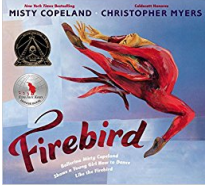


Firebird



Story: Misty Copeland
Illustration: Christopher Meyers
ISBN-13: 978-0399166150
Presentation of Ideas:
[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.4;](#)
[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.4](#)

WORD WALL: AMBITION

Ambition, confidence, dreams, dedication, perseverance, empowerment, inspiration.

SYNOPSIS

A young girl admires Misty Copeland and dreams of becoming a dancer like her. She compares herself to the adult dancer and becomes discouraged because she believes she will never attain that level of skill. Misty Copeland tells the girl that before her success, she too was just a young girl with a dream. Misty explains that it took time, hard work, and dedication to achieve her goals and that with enough practice, the girl can reach her dream of becoming a dancer.

DISCUSSION

Say: This story is about a young girl who dreams of being a dancer but feels that she is not good enough. **Ask:** Can you explain why the young dancer felt self-doubt? **Allow** children to respond, and **affirm:** The girl was comparing herself to someone with years of training and skill development under her belt. When we set goals for ourselves, it is important to start small and recognize each little bit of progress that we make. In the end, the small steps add up, and we see a significant result! **Ask:** How did Misty Copeland help her overcome those doubts? On the board, **record** children's answers to the following questions to assess and solidify their comprehension of the story's main ideas. **Ask:** Why is it important to have role models? Why is

it important to not let self-doubt stop you from going after your goals? **Conclude** the discussion by listing the character values that we need to accomplish goals, including perseverance, courage, adaptability, initiative, self-reliance, optimism, and resourcefulness.

GROUP ACTIVITY

Say: Today will create something beautiful that will reflect the goals we want to achieve. Color and vibrancy are crucial elements to this story. Misty Copeland believes that empowerment can come in all shapes, colors, and sizes. Use art to demonstrate what empowers you to reach your goals. **Distribute** the "Learning to Fly" worksheet (included in this lesson plan) and **provide** students with art materials to decorate the wings creatively. **Say:** How you choose to decorate the wings should represent your personality and your future aspirations. **Connect** to the lesson's theme: Integrity requires that we accomplish our goals while being true to ourselves and making responsible decisions.

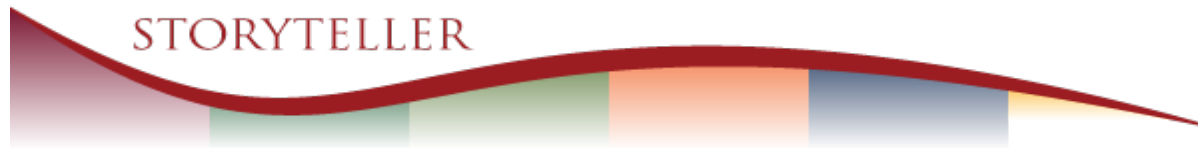
AT-HOME ACTIVITY

Say: Select one of the following two options. You can read an [article](#) about Misty Copeland discussing her road to success, and write about an obstacle she has faced in the process of becoming a dancer. Alternatively, reflect on a personal goal that you hope to achieve one day. Write about your goal and list five steps that you can to reach your goal.



INTEGRITY REQUIRES WHOLENESS

Integrity requires that the way I live my life is whole, entire, undivided, sound, coherent and principled. Integrity moves me to do difficult and new things not just easy and accustomed things.



Learning to Fly

Use the materials provided to create a colorful collage representing a dream. Cut out small pieces from newspaper or magazine and glue them together in the shape of the wings outlined below. You can cut out words or images that inspire you or ones that you find interesting. In between the wings, or around them, write a dream or goal that you hope to achieve.

