



## Belinda the Ballerina

*Amy Young*

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# **Belinda the Ballerina**

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Once there was a ballerina named Belinda. Belinda loved to dance, but she had two big problems: her left foot and her right foot. When people made fun of her, Belinda decided to give up dance forever. But what will she do without it? With her determination and spirit, she finds a way to continue doing what she loves best. Belinda takes center stage in this charming story in which the size of her feet is rivaled only by the size of her heart.

## **Belinda the Ballerina Details**

Date : Published February 17th 2005 by Puffin Books (first published March 10th 2003)

ISBN : 9780142402726

Author : Amy Young

Format : Paperback 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books



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## **From Reader Review Belinda the Ballerina for online ebook**

### **Phuong Dao says**

This book is a very good book. It is about a girl name Belinda who loves to dance and do ballet. When she tried out for ballet the judges thinks that her feet are too big to do ballet. Belinda was sad and she decided to work for Fred Fine Dinning. Everybody loves her because she was a hard worker and she dance so beautifully. One day words come around and the judges from Metropolitan hall came to see her dance, he love it so much and he asked her to dance for his Metropolitan Hall. I think this book is good to teach children to love themselves and accept themselves for who they are. Nobody is perfect in this world, if you love yourself and accept you for who you are people will love you. Be true to ourself.

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### **Brianna Owoc says**

Belinda the Ballerina is a simple inspiring story. Belinda is a relatable character to those who were crushed to follow their dream. Belinda eventually finds a way to pursue her dreams by going a different route. The story touches lightly on the time when Belinda is depressed and decides to give up her dream. Belinda is able to follow her dream by the end of the story having a happy ending.

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### **Andrew says**

Poor Belinda! I feel her pain.

Belinda wants to be a ballerina, but she has 2 problems: she has oversized feet.

Belinda decides to leave dance when she is put down by others. She finds another outlet in life, but will she ever dance again?

Very cute story about persistence, acceptance, confidence and learning that trying something new may bring about something even better.

Every adult will appreciate this. Every kid will. Challenge for the readers: See when you start noticing that you're no longer noticing Belinda's feet. :)

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### **Sheniece says**

I absolutely love this book because I can very much relate to the little girl Belinda. There are too many times where people are discouraged to do something they like to do because of the opinion of someone else. The little girl Belinda decided not to be a ballerina anymore because the judges at her audition told her her feet were too big and that she couldn't be a ballerina because of that. Students will appreciate hearing this story because a lot of them will have had experience just like Belinda. Have a discussion about not letting people's opinion stop you from doing what you like.

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### **Sandie says**

My daughter liked this book quite a bit. I liked it as well. Its about a young lady who loves to dance and doesn't ever notice that her feet are just huge until she goes to audition for the ballet. The judges immediately notice her large feet and point them out to her and explain that she will never be a dancer. Belinda is sad...for a long time and then decides to give up dancing. This part is a bit discouraging since she gives up something she is good at and loves because of the opinions of others. But as she begins to heal at her new job at a restaurant she begins to find her love of dance again. In the end she is dancing and happy and she is cheered on by the ballet company! The ending is happy and the middle is probably very close to reality for many.

I thought it was a good book, my daughter enjoyed....we would read it again.

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### **Anna says**

Cute illustrations.

[SPOILERS AHEAD]

It was sad when Belinda gave up on her dreams, but good that she ended up fulfilling her passion and continuing it when someone saw her talent instead of her feet. I also liked the last line in the book that Belinda didn't care what the judges thought anymore. She just wants to dance.

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### **Erin ?Your YA Reader? says**

I loved this book so much as a kid :)

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### **Goshen PL Childrens says**

Read at Storytime on April 11th

Theme: Just Dance!

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### **Missy Kirtley says**

I love the lesson that this book teaches. Even though Belinda has been told that she'll never be a professional ballerina, she still loves to dance. She moves on with her life, but the passion that she feels remains. She does continue to dance, in a different way and after a little time has passed, and people see the love she has, see the joy she feels, and they enjoy the dance as much as she does.

The lesson is to never give up on your passions. Belinda is realistic, though she's sad, and finds new friends when one door closes. But the door that closed also opened a window.

We'll definitely hang onto this one and read it again.

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### **Sarah Sammis says**

Belinda the Ballerina by Amy Young is the first of a series about a young woman who has big feet but loves to dance. The others in the series include: Belinda in Paris, Belinda Begins Ballet and Belinda and the Glass Slipper.

So Belinda is a girl who loves to dance. But she's not the typically petite ballerina. She's too tall and with her height comes big feet. She ends up setting aside her dream to wait tables. At the restaurant though she's given the chance to dance for the customers.

