THE FIRST STRAWBERRIES:
A CHEROKEE STORY RETOLD BY
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This activity guide is to encourage your child to develop a lifelong love of reading. Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library is powered by United Way of the Plains. This resource was compiled by students at Wichita State University.
Tips for the Reader

This Cherokee legend tells us about how the sun created strawberries to help a couple forgive each other.

In the story, A husband and wife are upset with each other. The woman walks far away. The man is sorry and misses her so the sun sends different fruits along the woman’s path until the woman finally notices. When she finds the strawberries, she is reminded of her happiness with her husband. They forgive each other.

New words and sounds your child might learn: onesome, prepare, west, pity, ripe, glistened, attention, strawberries, blueberries, blackberries, Cherokee
Discussion Before Reading:

- Adult: This is a special type of story called a legend. It is a legend from the Cherokee people and has been told for many years. What kind of story is this? (Child ideal response: A legend)
- Adult: What do you see on the cover of the book?
- Discussion ideas: The traditional clothing the woman wears, the flowers, count the strawberries, notice the sun shining, does the woman look happy or sad?

While Reading:

- Stop and ask questions about emotions. Does the woman feel happy or sad? What is the sun’s facial expression? What emotion does that show?
- In this story, the sweetness of the strawberries makes the man and woman very happy. What are your favorite foods that make you feel good? (Discuss cooking together, meals that bring your family joy, special treats. etc.)

After the book:

- What did the Sun do to stop the woman from walking away? What finally stopped her?
- Why did the man become angry?
• Have you ever spoken words that hurt someone else or made them angry? How did you make it up to them? (Discuss conflict resolution/sincere apologizing)

• How could the man and woman have shown their anger differently?

• How did the strawberries help the woman forgive?

Try some of the ideas above. Continue to use your own imagination during book play, too. Have fun with the book and enjoy your time together.
Follow the Fruit

Supplies You’ll Need

- Scissors
- A flat surface for working
- The following page with clipart images
- Optional: Glue and additional piece of paper for gluing them

Assembly Instructions

- Assist child with cutting out the squares of the images on the following page
- Go through the story and put the pictures in order of what happened.
  - Ideal order: Angry face, sun, blueberry, blackberry, strawberry, happy face.
- If you’d like, glue the pictures down on another piece of paper and write the title of the story at the top. Feel free to decorate.
Coloring Sheet

Supplies You’ll Need

1. Crayons
2. Prompt sheets on the next pages.