

Ah, bedtime stories. Curled up together reading a book with your little one, it makes you think of quiet snuggles, hushed voices, dimmed lights, turning pages—and *dance parties?! We've got some dance-themed book suggestions to shake up your storytime and add a little wiggle and some giggles to your reading routine.*

**“Boys Dance!” (American Ballet Theatre) by John Robert Allman and Luciano Lozano (2020)**  
Boys take center stage in this rhyming introduction to dance in a studio as well as everyday life.

**“Bunheads” by Misty Copeland and Sitor Fiadzigby (2020)**  
Prima ballerina Misty Copeland, the first Black woman to be promoted to principal dancer at the prestigious American Ballet Theatre, fictionalized her young self, falling in love with dancing through a performance of *Coppélia*. Fans of Ms. Copeland or classical ballet may also enjoy her book *Firebird* (2014), illustrated by Christopher Myers.

**“How Do You Dance?” by Thyra Heder (2019)**  
Move a body part, then another, in the park, in a car—before you know it, you'll be shimmying and scrunching in happy times and sad because everyone's got their special way of moving and grooving.

**“I Will Dance” by Nancy Bo Flood and Juliana Swaney (2020)**  
A wheelchair user due to her cerebral palsy, Eva finds a studio that welcomes dancers of all abilities and becomes increasingly confident in her movements with the troupe; based on the Young Dance Company.

**Llama Destroys the World, by Jonathan Stutzman and Heather Fox (2019)**  
A bit too much cake makes Llama dance until his pants rip, tearing a hole in the fabric of the very universe in this hilarious picture book that begs to be read aloud—with cake and dancing, of course!

**Salsa Lullaby, by Jen Arena and Erika Meza (2019)**  
Through lively illustrations and rhythmic text, Mami and Papi salsa through a baby's bedtime routine in this upbeat and affectionate bilingual story.

### **The Magic in Changing Your Stars, by Leah Henderson (2020)**

A pair of magical tap shoes transport a boy to 1930s Harlem where he meets his grandfather and other legendary Black performers. A theatrical adaptation of this multigenerational chapter book is pending.

Keep the party going with these activities:

- Stage a family dance challenge and learn new choreography. Try popular older dances like the Foxtrot and Reel, or download a square-dancing song with calls and try to follow along. Or, hey, let your kids school you on a Tik-Tok challenge and then you'll *really* get some laughs!
- Enjoy an archived performance from some of the world's greatest dancers on a streaming platform like the New York Ballet on [PBS](#) or the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre at [The Kennedy Center](#).
- Research dance troupes that celebrate your family's identity, or dancers that represent a culture or ethnic heritage other than your own. Examples might include [Step Afrika!](#), Hula dancing, Irish step dancing or Japanese Buyō.