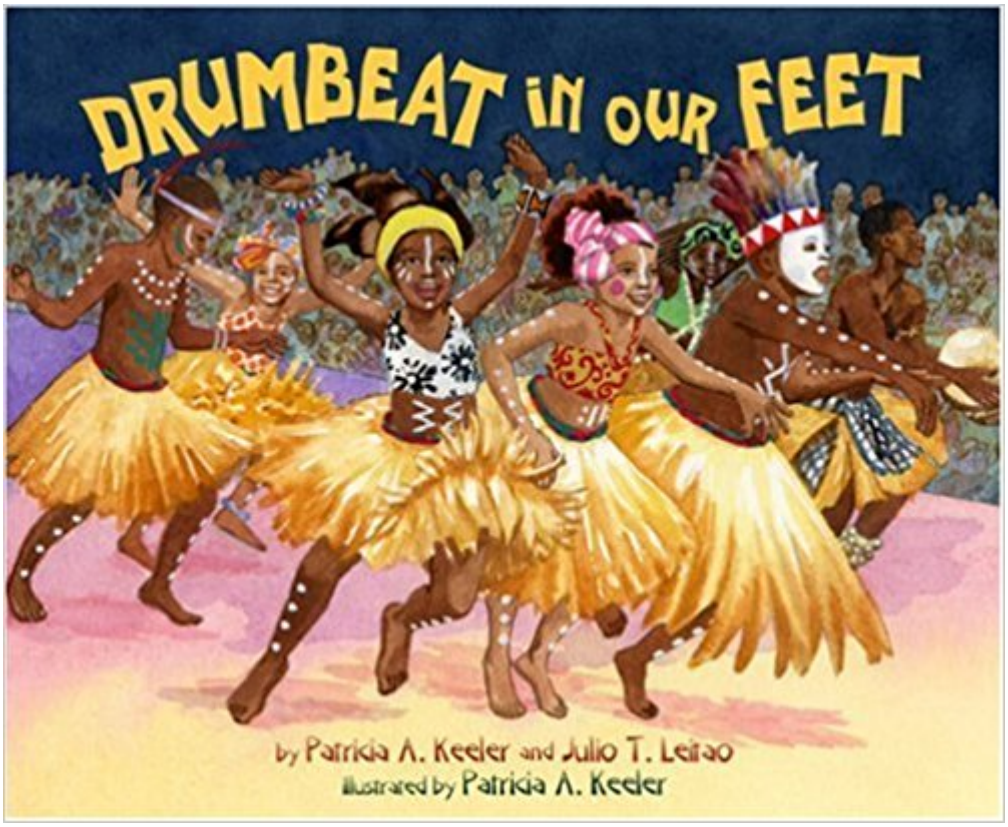
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# Drumbeat In Our Feet




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## Synopsis

Come along as we explore the fascinating origins of African dance, as rich and diverse as the continent itself. Discover unique rituals, colorful costumes, and rhythmic instruments. Learn about dances that have been passed from generation to generation through the ages. See those very same dances come alive with a new generation of dancers.In captivating detail, Drumbeat in Our Feet illuminates the beauty, history, and energy of African dance. Readers of all ages will delight in this drum-beating, hand-clapping, foot-stomping celebration of culture and tradition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 1-5Ã¢â ¬â œThis well-designed, visually appealing book opens with a concise overview of the origins of African dance traditions that highlights the diversity of African peoples, cultures, and landscapes. Other two-page chapters cover how dances are passed on to children, different types of dances, image dances (those that mimic animal movements), costumes and body painting, honoring spirits and ancestors, musical instruments, drums, call-and-response songs, masked dancers, and performance. Keeler’s watercolor-and-pencil illustrations impart a sense of vibrancy, movement, and joy. Most of the text is presented on the left-hand quarter of each spread, printed over sepia-toned illustrations that reflect the content. On the right, a large, colorful painting shows a troupe of American youngsters learning about that particular aspect of dance and preparing for a performance, along with a few short, rhythmic sentences. Back matter includes a note about Batoto Yetu, a Harlem, NY-based dance troupe founded by LeitÃƒÂ£o; a map of Africa; and a pronunciation guide. A fresh, uplifting, and captivating offering.Ã¢â ¬â œMary N. Oluonye, Shaker

