

Becoming Miss Navajo

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Native American Culture, Perseverance

Book Brief: Jolyana Begay-Kroupa, who dreamed of becoming Miss Navajo as a little girl, finally gets her chance after years of learning the Navajo language, culture, and traditions. Her skills are tested in tough competitions, but winning the crown is just the beginning of her inspiring journey.

Author:
Jolyana Begay-Kroupa

Illustrator:
Jolyana Begay-Kroupa



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the story based on the cover.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice about the photographs.

Prior Knowledge: Ask students, "What is something you dream to do? What do you have to do to achieve it?" (Optional: think, pair, share)

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read today, watch how Jolyana Begay-Kroupa becomes Miss Navajo."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What skills did Jolyana Begay-Kroupa need to learn to compete for Miss Navajo, and why are they important for the role?
- What does the word "regalia" mean in the context of the Miss Navajo competition, and how does it connect to Navajo cultural identity?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: Jolyana Begay-Kroupa tells the story of how she became Miss Navajo. Summarize how she succeeded in doing this.

Extending Our Thinking: Jolyana Begay-Kroupa shows perseverance in winning Miss Navajo. Using [RIF's Writing Template](#), have students answer the prompt: How is Jolyana's experience in the Miss Navajo competition similar to or different from other types of pageants or cultural competitions you know about?

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.