

Lesson 35: Dancing

“Dance is for everybody. I believe that dance came from the people and should always be delivered back to the people.” —Alvin Ailey

Social Justice Standards: Identity 5, Diversity 9

Summary

Similar to food, art, and traditions, dancing is important and uniquely different in many cultures around the world. Seeing a wide range of what dancers can look like, and a variety of dance styles opens our minds to the limitless boundaries in the world of dance.

The books in this lesson explore the love of dance and how dance is a personal and cultural expression filled with storytelling, music, and movement.

Booklist

- *Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker* by Patricia Hruby Powell, illustrated by Christian Robinson
- *My Friend Maya Loves to Dance* by Cheryl Willis Hudson, illustrated by Eric Velasquez
- *Alvin Ailey* by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney
- *Rap a Tap Tap: Here's Bojangles—Think of That!* by Leo Dillon and Diane Dillon
- *The Electric Slide and Kai* by Kelly J. Baptist, illustrated by Darnell Johnson
- *Finding My Dance* by Ria Thundercloud, illustrated by Kalila J. Fuller

Consider This

- Is there a specific song that makes you want to dance?
- Was dancing a part of your family culture growing up?
- Did you learn any dances in school? What do you remember about that experience?

Talk Together

- Do you think that “dancing is for everyone,” as Alvin Ailey said?
- Can dancing help your body talk?
- When do you feel most like dancing?

Engage

- Have a dance party! Turn up the music, get your body moving, and let the movement take over. Choose different genres of music, including traditional dance music from countries and cultures around the world. Have a discussion about how different music styles influence the type of movement and dance we create.

Explore More

- Duende by Madam Zozo's "Dance Around the World"
- KET Education's "Dances from Many Cultures"