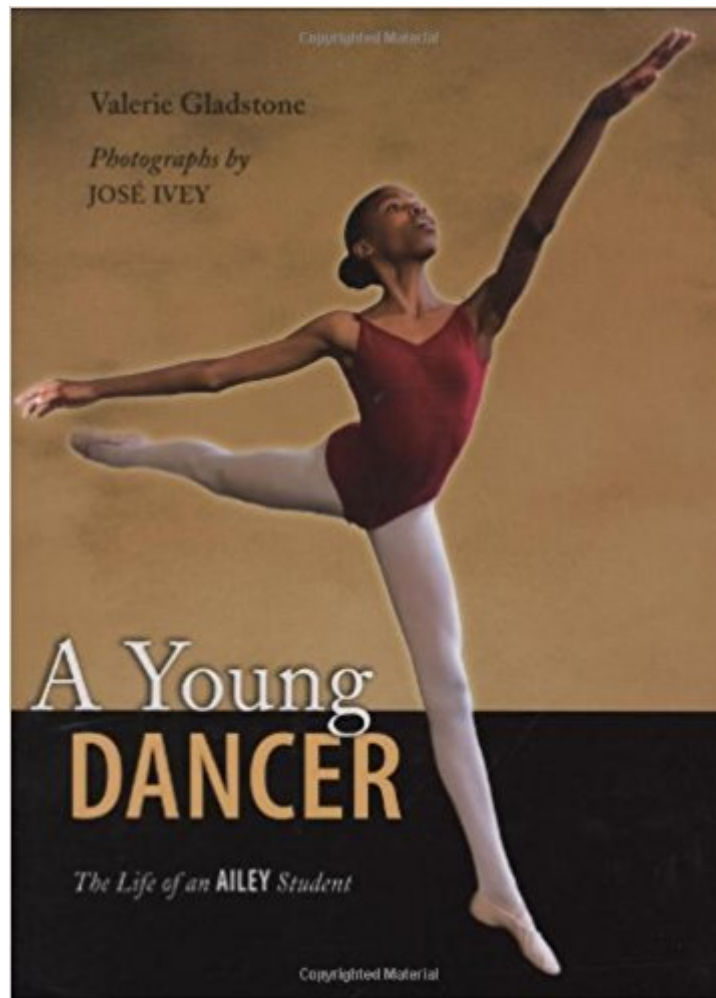




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A Young Dancer: The Life Of An Ailey Student



Synopsis

Meet Iman Bright, a thirteen-year-old student at the prestigious Ailey School in New York City. Iman is passionate about dance, but she also enjoys drawing, playing music, and of course, hanging out with her friends. Follow Iman as she warms up at the barre, practices violin, and gets ready for a performance with her fellow students. In descriptive words and striking photographs, this informative picture book provides fascinating insight into the world of dance through the voice of one very talented young performer.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 860L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Henry Holt and Co. (BYR); 1 edition (March 31, 2009)

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Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 0.4 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #764,243 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #141 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Performing Arts #407 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 3 and up

Customer Reviews

Readers old enough to remember Jill Krentz's A Very Young series will recognize a similar format in this book about a 13-year-old African American dancer that combines strong color photos and lively, first-person text. Iman Bright is a student at New York City's Ailey School, founded by the late Alvin Ailey, the famed choreographer whose eponymous dance company continues to perform programs, drawn from African American cultural traditions, around the world. Each spread matches multiple images of the talented teen with Iman's descriptions of her hectic days, spent in academic classes, long dance practices, and lessons with her violin teacher. Young dancers will love the images and specific details of life in the studio, where Iman practices African- and Latin American "inspired dances along with traditional ballet. But a wide range of readers will find

inspiration in Imanâ™s dedication and in her joyful approach to her discipline, which allows her to take criticism in stride and to connect to deep feelings: âœIt makes me feel good, like Iâ™m in church.â • Grades 1-4. --Gillian Engberg

âœThere's some sweat, lots of smiles and an all-around feeling of joy and pride. Aspiring dancers will warm up to Iman and, one hopes, put on some music and start dancing on their own.â •

â•Kirkus ReviewsâœA wide range of readers will find inspiration in Iman's dedication and in her joyful approach to her discipline, which allows her to take criticism in stride and to connect to deep feelingsâ • â•Booklist

Very important book. Young ladies of color dancing touched my heart. Love the dance company this book covers also. Great book for all young dancers. I got a good clean copy too. It was packaged nicely and came on time.

What a treasure for anyone interested in dance, especially aspiring dancers. The day to day activities of a dedicated and motivated young woman, remind me that there is great beauty in hard work, that moments of serious art happen in practice, among friends and daily. The stage is where the audience usually gets to see "the show", but Gladstone presents the journey to the stage as just as important or MORE. Bravo to an unusual and inspiring book!

Iman Bright is a teen student at the Ailey School in New York and is passionate about dance. But she also likes drawing and playing music, and has a social life outside the dance studio. A YOUNG DANCER invites any young person passionate about dance to follow Iman as she attends school and does activities outside of her dance world, too. Photos follow her life and encourage kids to develop balanced interests.

I am a teacher and I purchased this book for a student. It is a wonderful book with fantastic pictures and a great story. It is perfect for tween African American girls with a positive story and awesome pictures that they can relate to. I will buy this again.

This is a really great dance book for kids. It's easy to read and beautiful to look at. The photos are so good that you feel that you are right there in class. It's also great to see an African-American child featured in a children's book about dance - that hardly ever happens.

What better gift to the first interracial dance company, than this exquisite story of a young Ailey dancer? Valerie Gladstone and Jose Ivey have crafted a delightful witness to a young girl's story of joy and persistence. Lovely to read and look at, this is a treat for all ages.

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