

# Jingle Dancer

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

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

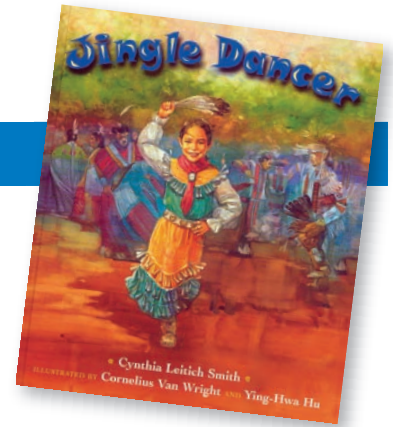
**Grade Level:** K to 3rd grade

**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

**Content Connections:**  
Social Studies, Music



## TIME TO READ!

### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** Have students make predictions about the text based on the title and front cover illustration. Who is the girl? What is she holding? What's on her dress? Where do you think she is? Who's in the background?

**The Pictures:** For younger students, take a brief picture walk. What do the pictures show? Who are all of these people? Where is the girl at the end of the book? What's she doing? See if students can make connections between the title and the final pictures of the girl dancing.

**Prior Knowledge:** Find out what students know about powwows. Have any students ever been to a powwow? Find out what kinds of festivals, holidays or gatherings your students participate in. How do they participate? Do they dance, like Jenna? Do they play certain games or eat special food?

**Vocabulary:** powwow, bounce-step, moccasins, regalia

**Purpose for Reading:** Set the following purpose: “As we read today, think about how the author paints pictures with words. We call that *figurative language*, like ‘light blurred silver.’ Why does the author do that?”

## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Why do you think Jenna wants to dance?
- ◆ Why doesn't she have her own jingles to put on her dress?
- ◆ Why doesn't she want her aunt's dress to “lose its voice”? What does that mean? Can a dress sing?

- ◆ Why does everyone lend Jenna jingles for her dress? Why don't they dance themselves?
- ◆ How do you think Jenna feels while she's dancing?
- ◆ How do you think her family feels watching her dance?

## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** Revisit the purpose: “The author uses a lot of figurative language. What did it add to the story? Can you think of some examples from the book? Think of places she paints pictures for us with her words.”

**Extending Our Thinking:** A powwow is a special celebration. Point out the way Jenna dresses every day compared to the way she dresses up at the powwow. Ask students if they have any similar celebrations where they dress up, eat special food or put on special performances.

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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

Reading Is  
Fundamental