Title, Author, Illustrator:

Grandma's Tipi: A Present Day Lakota Story
Author and Illustrator: S.D. Nelson

Ideas for enjoying the book at home

Created by: Natomas Unified School District Early Learning

About the Book:

In Grandma's Tipi: A Present-Day Lakota Story by S.D. Nelson, Clara is excited to spend her summer with her grandmother, Unci, and her cousin Juniper on the Standing Rock Reservation. When her family brings out a tipi that has been passed down through generations, Clara discovers a special place filled with stories, traditions, and family memories. Through making art, sharing songs, learning traditional skills, and spending time together, Clara learns about her Lakota heritage and the importance of family, community, and the circle of life. This heartwarming story celebrates the connections between generations and the traditions that keep families and cultures strong.

Before Reading:

- What do you notice about the cover?
- What do you think about the title?
- What do you think we will discover in this book?

While Reading:

- What do you notice in the picture?
- What do you think about what we just read?
- What are you curious about now?

After Reading:

- What did you think about the book?
- How did it make you feel?
- What was your favorite part?

Jump into Joyful Reading!

Invite your child to share their thinking and ask questions as you enjoy the book together. The main thing is to have fun and enjoy one another's company as you read together. Here are some things you can say and do to create a joyful reading experience for your child.

Turn the page over for creative expression ideas!

Created by Pam Spycher, REL West at WestEd, 2021

Creative Expression Activities

After you read the book, unleash your imagination and creativity! Use the ideas below to choose your own adventure. What other ideas did the book inspire your amazing mind to think of?

Creative Writing	Visual and Digital Arts	Kindness and Community
A Special Place In the story, Clara learns about her family and traditions. Think about a special place that connects you to your family. Draw a picture or write a few sentences about this place and explain why it is meaningful to you.	A Place That Tells a Story Create a drawing, collage, or digital picture of a place that is important to your family. Include colors, objects, or details that show what makes this place special. Share your artwork with your family and explain your choices.	Make a Difference Families and communities grow stronger when people care for one another. Work together to choose one kind act you can do at home or in your neighborhood. Afterward, talk about how your actions helped someone and how kindness brings people together.
Mindfulness and Self-Awareness	**Music and Movement**	**Dramatic Play**
What Makes Me Feel Connected? Take a quiet moment to think about the people, places, and traditions that help you feel safe, loved, and connected. Share your thoughts with a family member. Talk about how spending time together helps your family stay connected.	Sounds of Nature Step outside or sit quietly near a window and listen to the sounds around you. Use your voice, claps, or gentle taps to create a rhythm inspired by what you hear. Share your rhythm with your family, and invite everyone to add a sound or movement.	Tell a Family Story Choose a favorite family memory or a moment from the book to act out together. Use everyday objects as props, pretend costumes, or gestures to bring your story to life. Take turns being the storyteller and the actors, then talk about what makes the story special.

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