

CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



The Chance to Fly

Written by Ali Stroker and Stacy Davidowitz

272 pages / Grades 5-8

A middle-school girl who is obsessed with theatre defies all expectations in this heartwarming story about friendship, gain independence and following your heart. Readers will root for Natalie, who steps up and takes charge to put on a show when everyone else is ready to give up. A story for anyone, but especially for musical theatre lovers, you will be reminded that we all are unlimited in what we can do, despite being differently abled.

C

Context

Representation - of cultures and abilities.

There is nothing anyone can't do when determined.

Figurative language.

The book is filled with musical theatre references that lend themselves to real life - such as "defying gravity, and even in the chapter titles, which all are a line from a song, but perfectly adhere to the theme of the chapter.

Theme - how does one story give us important, big ideas? What can we learn from a fictional story and characters?

A

Arts

A chronicle of **musical theatre** references and vocabulary, from putting on a show to many, many show references and plays on words.

Dance being a representation of feeling, no matter one's ability.

Theatre as representative and the role it plays in life.

T

Themes

Overcoming obstacles

Representation

Being different is more than ok

Friendship

Following your passion

Gaining independence

Determination

Putting yourself in someone else's shoes

Everyone is fighting a battle whether you are aware of it or not.

C

Create

Using the scene where Hudson puts himself in Nat's wheelchair, have students consider how they would follow their passion if limited. Ask them to identify their passion, and reinvent the way they would do it if thrown a challenge, as Nat has been.

How have you defied gravity? Ask students to consider how they have overcome odds in their own lives to achieve a dream. How have they been challenged, and how did they push themselves through? Allow them to create a representation.

H

Heart Words

"I don't want to be the next anyone...I want people to be the next me."

"I just feel like theater is the one place where we can try on different roles and show the world that there's more to us than what people might see."

"....telling my story reminds me of what I've been through..."

"No matter who you are and what challenges you face, remember: Creativity is Key. You can break boundaries. You can burst through boxes."

