

Misty Copeland

By Lexi Ryals

Enjoy the Book Together

- On the “Please, Mr. Postman” page of this book, Misty explains a very important moment in her life! Ask your child to tell you about the main idea of the paragraph on that page.
- At two different points when Misty was still a high school student, she was given opportunities that she didn’t take. What were the opportunities, and why didn’t she take them?
- Why do you think Misty feels it’s important to tell her story about how she became a principal dancer with one of the best ballet companies in the world? What is she trying to tell readers about herself, but also about themselves? Discuss!

Make Personal Connections

- What do you think it was like for Misty to leave her family and live with Cynthia? What do you think it was like for Misty’s mom to let her do it? Talk about how they both might have felt.
- Misty writes, “You can do anything you want, even if you are being told negative things. Stay strong and find motivation.” Has anyone ever told you negative things about your dreams? If so, what did they say, and how did you handle it?

Literacy Tip

A timeline is a visual device that shows important events in chronological order (when things happened, from first to last), from left to right or top to bottom. Together, look at the timeline at the end of *Misty Copeland* to review the key moments of Misty’s life . . . so far!

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Does the language of ballet seem strange to you? If it does, it might be because many of the terms are *en français* (in French)! Below, draw a line to match each ballet term to its definition. Use the glossary at the back of the book for help.

barre	a tight one-piece garment worn especially by dancers, gymnasts, and acrobats
rehearsal	a dancer who has studied another dancer's part in order to be his or her substitute in an emergency
leotard	dancing ballet wearing pointe shoes, which forces the ballerina to dance on the tips of her toes
pas de deux	the art of arranging and creating dances
corps de ballet	a ballet duet danced by two dancers
understudy	the horizontal wooden handrail in a ballet classroom that the dancer holds for support
en pointe	the chorus members in a ballet company
pointe shoes	satin slippers with wooden blocks in the toes that allow ballerinas to dance on the tips of their toes
choreographing	a practice session before a public appearance