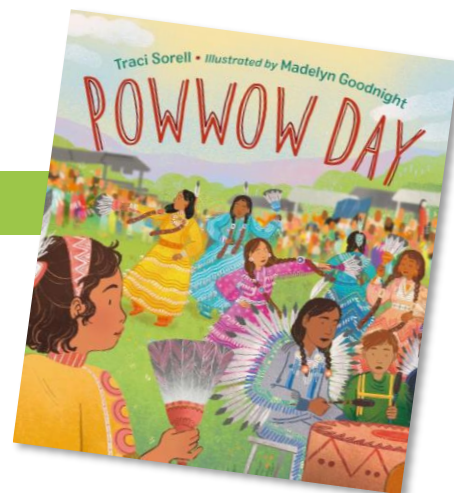
READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Community, Courage, Friendship, Native American Culture

Book Brief: It's powwow day, and River wants so badly to dance as she does every year. But she can't dance this year as she deals with a serious illness.

Author:
Traci Sorell

Illustrator:
Madelyn Goodnight



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the story based on the cover.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice about River.

Prior Knowledge: Ask students, "Have you ever wanted to do something but you couldn't? Explain how you felt."
(Optional: think, pair, share)

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read today, listen for how River accepts that she cannot dance in the powwow this year."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What is River feeling as she heads to powwow day? Infer what happened.
- What do you think River means when she says she cannot hear the drums heartbeat?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: River was having trouble accepting that she couldn't dance this year. What helped her accept this?

Extending Our Thinking: Read the information about Powwows. Using [RIF's Writing Template](#), have students pick one part of the powwow (arena, emcee, dances, etc.) and have them explain its purpose and do further research. Have students share their learning with others in a small group or with the whole class.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.