



The Great Dance

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Perseverance, Chasing Dreams, STEM

Book Brief: Maria is determined to discover the secrets of the universe – and won't let anything get in her way!

Author:
Storytime

Illustrator:
Flavio Remontti

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, "What inspires you to follow your dreams? Have you ever wanted to do something that seemed difficult or impossible?" Explain to students that this story is about real events, but it is told like a story with characters, a setting, and events in order.

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

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, pay attention to the important events in Maria's life. Think about how each event connects to help her pursue her dream of studying science."



Think Aloud: "I'm noticing that when Maria's forbidden from studying in Warsaw, she finds another way through the flying university. Each obstacle Maria faces, she finds a way around it. Her determination never stops."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- How does Maria's father inspire her interest in the universe?
- What does Maria experience and discover in the mountains of Carpathia?
- Why does Maria decide she wants to study science?
- Why isn't Maria allowed to study at a university in Warsaw?
- What does Maria do to continue her education at the "flying university"?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: "What did Gabi enjoy and create? How did Pixel help Gabi become more confident?"

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students, "What did Gabi create using coding? How did her creativity help her make a friend?" Tell students to think about a project or creation they could make that might help them connect with others or solve a problem. Have them make their creation and share about it with a friend.

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- Explore 100 other free eBooks on Skybrary! Visit www.Skybrary.org to learn more.
- 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.