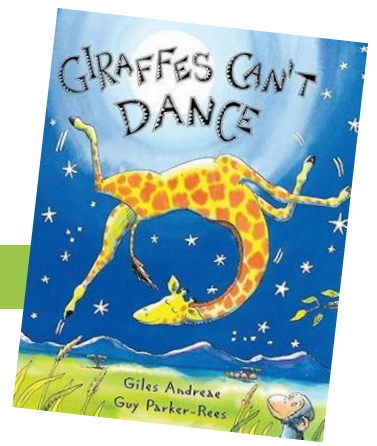




Giraffes Can't Dance

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Self-Acceptance, Creativity

Book Brief: A heartwarming story about Gerald the giraffe, who discovers that everyone can dance when they find the right music and believe in themselves!

Author:
Giles Andreae

Illustrator:
Guy Parker-Rees

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

The Pictures: Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, "Have you ever felt like you couldn't do something that others seemed good at? How did that make you feel?" Explain to students that this is a fictional story with a powerful message about believing in yourself and finding what works for you.

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, pay attention to how Gerald feels about dancing and what helps him change the way he thinks about himself."



Think Aloud: "I notice that Gerald feels embarrassed and sad when the other animals laugh at him. But when someone encourages him and he finds the right music, everything changes. This shows me that sometimes we just need support and the right approach to discover what we're capable of."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- How does Gerald feel about dancing at the beginning of the story?
- What do the other animals say or do that affects Gerald?
- Who helps Gerald, and what advice do they give him?
- How does Gerald's dancing change by the end of the story?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: "How did Gerald's feelings about dancing change throughout the story? What made the difference for him?"

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students, "What is something you once thought you couldn't do but learned you could? What helped you succeed?" Encourage students to write or draw about a time they felt like they couldn't do something, then share what helped them feel more confident—whether it was practice, a helpful friend, a teacher, or discovering their own special way of doing it.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Read other titles by Giles Andreae, such as [Brave Dave](#) and [Free to Be Elephant Me](#).
- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.