Book Information

Crossing Bok Chitto by Tim Tingle

Pre-Club Activities
Distribute flyers promoting the book club event. Create a display area with copies of the book for families to check out, read and discuss prior to the event. Encourage families to talk about slavery, and American Indian lands, and the ‘Trail of Tears’. Reserve one copy of the book for in-library reading.

Discussion Questions
1. When each of the children in the story first heard the music of the other culture, “it touched them deeply”. Why do you think it made them feel that way?
2. When Martha Tom’s mother caught her crossing the river, the book says she, “could cackle like a mad crow on the outside, while she would coo like a dove with love for her daughter.” What does that mean?
3. Why do you think the slaves were able to become invisible “ghost people” and walk in front of the plantation owners without being seen?
4. At the beginning of the book Mo took a great risk to help a girl he had just met, and at end of the book the Choctaw people took a great risk to help a family they didn’t know. Do you think these were a good decisions? Why or why not?

Family Activity
The song “Amazing Grace” is a traditional African American spiritual. It has been translated into Choctaw and is often sung as part of their culture. Create a listening station where families can listen to both versions of the song.

Small Group Activity
Both African American slaves and the Choctaw people used storytelling to preserve their history. In a small group setting, ask each family to share stories about their unique family history.

Full Group Activity

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

1. As a family, follow Mo’s and Martha Tom’s example, and help a stranger.
2. Watch videos Choctaw storytellers online. Such as Grayhawk Perkins: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIPhA3gTY84
3. Visit http://www.choctawnation.com to learn more about the Choctaw culture.

Additional Resources for Club

1. Link to the Choctaw version of Amazing Grace: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cw76jUiNboM
2. Link to the gospel version of Amazing Grace: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZoJz2SANTyo