

CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



Fearless

Written by Mandy Gonzalez

240 pages / Grades 4-8

Twelve year old Monica arrives in NYC about to achieve her dream of a role in a Broadway show. However, rumors of a curse on the theatre begin to appear to not be rumors, and threaten that the show may not even open. It is up to Monica, her new friends and castmates, as well as some theatre magic and superstition to break the curse and hopefully save the show, and their dreams.

C

Context

Folklore and family history along with tradition and story.

Superstition and the role they play in history - whether theatrical history or family history.

Using **suspense** and **mystery** as an author's craft / studying the genre.

Realistic fiction

A

Arts

Theatre history - Broadway theatres (and all theatres) have rich, storied pasts that are fascinating to discover as evidenced in the novel.

Songwriting and the power of word choice.

Using your voice both musically and figuratively.

Powerful women of Broadway - Ethel Merman is a central name, as should be the author, a powerful Broadway voice herself.

Theatrical superstitions

T

Themes

Being fearless

Finding your voice

Discovery

Being yourself

C

Create

Research the history and theatrical lore of Broadway theatres, or a cultural building in your own city.

Use the picture book, *A is for Audra* (by John Robert Allman) to learn about and discover the powerful leading ladies of Broadway.

Write a mystery based in a cultural, artistic building (either invented or real) grounded in fact.

Use the author's song, *Fearless* (and other songs on the album) as a parallel text for meaning. Thought not written together, they all align perfectly

H

Heart Words

"The world has been looking for you."

"The theatre is a place where stories are told and released into the world and given life."

"Never be good enough."

"Learn from each other. Trust each other."

"We have to conquer our fears together."

"Thought I'd lost my voice, but it was here all along, just waiting for me to discover my song"

"When darkness comes, hold it, love it, lean to understand it."

