

# What Your Ribbon Skirt Means To Me

## READ ALOUD GUIDE

**Themes:** Environmental Activism, Friendship, History, Native American Culture

**Book Brief:** Pia and the other children at the Indigenous community center gather to watch Secretary Deb Haaland, in her ribbon skirt, become the first Native American cabinet secretary. Inspired by this historic moment, they reflect on the values of their own regalia, community, and traditions alongside their parents and Elders.

**Author:**  
Alexis Buntен

**Illustrator:**  
Nicole Neidhardt



## 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 Pia.

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask students, if they have seen a ribbon skirt before. If not, pull up an image of a ribbon skirt.

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

**Purpose for Reading:** "As we read today, look for how the ribbon skirt represents identity, culture, and pride in Indigenous communities."

## DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What do the ribbons represent? Why?
- Why do you think Pia gives Jasmin her ribbon skirt?
- Who is Deb Haaland? Explain her contributions to history and the environment.

## AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** Pia learns about the significance of her ribbon skirt. Explain how the ribbon skirt relates to identity, culture, and pride in Indigenous communities.

**Extending Our Thinking:** Secretary Deb Haaland stands for environmental justice during the climate crisis. Using [RIF's Writing Template](#), have students write ways they can help protect the environment.

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.