

Lamont Books Standing Order

August 2014

Teacher Notes and Activities

Frances Dean Who Loved to Dance and Dance

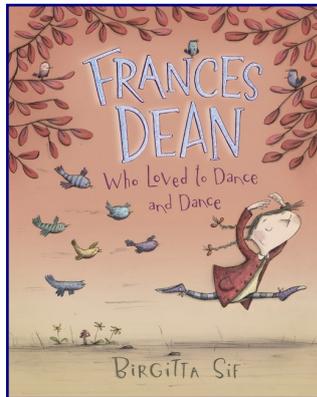
By Birgitta Sif

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Frances Dean loves to dance. In her every waking moment, she is inspired to move - she feels the wind and dances, hears the singing of the birds and dances. But as soon as anyone is around, her knees begin to tremble, butterflies start to flutter in her tummy and ... she forgets how to dance. Will she ever find the courage within herself to share her talent with other people and ... feel free? But then, one day, Frances Dean notices something - someone - unusual and it surprises her and inspires her all at once...



Themes:

- Overcoming fears
- Sharing your talents
- Finding strength from others

Discussion Points:

- Can you relate to how Frances Dean felt about dancing at the start of the story?
- Is there an activity or sport that you love to do? If so, what is it?
- Why do you love it so much? How does it make you feel?
- *'When no one was around, she would feel the wind and dance... and hear the singing of the birds and dance and dance and dance. But when people came about, all she could feel were their eyes on her...'* Discuss what this really means.
- Is it a natural feeling to feel nervous or anxious when others are watching you? Explain.
- Has there ever been a time when you have felt that way?
- How did Frances Dean feel when she 'forgot how to dance'?
- Has there ever been a time when you thought you could no longer do something?
- How did the birds and the younger girl who loved to sing help Frances? Have you ever overcome a fear? Who or what has helped you to overcome it?
- Do you think it is important and special to share our talents with others? Why or why not?

Activities:

- As a class, brainstorm all the special talents that you and all of your classmates have. Make a collage to hang in your classroom highlighting all of them. Your collage could contain things that you have drawn, painted or written about.