Día! Family Book Club
Lesson Plan 2: Ages 4-8

Book Information

Jingle Dancer by Cynthia Leitich Smith

Pre-Club Activities

Distribute copies of the book. Ask families to read the book together and to discuss some of their own family traditions.

Club Activities

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<td>Introduction</td>
<td>If possible, pass around a ribbon of jingle cones (borrowed, or purchased online) so that members can see what these look like and shake to hear what the sound resembles.</td>
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| Discussion Questions  | 1. Why do you think Jenna wants to jingle dance? Why is it important to her?  
2. Look at the illustrations. What do you like or not like about them? How do the pictures show the characters' heritage?  
3. How is Jenna's neighborhood like your neighborhood? How is it different?  
4. Jenna works very hard to get ready to jingle dance. What is something that you work hard at? Why do you do that? |
| Family Activity       | In Native American culture, a powwow is a large gathering with special food, contests, and other fun. What is a special gathering that your family has attended? Make a mini-booklet or draw a picture about this event. |
| Small Group Activity  | In small groups, with groups cycling through craft stations:  
1. Jenna works hard to be able to jingle dance at the powwow. What is something that you work hard at, or would like to learn how to do? Draw a picture or write a poem about this activity.  
2. Make your own bracelet. Choose 4-6 large beads or bells. String them on a piece of stiff string to make a bracelet (use knots to hold the beads/bells in place). |
| Full Group Activity   | Food and social: Share a snack while showing off your bracelet, poem or drawing, and drum. A more ambitious snack option is fry bread with honey or cinnamon, while simpler choices include potato chips (invented by a Native American chef), strawberries, or roasted pumpkin seeds, depending on the season. |

Visit http://dia.ala.org for more resources, activity sheets, and information.
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Post Club Activities

1. Using a computer at home or the library, look for a video showing jingle dancing being performed.
2. Visit a museum or virtual museum to learn more about Native Americans in history and today.
3. Find out if there are any powwows in your area that you could attend. Many are open to the public. If possible, attend a powwow.

Additional Resources for Club