



School-Home Connection

Your child is reading “Evelyn Cisneros: Prima Ballerina,” a biography by Charnan Simon. Evelyn Cisneros grew up in Huntington Beach, California, in the early 1960’s. There were no other Mexican American families living there at that time. Evelyn was very shy, so her parents enrolled her in dance classes. Evelyn worked hard to become a good dancer, facing physical and emotional challenges along the way. Eventually, she became the leading female dancer for the San Francisco Ballet and a much-admired spokesperson for the Hispanic community. As you and your child discuss the story, you can develop and explore your child’s language skills.

Dance and Dancers

Share your knowledge of ballet and other dance styles. Talk about dancers from the present and the past with whom you are familiar. You may be able to locate these titles at your library:

- *Behind the Scenes at the Ballet: Rehearsing and Performing the Sleeping Beauty* by Leslie E. Spatt. Puffin, 1997.
- *The Young Person’s Guide to the Ballet: With Music on CD from The Nutcracker, Swan Lake and Sleeping Beauty* by Anita Ganeri. Harcourt, 1998.

VOCABULARY

Vocabulary Buildup

The following words are new vocabulary your child has learned while reading “Evelyn Cisneros: Prima Ballerina”:

migrant
thrived
devote

scholarship
flexibility

timid
apprentice

Discuss the meanings of these words. Then work with your child to create a crossword puzzle that includes all of the words. Ask your child to use each word in a sentence as it is added to the puzzle.



TIME TO READ

Encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes outside of class each day.

Family Favorites

Your child can interview family members about their favorite performing artists. Help your child create a form on which to record responses to questions such as these: Who is your favorite performing artists?. What makes this performer an outstanding artist in his or her field? What one word would you use to describe this person’s talent? If you could meet this person, what would you tell or ask him or her? Your child may wish to share responses with classmates after reading “Evelyn Cisneros: Prima Ballerina.”

