

# CATCH a spark!

## Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



### To Dance

Written by Siena Cherson Siegel / Illustrated by Mark Siegel  
88 pages / Grades 3 - 8

There are not too many little girls that don't dream about being a ballerina at some point in their lives. Siena's dream started when she was six on the braces of Puerto Rico and stayed with her straight through her debut performance with the New York City Ballet. This graphic memoir is a story of passion, determination and following your dreams.

### C Context

Memoir as a genre  
Pursuing a dream and making it reality.  
How history impacts and inspires new generations.

### A Arts

The history of ballet, from the Bolshoi to the New York City Ballet, including legendary choreographers and dancers such as George Balanchine.  
Lincoln Center as a performing arts institution.  
Thematic elements in art: the ribbons of a ballerina's shoes are a common thread throughout the illustrations. The idea that theme in drawing exists as well as a writing element.

### T Themes

Perseverance  
Grit  
Hard-work and determination  
Following a passion and dream.

### C Create

Challenge students to create a graphic memoir from a section of their own life.  
Chart the challenges and perseverance of Siena. How does this align with their own dream and path, or with the path of another athlete or performer?  
As ribbons are a theme in this book, what is the thematic detail in your own life? How can you continue to weave that through your work, essentially "branding" yourself?

### H Heart Words

*"Big empty spaces always make me dance."*  
*"A dancer needs so much training, so much strength. You get hurt, injured, bashed... transformed."*  
*"In spite of all my struggles, it was peaceful time."*  
*"Why do people realize they've made a mistake when it's too late?"*  
*"Dancing fills a space in me."*

