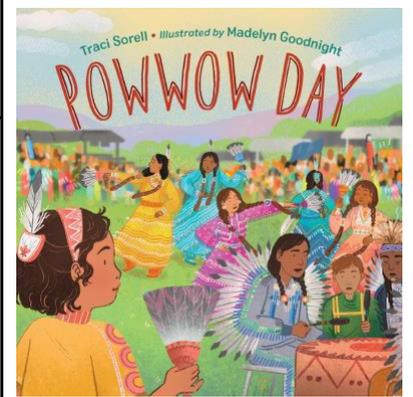


Powwow Day

by Traci Sorell



Created by:

Damian Mandorlao, Tanner Snesrud, & Reece Ramirez

Book Summary

A young girl named River and her family are going to this year's powwow, but River is sick and she doesn't feel motivated to dance. While River sits in her seat she finally feels the drum's heartbeat. When she leaves she decides that she will dance for her health and community next powwow.

Read Aloud Questions

Raise your hand if you have heard the word powwow. Can someone explain what it is?

Why do you think powwow is important to River?

Why does River feel sad about missing her part of the activities?

Do you think Dawn is a good friend?

Why do you think the line goes from oldest to youngest?

Do you understand what River is feeling?

How do River's family and friends support her?

Book Activity

Materials: Handouts: "What is a Powwow?" and "My Helpers"; crayons/markers/pencils

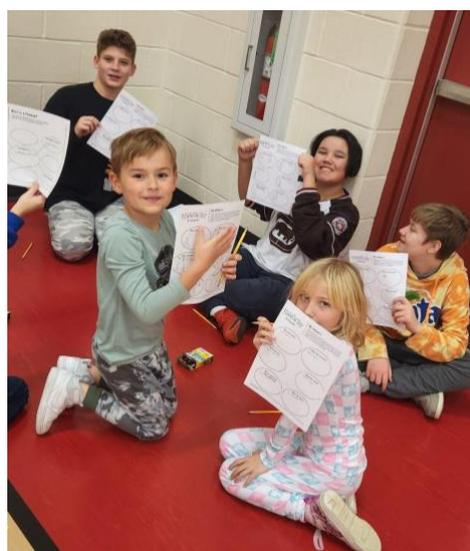
Directions

After reading the book aloud, show the video: [Haskell Welcome Back Pow Wow 2019](#). Discuss some of the things that they see in the video that is shared in the book.

Handout "What is a Powwow?" graphic organizer. Allow students to work together to revisit the book and video to complete the activity. Students may write or draw the information for each bubble.

Discuss the importance of the powwow rituals for River? Discuss how the heartbeat of the drum made her feel, even though she did not feel well. Discuss with the kids who/what helps them feel better when they are not feeling well. Handout “My Helpers” and ask students to write or draw the people in their lives who help them when they have trouble in their lives.

Students may share their handouts with the group to extend the discussion and make connections to their own lives, cultures, and rituals.



Additional Resources

- [Powwow Day Activity Kit](#)
- [Powwow Day | NEA](#)
- [Globe Trottin' Kids](#)
- [A Powwow Day](#)

Meet the Authors



Damian Mandorlao is a 7th grade student at Augusta Middle School. He likes video games and drawing. He won an art competition in 2022. Also Damian has written some personal narratives and is ready to write more pieces. In the future, Damian would like to be a professional artist.

Reece Ramirez is a student at Augusta Middle School. He lives with his parents and his 3 siblings. He has 1 friend who is the best person he has ever met. He spends all of his time playing games with his friend and hanging out with him. He also loves to go out at night and enjoy the stars and find some of the planets. He enjoys watching YouTube and other TV shows. His favorite video game of all time is Fortnite and he enjoys playing every second he can.



