

I Will Dance

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Synopsis: Eva's cerebral palsy makes it difficult for her to do many things, but she longs to dance and, finally, her dream is realized. Includes author's note and information about Young Dance Company.

Suggested Reading Date: March is National Cerebral Palsy month, and Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day is March 25, 2022. National Dance Day is September 18, 2021. October 1, 2021 is World Ballet Day. February 2, 2022 (two two, tutu!).

Activity Descriptions:

- Partner with your PE teacher and include ballet/dance movements. Dancers use their bodies to tell a story in almost all types of dance, including ballet, hula, Native American, folk, African, etc. How can you use your body through movement to tell a story? Use your body to tell your favorite story.
- Choose music from famous ballets to play as part of the story. The Nutcracker, Coppelia, Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty, Don Quixote, Paquita, Giselle all have some of the most recognizable music. Ask how the music sets the mood & tone, and how it makes you feel. What types of movement could go with various ballets?
- Eva's mother finds a ballet class that is open to all abilities. Think about your own school or community. What barriers exist that prevent everyone from participating? What equipment or adaptation can you create that can help everyone become "one circle?"

Related Websites:

- Author Nancy Bo Flood's website <https://nancyboflood.com/i-will-dance/>
- Julianna Swaney's Website: <https://www.juliannaswaney.com/>
- Book Trailer https://youtu.be/_djVdFxymzQ
- Kids Meet a Ballerina (Pacific Northwest Ballet dancer Elle Macy) <https://youtu.be/K0vB8BGDYew>
- MNRevenue story & footage of Young Dance Company, Eva's dance class <https://youtu.be/Wbf9fGebx9U>
- Young Dance Company performs excerpts from *The Vitals* <https://vimeo.com/191545386>

Text to Text Connections:

Henry the Boy by Molly Felder, *King for a Day* by Rukhsana Khan, *My Three Best Friends and Mae*, *Zulay* by Cari Best, *Tallulah's Tutu* by Marilyn Singer, *Firebird* by Misty Copeland, *Bunheads* by Misty Copeland, *Boys Dance!* by John Robert Allman

Created By: Kathy Wallace