

BEING HOME

It's moving day for a young Cherokee girl. She is leaving the place she has lived her whole life and moving with her mother to their family's ancestral land. As she says goodbye to her swing, her house and her city, she is excited to share meals with family, explore with her cousins and learn the new rhythm of home.



Tips

- November is designated as Native American Heritage Month.** This celebration offers an opportunity for all of us to become more educated about the history and current lives of Native Americans. Ask a librarian to help you find more books about this culture's past and present. There are stories of joy, of cultural pride, of meeting everyday challenges, fun and celebrations of family and friendship.
- Adding a physical element to story time can be helpful to those who need extra encouragement tuning in.** Actions, chants and sound effects are examples of ways to engage your child. Look for hints in the text as to how you can make any book more interactive.



Activities

- This story is written in a lyrical prose style with almost no dialogue.** Contrast this book with one heavy in dialogue like *The Outside* by Gianna Marino. (If you don't have it yet, it's coming soon or available at the library.) Help your child recognize the role of a narrator and dialogue in stories. Together write some dialogue for the characters in *Being Home*.

(Turn page for more activities)



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Activities

- **Listen for the musical vocabulary mentioned in this book.**

These words are tempo, beats and rhythm. Tempo refers to the speed music is played. Beat refers to the pulse of music. This is the sound you can clap along to. Rhythm is the pattern of music, how the sounds and silences are organized. Get any instruments out you might have at home and practice some of these new vocabulary words. Play the instruments at different tempos. Try to keep a steady beat while listening to a song. Make patterns with the instruments – strike, strike, pause, repeat!



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- **Reread the book and discuss how the musical definition fits into the story.** Once your child has a better understanding of these vocabulary words, they may be able to apply them to the story with a little help. Use the instruments during the reading and see what rhythm, beat and tempo you can give the author's words.

