

Fancy Dance Story

By Teri Foureyes-Awasis

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Sage invited her school friend Elizabeth to go to the local pow wow with her. Elizabeth was excited because she had never gone to a pow wow before, and she was especially excited to be invited to watch her friend dance. “So, tell me more about the pow wow,” said Elizabeth. “It is a First Nations social gathering where we dance, celebrate life, and honour our traditions. I dance the fancy shawl dance!” said Sage. “What is the fancy shawl dance?” asked Elizabeth. “Well, there are many dances you can dance at a pow wow, and there are different ones for boys and girls. I dance fancy because I love to hop and twirl!” replied Sage. “Can you show me before we go to the pow wow?” asked Elizabeth. Sage went to her closet and carefully took out some of her regalia to show Elizabeth the dance. “Wow! Your cape is beautiful!” said Elizabeth with excitement. Sage giggled and said, “Oh no, Elizabeth, this isn’t a cape. This is a shawl!” Elizabeth giggled back, feeling a bit embarrassed, and said, “Oh, sorry Sage! Your fancy shawl is very beautiful! I love all the colours, the different shapes, and the many patterns!” Sage responded, “Thank you. My mom made it especially for me!” Sage put the shawl over her back and started to dance. Elizabeth loved watching the beautiful patterns Sage was creating with her footwork. It was amazing!