In true musical fashion, Belinda is discovered at the restaurant. She's at long last given a chance to dance ballet. The book closes with her on stage much as the original Angelina Ballerina book does (review coming).

I'm going to close with an observation my daughter made about Belinda's feet: "All ballerinas look like they have big feet when they're wearing pointe shoes."

My daughter picked out the book because she's taking ballet and tap. I'm not sure which type of dance she prefers but she loves to pick out books about dancing. She's also starting to discover the old MGM musicals. She likes the dance sequences in Daddy Long Legs, for instance.

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### **Ashley says**

This was a very sweet story about a girl that loved to dance but had huge feet. She was judged by judges before they allowed her to dance. She was very sad because she received the criticism. She decided to find something new to try to fall in love with like she loved ballet. But did she find satisfaction in anything else? I guess you will have to see!

My children all really liked this. My daughter picked it out because she loves ballet (she's 3). It was a quick read but was a great way to demonstrate that you shouldn't judge someone on how they look. This is a great book to teach good character traits to your children!

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### **Kathryn says**

3.5 STARS. Cute story, but I would have liked it better if Belinda had been a bit more determined to stay with ballet at first rather than immediately accepting defeat. Still, the story progresses nicely and I like that she finds the spirit to return to dance, even if it's only for her own enjoyment--at first! ;->

The illustrations are a bit exaggerated for my taste, and some of her ballet poses made me cringe, but it's still good fun.

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## **Mary-Kate Ganssle says**

Title: Belinda the Ballerina

Author: Amy Young

Date of Publication: 2002

Genre: Fiction

### **Summary:**

Belinda was an amazing ballerina who was very graceful and talented. She was unlike many other dancers, because her feet were very large. When she performed at the Annual Ballet Recital, the judges told her she would never make it as a dancer because her feet were too big. Belinda took their advice and quit dancing. She began working as a waitress at a restaurant and couldn't help but dance to the music the live band played in the dining room. When her manager saw how gifted she was, he asked her to perform regularly for the guests. As word spread of the talented dancer at the restaurant, she drew larger and larger crowds. Finally, a maestro from the Grand Metropolitan Ballet came to see her, and was stunned. He asked her to perform at Grand Metropolitan Hall, where the crowd was blown away by her gift. No one noticed the size of her feet since they were too busy watching her dance.

### **Evaluation:**

This story is written very colorfully with illustrations that compliment and progress the story line well. An early reader would enjoy this book as the text is broken up well from page to page, making it a quick and easy read. The author's message of embracing your differences shines through and is subtle enough to make it easy for young children to relate to. I definitely recommend this book!

### **Discussion questions:**

1. What made Belinda different than other ballerinas?
2. Did the size of her feet affect her ability to dance? Why/Why not?
3. Is it fair that the judges told her she would never make it as a dancer?
4. Has anyone ever tried to discourage you from doing something you love? How did you react?
5. What makes you unique?

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## **Slayermel says**

Belinda the Ballerina loves to dance, she is graceful and quick on her feet, there's only one problem, well two actually! The size of her feet, they are HUGE!

Belinda goes to try out for an audition, it's all she's dreamed off and before she can even dance for the judges, they ridicule her for the size of her feet and won't even let her audition. Devastated Belinda hangs up her tutu and slippers and gets herself a waitressing job at a local Café. One day a group of musicians come in to play at the Café and Belinda starts to dance. The cook asks her to dance for the customers and before you know it they have known Ballet experts arriving at the Café to watch Belinda and try to get her to perform for them at their events.

This is a really sweet story of being prejudged by the way you look rather than what you are capable of doing.

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### **Roger DeBlanck says**

This touching picture book focuses on the title character, Belinda, a young girl who dreams of becoming a ballerina. At a recital, the judges tell her that due to her huge feet, her dream of dancing is impossible. With her confidence shaken, Belinda stops dancing and finds work at a restaurant where the customers admire her lightness of foot. Before long, the Maestro of the Grand Ballet notices her and brings her to the stage. The story's message of perseverance and belief draws readers in quickly. The prose has fluid pace that gathers momentum and allows for genuine engagement with the story's varying emotions, which range from sadness to joy. The simple elegance of the pictures compliments the text's emotions. The illustrations are detailed enough for an audience of listeners to enjoy the pictures while having the book read to them. The colors are toned and pastel, not too bland or flamboyant to detract from Belinda's heartfelt story. This wonderful picture book is the type to read over and over to inspire and reaffirm positive feelings of self. The book is perfect for a single child and would be equally strong for a school-age audience between the of ages 5-9.

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