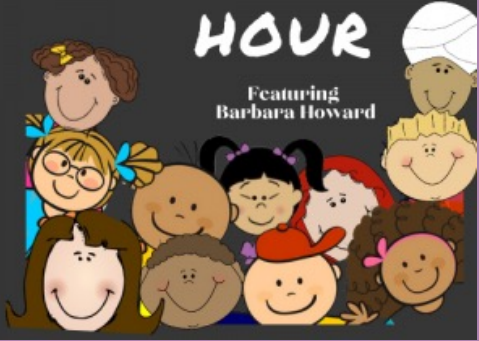


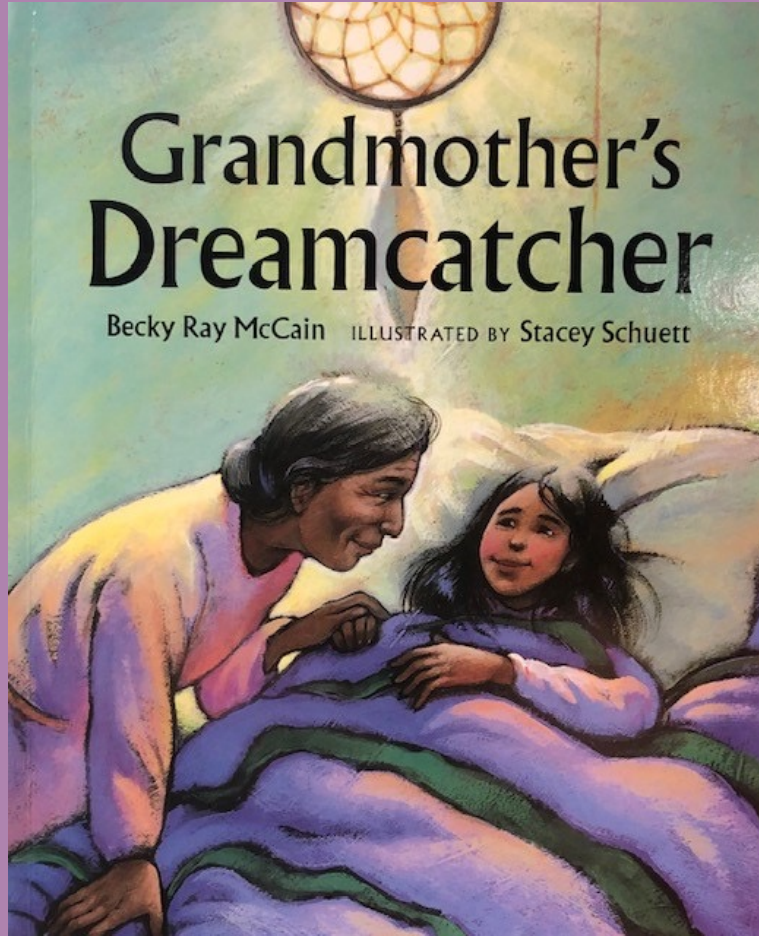
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# STORY HOUR

Featuring  
Barbara Howard



## Story Hour: Season 2 with theREP Activity for Grades 3-5



### 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.

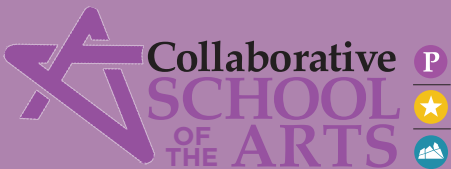
**MATERIALS NEEDED:** paper plates; paint/markers/crayons; scissors; hole punch; glue; yarn; feathers; decorative items such as beads, glitter

### 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](mailto:mhall@capitalrep.org)



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## 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.

## From the book: Grandmother's Dreamcatcher

### To Make Your Own Dreamcatcher

#### What you need:

- A grownup helper if you are not yet in fourth grade
- Scissors and all-purpose crafts glue
- A macramé ring 3 inches in diameter; available in crafts stores.
- Suede lace (2 yards) and sinew (synthetic or leather string) (3 yards); both are available in crafts stores.
- A clip or clothespin to hold suede lace in place after gluing
- A ruler
- Beads that you can string on the suede lace
- Several feathers

#### What to do:

##### Figure A:

1. Cut a 5-foot piece of suede lace. Tie one end to the circle frame.
2. Wrap the lace around the frame to cover it, pulling tight as you go. Cut off any extra lace. Glue, then hold the lace end in place with the clip or clothespin while the glue sets.

##### Figure B:

3. Cut a 1-yard piece of sinew. With one end, make a half-knot at the top of the circle.

##### Figure C:

4. In a clockwise motion, make half-knots around the circle, about an inch apart. Continuing clockwise, keep using half-knots to make the rest of the web.

##### Figure D:

5. Gently tighten each half-knot in the center of your circle to make the middle hole of the web. Tie off the web with two knots. Cut off any extra sinew.
6. String beads on some of the remaining lace. Knot one end so the beads will not fall off. Tie the other end to the bottom of the dreamcatcher so the beads hang down.
7. Push the quill of the feather up through the bead holes. Or, with some leftover sinew, tie the feather to the beaded lace.
8. Tie the remaining feathers to the top of the dreamcatcher with some leftover sinew.
9. With the rest of the sinew, hang the dreamcatcher over your bed, away from the wall. It should hang above your head.
10. May you have sweet dreams!

Someday you may wish to make a dreamcatcher using a twig, as Grandmother did. Soak the twig in water to make it bend into a circle without breaking. Then tie the ends together with sinew and proceed as above.



Figure A



Figure B



Figure C



Figure D