

Spotlight on Cynthia Erivo

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Celebrating individuality, living authentically, perseverance, and second chances, self-belief

Book Brief: Cynthia Erivo has always been a powerful performer with a voice as big as her dreams. How did she achieve the radiant life of singing and acting she'd hoped for?

Authors:
Elizabeth Dennis
Hunter M. Green

Illustrator:
Ruth Burrows



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the story based on the cover.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice about Cynthia.

Prior Knowledge: Ask students, "What is something that makes you confident? How does it make you feel?"

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

Purpose for Reading: "Let's read to find out what makes Cynthia Erivo shine in the spotlight."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- How did Cynthia's talents show at a young age?
- Describe how Cynthia handled being the new kid in school.
- What do you think would have happened if Cynthia hadn't enrolled in Royal Academy?
- Compare what Cynthia has in common with one of the roles she plays.



Think Aloud: "Wow! Cynthia did her own stunts while singing! That shows how much she practiced and how determined she is, because that is really tough to do!"

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: Cynthia's talent strengthened over the years. What makes Cynthia Erivo shine in the spotlight?

Extending Our Thinking: Using [RIF's Main Idea and Graphic Organizer](#), have students find the main idea of the story and use details from the text to support it.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more titles about embracing individuality:
 - [You Are Magic: A Book for the Littlest Ariana Grande Fans \(The Littlest Fans\) \(2025\)](#)
 - [Every Body: A Celebration of Diverse Abilities \(2023\)](#)
 - [Free to Be Elephant Me \(2021\)](#)