LEARNING STANDARD QUESTIONS:

• Explain why a character or object is important to the story? Specifically, the dreamcatcher.
  
  Possible answers → It connects Kimmy to her grandmother; it connects Kimmy to her Native American Heritage; it helps Kimmy sleep; it keeps Kimmy’s bad dreams away...

• What happened at the beginning of the story? In the middle? At the end? With specific regard to the dreamcatcher.
  
  Possible answers → Beginning: Kimmy arrives at her grandmother’s house and her bad dreams return, her grandmother loans her a dreamcatcher to help keep the bad dreams away; Middle: while her parents are away, Kimmy’s grandmother tells her the story of how dreamcatchers began and what they do; together they make a dreamcatcher for Kimmy along with other gifts for her new home; Kimmy’s bad dreams have stopped since she began using the dreamcatcher; End: Kimmy’s parents return and love the presents she and her grandmother have made - especially the drawing of her family which also shows a dreamcatcher.

ACTIVITY: Make a Dreamcatcher of your very own!

There are two versions of how to make a dreamcatcher on the following page. The second one comes directly from the book and has its own list of materials.

Discussion: As a class, discuss how a dreamcatcher works. The strand(s) at the bottom filter good thoughts and dreams to the individual laying below it, while the “sticky” web inside the circle traps the bad dreams and thoughts.

Write! An additional activity option: students are asked to recall a dream they’ve had and turn it into a short story or poem.

MATERIALS NEEDED: paper plates; paint/markers/crayons; scissors; hole punch; glue; yarn; feathers; decorative items such as beads, glitter

SHARE YOUR CREATION!

theREP would love students to share photos of (or short videos creating) their dreamcatchers! They can be emailed to Associate Artistic Director, Margaret E. Hall, at mhall@capitalrep.org
Instructions on How to Make a Dreamcatcher

1. Take your paper plate and cut a hole in the center to create the hoop of your dreamcatcher
2. If the plate is one solid color use paint, crayons etc., to add color to your hoop
3. When the paint is dry, and using the hole punch, punch eight holes along the inner circle of your hoop
4. Next, use the yarn to weave a web through the holes you’ve punched – where the bad dreams and thoughts will stick (You will need to tie the yarn to the first hole you use to secure it there; and you will need to tie a knot in the final hole as well)
5. Next, a hole at the top of the dreamcatcher and, using a bit of yarn, make a loop you can use to hang the dreamcatcher from
6. Then, punch one, two or three holes at the bottom of your hoop where you will hang the feathers/beads
7. Using yarn and feathers and beads/charms etc., create the strands at the bottom – where the good thoughts and dreams can filter down to you while you sleep
8. Using additional feather, stickers and glitter etc., decorate the hoop
9. Take your dreamcatcher home and hanging it above your bed so that Kimmy, bad dreams will stay away

Paper plate dreamcatcher examples.