

Name _____

Family Times

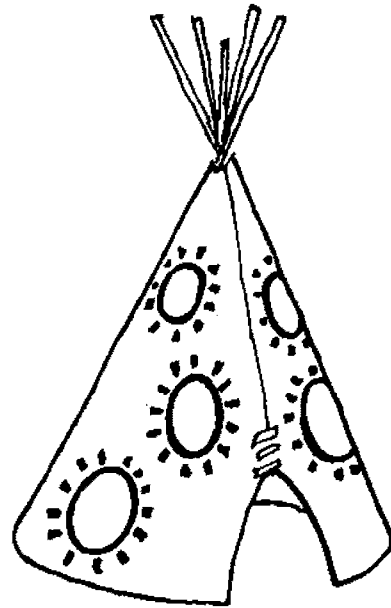
Summary

A Gift from the Heart

In this Native American play, the Comanche People are waiting for the spring rains. Since they must depend on their crops for food, they hold a ceremony to end the drought. The Great Spirit does not answer their prayers at first. Then, Little One sacrifices her most treasured possession to save her people.

Activity

Perform a Play Find a Native American story or folk tale, and rewrite it as a simple play for two or three characters. Copy the play form found in *A Gift from the Heart*. Have a friend or two help you read through the script. Then perform the play for your family. Include simple costumes, props, or scenery.



Comprehension Skill

Generalize

A **generalization** is a broad statement or rule that applies to several examples. Authors sometimes use clue words such as *most*, *all*, *usually*, and *never* to help readers recognize a generalization. Generalizations are often supported by facts and details.

Activity

Write three different generalizations about sacrifices people make. Use clue words such as *most*, *all*, *usually*, and *never*. Give examples that you have read about or that you know from your own experiences.

Lesson Vocabulary

Words to Know

Knowing the meaning of these words is important to reading *A Gift from the Heart*. Practice using these words.

Vocabulary Words

abundance a large amount, having plenty

backdrop a curtain or scenery at the back of a stage

ceremonial used at a ceremony or on a formal occasion

drought a long period of dry weather

graze to feed on growing grass or other plants in fields

shock something unexpected that causes a disturbance

Conventions

Quotations and Quotation Marks

A speaker's exact words are called a **quotation**. When you write a quotation, use **quotation marks** (“ ”) at the beginning and end of the speaker's exact words. Begin the quotation with a capital letter.

For example, “*Who will be the first to sacrifice a gift?*” said Wise Eagle. Little Buffalo answered, “*This is my favorite drum. I don't think Great Spirit wants me to toss my drum in the campfire.*”

Activity

You Always Say Together, discuss phrases that your family members say frequently. They may be original statements or quotations that they like to repeat. Make a book of family quotations by writing down these words of wisdom on paper that has been folded in half like a book. Don't forget to use proper quotation marks.

Practice Tested Spelling Words

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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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