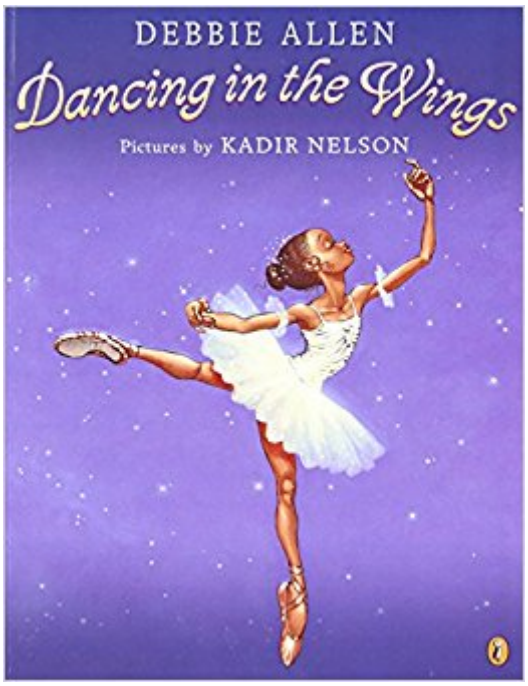
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Dancing In The Wings



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Synopsis

Sassy is a long-legged girl who always has something to say. She wants to be a ballerina more than anything, but she worries that her too-large feet, too-long legs, and even her big mouth will keep her from her dream. When a famous director comes to visit her class, Sassy does her best to get his attention with her high jumps and bright leotard. Her first attempts are definitely not appreciated, but with Sassy's persistence, she just might be able to win him over. Dancing in the Wings is loosely based on actress/choreographer Debbie Allen's own experiences as a young dancer.

Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (December 1, 2003)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.1 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 181 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #30,483 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance #82 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American #245 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

The creators of Brothers of the Knight here offer an inspirational story of a hopeful young ballet dancer who complains of her too-big feet and too-long legs: "I was too big for the boys to pick up, and too tall to be in line with the other girls. So I watched from backstage, dancing in the wings, hoping that if I just kept dancing and trying, it would be my turn to dance in the spotlight." Though her brother and several of her peers constantly razz her, Sassy's uncle encourages her to audition for a role in a summer dance festival, asserting, "All you gotta do to make your mark on the world is walk into a room." The director of the festival echoes this sentiment when he announcesAin the book's foreseeable denouementAthat Sassy has landed a place in his program. Allen's wordy

narrative occasionally tries too hard to be hip (featuring such slang put-downs as "Your mama" and "Talk to the hand"), but this tale may well boost the confidence of youngsters who share Sassy's lack of self-assuredness. Nelson's animated illustrations depict Sassy with a grace that belies her self-image and that effectively foreshadows the accolades to come. Ages 4-8. (Sept.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Kindergarten-Grade 2-This charming picture book focuses on the world of ballet classes, and children's cruelty toward those who are different. Sassy loves to dance but she is tall, gangly, and has really big feet. Her desire to perform is her strongest asset. When she soars through the air in a giant leap, she feels like she can do anything. Sassy does indeed live up to her name. This African-American child is fresh, she is innovative-she wears a bright yellow leotard to stand out in the crowd-and she is determined. The story is sure to build self-esteem in those readers who can empathize with Sassy and they'll cheer when she takes center stage in a dance festival in the nation's capital. Nelson's artwork conveys Sassy's spirit and captures well the expressions of her smug, mocking classmates. A great read-aloud.Kay Bowes, Concord Pike Library, Wilmington, DE Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The story gets very negative due to aspects of teasing not only to the ballerina but her other brother. I try to keep positive uplifting books around for the children to read, so that they in turn uplift and encourage each other to succeed. I wish this book did not have so many put downs and insults,I would have enjoyed the story much more.

This book is an excellent book not only to give children the idea of achieving goals and accepting themselves.....but the book reflects a young girl of color in the role of a training ballerina. I chose this book for my girls because it is important for girls to see strong, confident girls of color they can relate to. The pictures reflect their lives giving them something out of the ordinary white boys or girls as heroines of the story. Very refreshing and appropriate book. And for those who complain about any language used in the book.....shut it..... Step outside the finite lines of your white privilege works.....kids are often sassy and snarly to one another.....this character shows a true life depiction of any girl her age. Awesome realistic fiction choice for any curricula or reading program..

We are a family of very tall people and have to either alter clothes or spend extra for tall sizes. So, this is the perfect book for a shy little girl who sticks out even when she doesn't want to.

I got this for my 2 year old both because I am always on the hunt for books with minorities in them and because we plan to put her in dance eventually. This book is still a little long for her attention span, but I really like it. Some of the dialogue is a bit contrived, but the story and the message are both great (confidence, acceptance, etc.). I think my daughter will like this book more and more as she gets older, and I look forward to reading it to her many more times.

Cute book for my beautiful "mixed" granddaughter...her mother is a beautiful African-American, and my gorgeous son is a mix of Dutch & American Indian...Need I say more! I saw the author and artist featured on CBS Sunay Morning!I would buy more books, from these talented individuals!! Thanks, !

My 6.5 year old dancer loves this! It's sweet, funny and encouraging for our little aspiring performers. The young protagonist is teased for being tall but she works hard and her talent is recognized. The book is about feeling different and discriminated against but it's not about racism. The main and peripheral characters are people of color, however, and In this sense, especially with the lovely illustrations by Kadir Nelson, the book is anti-racist and affirming of African-American kids, families and community.

My daughter (7) is very aware of the fact that she is the only black girl in her ballet class and has an inquisitive personality. She will point out things I never noticed, like how the mandatory skin colored ballet tights do not match HER skin tone and that pink ballet slippers are meant for girls with 'pink feet'. I love her observing character and thought she would appreciate the resemblance with the girl in this book (both the spunky character and the looks) but my daughter was only interested in looking at the illustrations. The paragraphs seemed to be a bit lengthy for her attention span, so the message of the book went over her head.

This is the cutest story ever! Any family or culture can relate to its story morale but it is especially delightful for an African American family who enjoy the arts. My daughter just started ballet lessons, so I got her some stories about ballet. This one is our favorite. My five year old and 11 year old girls both enjoyed it. The story is perfect from building self esteem, solving sibling conflict and teaching persistence. Debbie Allen has great story telling abilities (loved all the characters) and the illustrator

did a great job portraying black beauty and I was impressed with the California landscape (e.g. Coolies Caribbean restaurant).

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