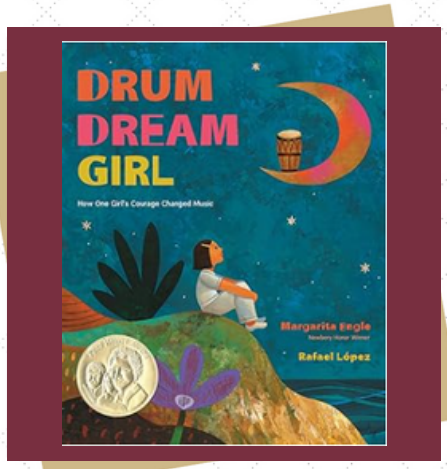


BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

Drum Dream Girl by Margarita Engle

Book Summary

On an island flourishing with music, a young girl dreams of drumming, even though gender norms restrict her from playing. Inspired by the rhythms of nature and the beats around her, the courageous drum dream girl defies expectations. She overcomes challenges and proves that music and dreams know no gender. *Drum Dream Girl* is a powerful tale of breaking barriers and chasing dreams.

Before Reading the Story

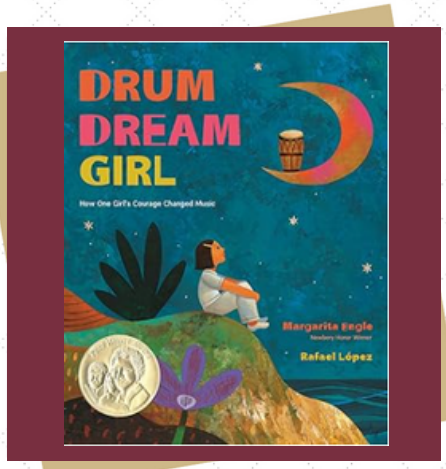
- Look at the cover and title. What do you think this book will be about?
- Flip through the pages and focus on the pictures. Discuss what you see happening, the characters' emotions, and the setting.
- Talk with each other about your interests and what you dream of becoming. What you would do if you were told not to pursue those dreams?
- Discuss whether you have played a musical instrument before. If you could choose one instrument to play, what would it be?

Target Vocabulary

- **brave**: strength to withstand danger, fear, or difficulty
- **imaginary**: make-believe
- **rhythm**: movement marked by the regular repetition of sounds
- **decide**: to make a final choice or judgment about something
- **practice**: to do or perform often; to train by doing something over and over again
- **whir**: a continuous fluttering or sound of vibration made by rapid movement
- **secret**: something you know, but you don't tell others
- **towering**: very tall
- **island**: a piece of land surrounded by water

MAYA'S BOOK NOOK

The VILLAGE
FLORIDA CENTER for READING RESEARCH



BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

During the Story

- Read the book aloud with the pictures facing your child.
- Make predictions about the story based on the pictures.
- Provide definitions and connections for any of the target vocabulary words that may be unfamiliar.
- Have your child repeat the words that they do not know.
- Relate the details in the story to events and experiences in your everyday life.
- Ask questions throughout the story to help your child understand what's being read.

After Reading the Story

- Have your child re-read the book in their own words using the illustrations.
- Look around your house or classroom. Find items that could be used as drumsticks and drums. For example: pencils or straws could be drumsticks, and cans and pans could be drums. Play all the "drums" and discuss the different sounds they make.
- While drumming on your "drums" make up a song about your interests, hopes, and dreams.

Example Questions to Ask

- "The drum dream girl dreamed of pounding tall _____."
- At the beginning of the story, how did the father feel about girls playing drums?
- Flip through the book. What different kinds of drums do you see in the illustrations?
- Where did the drum dream girl practice her drumming?
- Why do you think her father wanted to find a music teacher for her?
- Can you think of a time when you tried something new? Were you good at it?