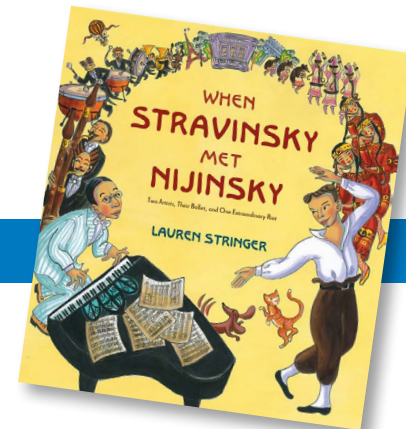


When Stravinsky Met Nijinsky



A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Friendship, Collaboration, Freedom, Courage

Book Brief: Igor Stravinsky, a composer, and Vaslav Nijinsky, a dancer, teamed up to create an original work called *The Rite of Spring*. Some loved it, some hated it—there was a riot in the street! Read on to explore the important connection between music and dance.

Author and Illustrator:
Lauren Stringer

Content Connections:
Social Studies, Art, Music, Dance

TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Stravinsky was a famous composer and Nijinsky was a famous dancer/choreographer. How is this relationship shown on the cover? Can you tell which character is which?

The Pictures: Flip briefly through the pages. What do you notice in these pictures? How does the illustrator show the relationship between music and dance?

Prior Knowledge: Ask students if they have ever been to a ballet or an orchestral performance. Any other type of organized dance show or choral performance? Have students describe what they saw and heard there. Do any of the students dance? Write music? Locate Paris on a map or globe.

Vocabulary: loping, nettled, rollicking

Purpose for Reading: As you read, pay close attention to how Stravinsky and Nijinsky use their talents to work together to create something new. Think about a time that you have worked together with someone to make something new.

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Do you think each artist was successful before they met? Explain.
- ◆ How did the music and dance change when Stravinsky and Nijinsky started working together?

- ◆ Why do you think some dancers and musicians didn't want to be a part of the show?
- ◆ How do you think Stravinsky and Nijinsky felt just before they brought the show to town?
- ◆ How did the audience react to the show?
- ◆ What happened after the show ended?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: Think about a time that you worked with someone to make something new. How did your strengths complement each other? What would have happened if you had worked alone? What are the advantages of working collaboratively?

Extending Our Thinking: Nijinsky and Stravinsky inspired each other. What does that mean? Who has inspired you? How? There were several examples of figurative language in the book. Can you think of any? How does the author use this language and the illustrations to create a vivid picture for readers?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is
Fundamental