

PERFECT  
FOR PRE-K  
TO 3RD GRADE

but fun for everyone!



Read *Jingle Dancer*, written by Cynthia Leitich Smith; illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu. Purchase the book from the [Carlos Bookshop](#) or [listen](#) to Matowacipi Horse, Emory (24c) and student intern at the Carlos, read the book in the exhibition *Each/Other: Marie Watt and Cannupa Hanska Luger* next to a work by Watt titled *Butterfly*. Look closely at the metal jingles sewn onto *Butterfly*. Can you find any jingles that look similar in the book? Create your own art through collaboration!

**This project  
is great for:**



**Learning to  
create art through  
collaboration**



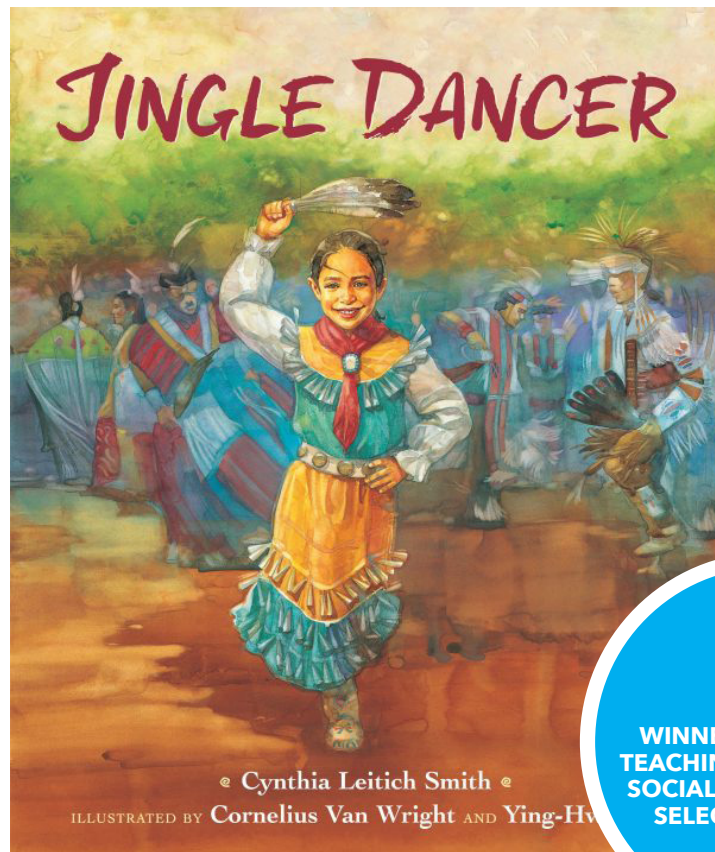
**Using art to  
tell stories**



**Creating multimedia  
artwork**



**Learning about  
Indigenous culture  
and tradition**



artful  
stories



**WINNER OF THE 2020  
TEACHING FOR CHANGE:  
SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOKS  
SELECTION AWARD**

# Jingle Dancer

**Written by Cynthia Leitich Smith  
Illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright  
and Ying-Hwa Hu**

Heartdrum: An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers,  
in partnership with We Need Diverse Books, 2000  
ISBN: 978-0-063018-11-2

***The cone-shaped jingles sewn to Grandma Wolfe's dress sing tink, tink, tink, tink...*** Jenna loves the tradition of jingle dancing that has been shared over generations in her family and intertribal community. She hopes to dance at the next powwow. But with the day quickly approaching, she has a problem—how will her dress sing if it has no jingles?



**Butterfly.** Marie Watt (Seneca, German-Scots), 2015. Reclaimed wool blankets, satin binding, thread, cotton twill tape, and tin jingles. Courtesy of the Denver Art Museum.



**Marie Watt (Seneca, German-Scots)** creates many of her textile pieces in sewing circles in which she invites people to gather and stitch on small pieces of cloth that are then sewn together to form one large work. Sewing circles give people of all ages and backgrounds a chance to share stories while they create.

At a sewing circle in Denver, Watt met two young girls who were **powwow** dancers. She asked them what their favorite dances were. One girl said she loved the fancy shawl dance because it makes her feel like a butterfly, while the other loved the jingle dress dance, and told how it has ties to healing.

In this work by Watt, titled *Butterfly*, the strips of pink, purple, and blue cloth look like the long ribbons sewn onto fancy shawls. The colors are bright and energetic, like the dance itself. The silver ornaments that fill the middle of the work, called **jingles**, are small, round pieces of metal that are rolled into cones. Jingles are sewn onto dresses or skirts and make rhythmic sounds when the wearer dances. Here, Watt invited people to write wishes on the metal discs before they were rolled into cones.



