

# Kunu's Basket

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** American Indian Culture, Traditions, Family, Perseverance

**Grade Level:** K to 2nd grade

**Book Brief:** With the help of his grandfather, a young boy makes his first basket.

**Author:**

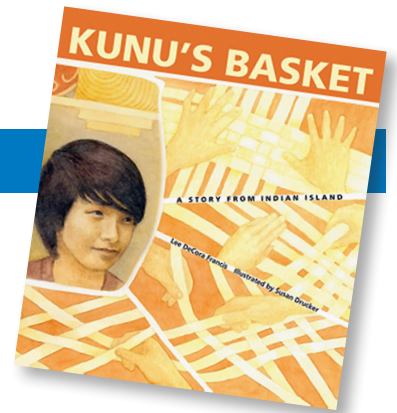
Lee DeCora Francis

**Illustrator:**

Susan Drucker

**Content Connections:**

Art, Social Studies, Science



## TIME TO READ!

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

**The Cover:** What can we tell about the book from

the title and front cover illustration? Who is Kunu? What does the cover illustration show about the process of basket making?

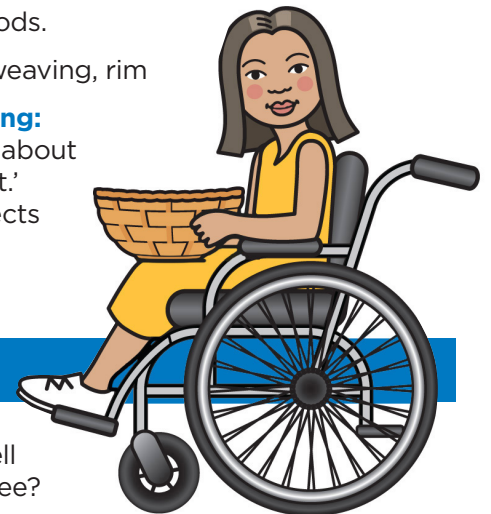
**The Pictures:** Flip briefly through the pictures. Ask students to make predictions about the relationships between the characters based solely on the illustrations.

**Prior Knowledge:** Explain that Kunu is from the Penobscot Nation and lives on Indian Island in Maine. The Penobscot have a strong tradition of basket weaving. These baskets were originally used to gather and store foods and to trade for other goods.

**Vocabulary:** ash, weaving, rim

**Purpose for Reading:**

“As we read, think about the meaning of ‘art.’ Can everyday objects be works of art?”



## WHILE WE READ



### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Why is Kunu making a basket?
- ◆ Why does he refuse his father's help?

- ◆ What can you tell about the ash tree?
- ◆ What tools do you need to weave a basket?
- ◆ Why does Kunu let his grandfather help him?

## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** “Were the baskets Kunu and his grandfather made ‘art’? Why or why not? Explain your answer with evidence from the book.”

**Extending Our Thinking:** Ask these open-ended questions: “How do you think the Penobscot people learned to make such beautiful baskets? What other cultures value hand-woven baskets?” “Why is it important to carry on family traditions?” “What are some other types of traditions that might be handed down through generations?”

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

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



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