



Drum Dream Girl

by Margarita Engle and illustrated by Rafael López
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, [2015] ©2015

This is a motivational story about a young girl who follows her dreams despite societal norms. Her efforts and talents make life changes in her village for everyone. It is a wonderful story about overcoming

Book Trailer

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IruQabrUco

Discussion Questions

Pre-reading

Have students make predictions about the story based on the title, front and back cover. Next read the caption under the title and have students expand their initial predictions. Before reading tell students that this story is based on a true story.

During reading

Stop to point out keywords and help students find context cues to figure out their meaning. Stop to ask questions about how the events taking place are making your students feel. What do they think about girls not being allowed to play drums? Is it fair? Be sure to share the historical note in the back with students.

Post reading

Where did drum dream girl hear music? How did drum dream girl feel when her sister asked her to join her band? How do you think that drum dream girl felt after her father told her only boys should play drums? Why do you think her father changed his mind and arranged for drum dream girl to take drum lessons? What did she have to do to reach her goal of becoming a drummer? Throughout the story drum dream girl was told she could not play drums. Did this ever stop her from dreaming? What changes did drum dream girl make on her island?

Get more discussion questions by visiting <http://www.margaritaengle.com/images/DDGirlTeach.pdf>

Keywords

Courage

Carnival

Brave

Timbales

Stilts

Taboo

About the Illustrator

Rafael López has launched multiple projects to revitalize urban neighborhoods through art with the Urban Art Trail Project and a school mural project in San Diego. In addition to becoming an award winning illustrator he has also created stamps for the U.S. Postal Service, paintings for Oprah Winfrey's school in South Africa, and a portrait of President Barack Obama that became an official poster for the Obama 2008 presidential campaign.

About the Author

Margarita Engle is a Cuban-American award winning author. She was a botanist and agronomist before she became a full-time poet and novelist. She currently lives in Central California. She supports her husband's career by helping him train search and rescue dogs.



Awards

- Pura Belpré Medal Illustration 2016
- Huffington Post Most Inspirational Picture Book 2015
- School Library Journal, Best Books List 2015
- Asian Pacific America, Award Honor 2016
- Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2016
- Charlotte Zolotov Award 2016
- New York Public Library, 100 Notable Titles List 2015

Extension Activities

1. Bring in a guest speaker who followed their dreams to share their journey with the class!
2. Have students think of a time where they persevered and achieved a goal. Example: learning to ride a bike. Have students write about how they never gave up. Have students come up with their own words of wisdom or quote to share with younger children. Arrange for students to visit a grade level below them and share their story with children. Essentially have students become the motivational guest speaker. Arrange for students to create an image that coincides with a word of their choice which aligns with their story to leave with the class. Example words may be; courage, perseverance, motivation, passion, etc. Below is an example of a word image which students may create using internet images.
3. Use the following link to have students create their own drum!

<http://kidsactivitiesblog.com/5491/big-thoughts-creative-kids>



Extension Activities

7. Have students identify a personal dream of theirs. Next have students create a timeline on how they will achieve their goal. Below is an example created by using Office Timeline Free.

- 5. Bring in a professional drummer and have them teach the students.
- 6. Have students create a dream mobile. Have it include a dream for themselves, a dream for their community and a dream for the world.



Timeline to Become a Teacher

- 1 Gain Experience
- 2 Choose a college
- 3 Graduate college with a teaching certificate