### Talk Together

- What shape did Watt use to make us think of butterflies?
- Can you find jingles in the book that look like the jingles on Watt's piece?
- How did Mrs. Scott, Grandma Wolfe, Great-aunt Sis, and Cousin Elizabeth help Jenna make her dress?
- How did Jenna show her respect for these important women in her life?

# Make it!



## CREATE YOUR OWN ART THROUGH COLLABORATION

**To build confidence and a sense of ownership in their art, it's important that children have autonomy.** Lead by example by making your own artwork with your child and let them do as much as they can on their own. The instructions below are guidelines. Children should be encouraged to explore materials and techniques to make their artwork the way they want it to be.

### What you need:

- **Four objects** from different family members or friends to use in your artwork (Remember to ask for permission first)
- **A flat material for the surface of the artwork** (i.e., paper, fabric, canvas, cardboard, wood, etc.)
- **Recycled materials** (paper, plastic, string, yarn, etc.)
- **Natural materials** (wood, sticks, leaves, rocks, etc.)
- **Household objects** (buttons, books, etc.)
- **Art supplies** (pencils, markers, paint, colored paper, scissors, etc.)
- Optional:**
- **Adhesive** (hot glue or tape)

### What to do:

**Collaboration**, working together with others to do something, is an important part of Watt's artistic process. In *Jingle Dancers*, Jenna would not have been able to dance at powwow if her family members had not given their own jingles to help make her dress. Creating art through collaboration connects and allows people to share their stories with each other. Follow the directions below to create your own collaborative artwork!

#### 1. Find four different family members or friends and ask them to give you an object to include in your collaborative artwork.

Ask them why they gave you this object or what it means to them. Ask them to work with you to make it. Watt often takes inspiration from the stories that other people tell her.

#### 2. Use your art piece to bring these four objects together to tell a story.

##### How are your objects similar or different from each other?

Compare their sizes, colors, shapes, and texture. What did these objects mean to the people who gave them to you?

##### Are there other objects or materials you want to include—

recycled materials, natural materials, household objects, or art supplies? You may want to use an adhesive, like glue or tape, to stick the objects and materials together.

#### 3. When it's finished, share your artwork with the people who helped you create it!



# Learn new words



## ← **Indigenous** [In-DID-juh-niss]

Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place. It is a word that can be used to describe plants and animals that have always grown or lived in a specific environment. When used to describe people, Indigenous means that those people were the first to live in a specific place. Indigenous people today may have connections with several different tribes or communities, and some have European ancestry as well. Marie Watt is part of the Seneca Nation, a group of Indigenous people who live south of Lake Ontario, and she also has German-Scots ancestry.

## **Powwow** [POW-wow] →

A community gathering where people dance, sing, and celebrate Indigenous culture.



## ← **Jingle Dress Dance**

A dance created for women to perform at powwows. Rows of cone-shaped metal jingles are sewn onto dresses as decoration and to make sound as the wearer dances to the beat of the drum. During the 1918 flu pandemic, Indigenous tribes were suffering. Many of their traditional healing ceremonies and dances had been made illegal. The Ojibwe tribe created the dress and the dance to heal the sick and to express their culture in a new way. Still today, the dress and dance represent healing and pride in Indigenous resilience.

**Scan this QR code to hear what the jingles sound like!**

**No matter what type of dance** is performed at powwow, most dancers wear **moccasins**. Learn more about moccasins in the Carlos collection in the SmARTy Pack: [Check Out Those Kicks](#).



**Men's Moccasins with Four-Direction Motifs.**

North America, Great Plains,  
Wyoming/Oklahoma.

Hinonó eiteen (Arapaho).

Ca. 1885. Hide, glass beads.

Museum purchase, courtesy  
of the Bright Collection  
of Guatemalan Textiles.

2017.14.1A,B



**Experience all this and so much more at the Carlos Museum!**

EMORY

MICHAEL C.  
CARLOS  
MUSEUM

CARLOS.EMORY.EDU

© 2021 Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University.

This lesson plan was prepared by the Education Department of the Michael C. Carlos Museum. Description of the featured book is provided by the publisher. For more information on *Artful Stories*, contact Lynnette Torres Ivey at [ltivey@emory.edu](mailto:ltivey@emory.edu) or 404.727.0519.