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This joyful picture book uses watercolor-and-pencil artwork to show African dances from all over the continent and kids "coming from Brooklyn, coming from Harlem, the Bronx and down the subway lines" to learn them at the Harlem’s Batoto Yetu dance studio. On each left-hand page is a sepia-tone illustration of a traditional African dance, accompanied by detailed notes about its origin, the performance, and the cultural tradition. Opposite pages include a rhythmic verse and a full-color picture of children in their American studio learning the dance, painting their faces and bodies with traditional designs, and putting on a show. Eschewing primitive stereotypes and generic connections, the authors present a wealth of detailed information about call-and-response, musical instruments, image dances, and much more. The busy art celebrates both the rich diversity of African dance traditions and the joy of passing them on. A map, a selection of photos of kids at the school, and a brief bibliography are appended. Hazel RochmanCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

This book wasn’t exactly what I had expected. I wish that the "Look Inside" option would have been available, but since it wasn’t, I went by other reviews and thought it would have more of a storybook format. Instead, it had kind of an ongoing poem throughout the book on the right-side pages, while the left-side pages had factual information about different kinds of African dance. It is still an interesting book, and the illustrations are nice, but it didn’t serve the purpose I had intended it for.

This book is not a read aloud, but more of an informational or reference type of book. I was not happy to see that I paid over $16 and now the price has been reduced. This book was not worth my money.

Visually a perfect book but the writing is sketchy I prefer well written books even for children; not fragmented thoughts and run on sentences.

The authors honor the Batoto Yetu dance troupe and celebrate African dance in this uplifting picture book. Julio T. Leitao founded the troupe in 1990. Children from all over the New York City area arrive at the dance studio where their teacher leads them in songs, drumming and dance. The meanings of the dances are reflected in traditional dress, masks and body paint as they prepare for

a show. As the children learn the steps, they also learn history and embrace different cultural traditions.Keeler’s layout features background information in the left margin of colorful two page spreads. She portrays an African dance class to the right. As the children prepare for a performance, facts about the origins of different types of dances, costumes, and musical instruments accompany vivid illustrations of students leaping and stepping through traditional dances.Additional information about Batoto Yetu, which means "our children" in Swahili, rounds out the book with photographs of young performers. A map of the African continent helps orient the reader and a pronunciation guide and author’s sources are included. "We are the children of the ancestors, singing the songs, dancing the steps to a story that never ends. African rhythm in our steps. African drumbeat in our feet!"

An infectious energy fills the pages of this book from cover to cover. Even the endpapers make me want to get up and dance around the room! Ms. Keeler and Mr. Leitao have created a fun and fascinating book on African Dance, beautifully written and so visually energetic that you can feel the drumbeats on each page. Sepia-toned African scenes blend into colorful urban settings, building to a grand finale final spread, brilliant with color and movement. "Once you learn how to do African dance," says one young dancer, "you’ll never stop dancing!" What a nice thought to end this book... I, for one, am convinced!

Julio T. Leitao founded an African dance troupe for children, and Patricia A. Keeler observed African dancers for weeks; together they wrote Drumbeat in our Feet, a picturebook meant to convey the richness of African dance culture to young readers. Drumbeat in our Feet is not a storybook per se, but rather an informational survey of the history of African dance tradition. From costumes and body painting associated with dance, to dances that honor spirits and ancestors, to types of musical instruments used, call-and-response songs, and much more, Drumbeat in our Feet surveys all aspects of African dance. Keeler’s exuberant color illustrations bring to life the excitement of African dance in this wonderful, informative, and highly recommended picturebook.

Jump up and dance with this powerful book about children’s African dance! In Keeler’s magical African world, children leap and spin across the pages representing wind, water, and fire! Their arms spreading and backbones curving, dancers represent elephants, monkeys and antelopes!Did you know each white dot on a child’s arm stands for a dancer that came before her? And the zig-zag design painted on the children’s bellies represents crocodile teeth? Many African secrets

are revealed!Feel the rhythm, African rhythm. Feel the beat, African beat! Don’t miss this one!"

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