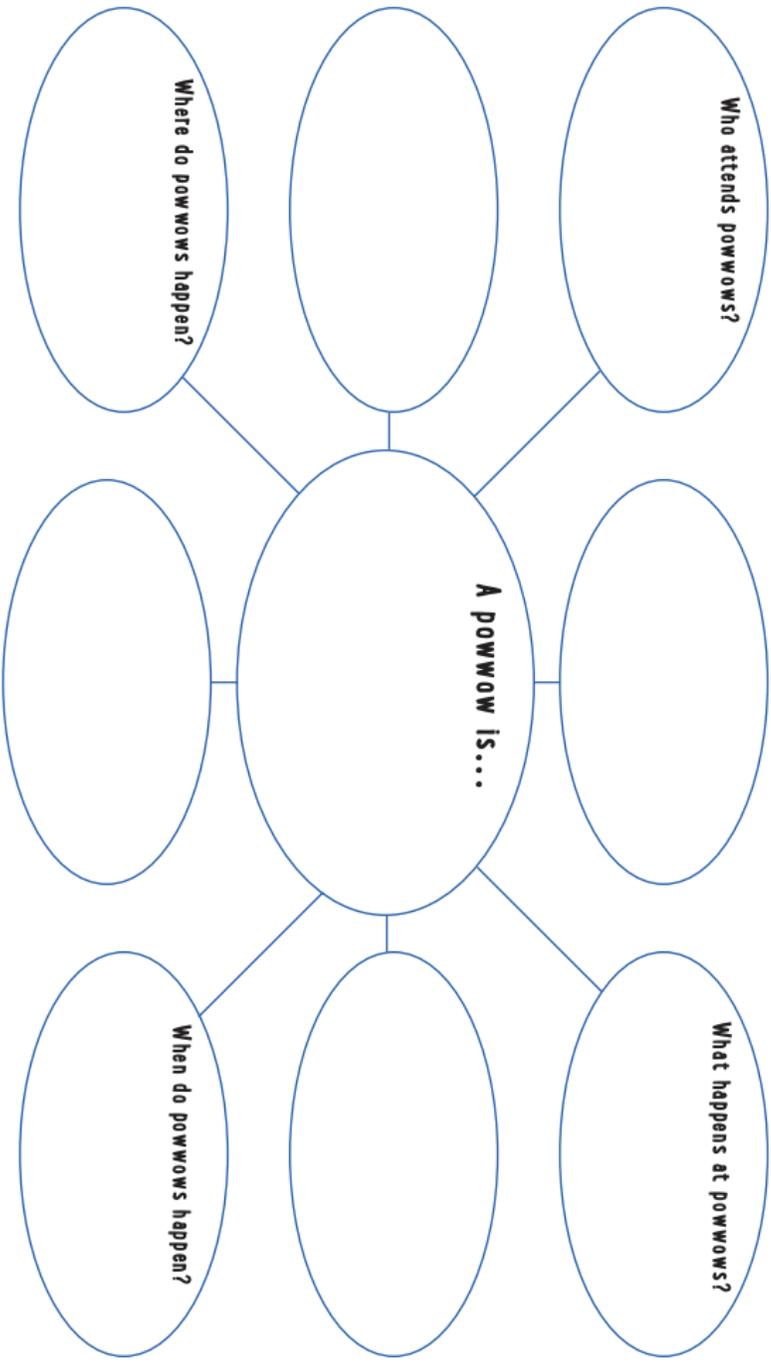
Tanner Snesrud writes about memories or something he's been thinking about. His favorite thing to do in English is Writer's Notebook. He likes it so much he does it at home. He started writing in 2nd grade. His first book was about aliens invading America, but a green Lamborghini stops them because it's a Lamborghini. Unfortunately, the book was lost in the postal service and once it got to the publishing company they said it didn't have enough pages to be published. When they tried to mail it back it never came to the house and the book was lost forever and never got published.

POWOW DAY

Activity Kit

What Is a Powwow?

Using what you already know or consulting research sources, fill out the knowledge map below!



POWWOW DAY

Activity Kit

My Helpers

When River has trouble at the powwow, her friends and family help her in different ways. Who are your helpers? How do they help? (You can put the same helper in more than one bubble!)

When I'm lonely:

When I'm confused:

When I'm sick:

When I'm scared:

When I need help
doing something:

When I'm angry: