

Belinda, the Ninja Ballerina

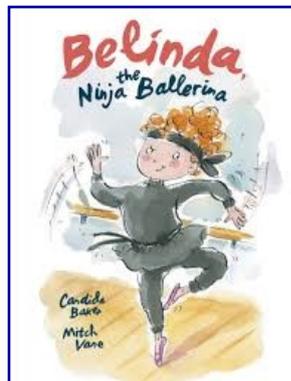
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It's every little girl's dream to be a ballerina, right? Well, not in the case of Belinda, the ninja ballerina. Enrolled in ballet classes against her will, Belinda would take a headstand over a pirouette any day. But nobody will actually listen to Belinda's protests that she wants to be a ninja, not a ballerina. That is until Belinda stages a one-girl protest and demands her rights. Her teacher has to put her thinking cap on and finally comes up with a solution that will keep everybody happy.



Themes:

- Ballet
- Ninjas
- Doing different things
- Combining things

Discussion Points:

- Do you know what a 'ninja' is? Share with the class what you know about them.
- Do you do ballet?
- Why do you think Belinda wanted to be a ninja?
- Why did Belinda's Mum want her to do ballet? Why do you think that Belinda didn't want to do ballet?
- Have you ever been in a situation like Belinda and been made to do an activity that you didn't really want to do? If so, what was it? How long did you continue to do it for?
- What reasons did your parents give you for wanting you to do the activity?
- Do you think Belinda was trying to show her 'individuality' by wanting to be a ninja? What other words would you use to describe her?
- How did Belinda's teacher help her to do what she really wanted?
- Can you think of a time in your life when a teacher or other adult has helped you to do what you really wanted? Share this with the class.
- Why do you think the inside covers of the book have pictures of pandas and ballet shoes? Can you think how they are both related to the story?

Activity:

- Choose a theme, like 'Little Miss Muffet' and create your own play. Add different characters to fit in with the individual things that people in your class like to do.