

CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



The Sleeping Beauty

Written by New York City Ballet, Illustrated by Valeria Docampo
40 pages / Grades K-5

Known for their presentation of classic stories through dance, the New York City Ballet has gone a step further with this beautifully illustrated book, which follows the storyline, choreography, costumes and scenery of their production of this classic tale. A perfect book for a young ballerina, but also a conversation starter for comparing versions of stories, as this follows the ballet's storyline, rather than the better-known Disney version.

C Context

Vocabulary - go on word hunts

- the book has extensive use of descriptive adjectives.
- dance vocabulary is woven in throughout the story

Adaptations of stories: how is this version different from the traditionally known version of the same story? Why do you think it was adapted in this way?

A Arts

Movement in illustration

Ballet basics and the elements of dance - use of body in space and time, energy and movement.

Costumes / Scenery - essential elements, design and color

History of the NYC Ballet - who is George Balanchine, choreography, telling story through dance

Music telling story: Listen to Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty. Discuss elements of music and where the story is clearest.

T Themes

Movement and storytelling

Love conquering all

Good vs. Evil

C Create

Choose a moment in the story. Create the scene through movement, focusing on the elements of dance.

Play moments of the music for students. Based on the story, which moment do they believe is depicted in the section listened to? Why?

**There are numerous clips of the NYC Ballet production of Sleeping Beauty available on YouTube. Play audio only for one of these, allow students to discuss, and then show them the piece.

Pull up photographs of the real production and compare them to the illustrations.

H Heart Words

Due to the nature of the story, capturing dance, ask students to identify the illustration which most feels as though it is leaping off the page and touching their own heart. What is it about the illustration that seems to do this?

