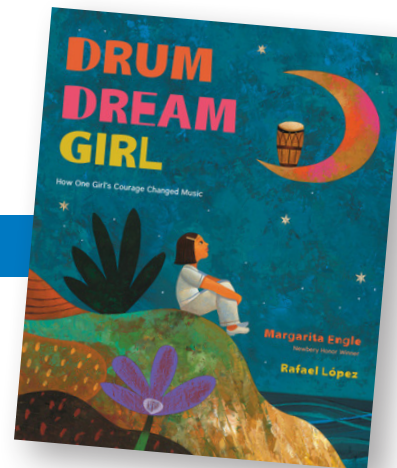


Drum Dream Girl:

How One Girl's Courage Changed Music



A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Aspirations, Equality, Leadership, Perseverance

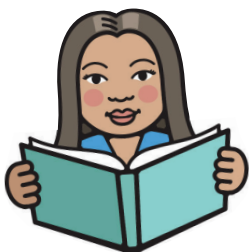
Book Brief: Inspired by the life of a Chinese-African-Cuban girl who broke Cuba's traditional taboo against female drummers, *Drum Dream Girl* tells an inspiring true story for dreamers everywhere.

Author:
Margarita Engle

Illustrator:
Rafael López

Content Connections:
Art, Social Studies, Writing

TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Read the title and subtitle. Ask students to make inferences about why the girl on the cover is looking up at a drum on the moon.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk through the book. Ask students to describe the images with descriptive words (e.g.,

colorful, bright, swirly) and talk about what the mood of this story might be.

Content Specific Vocabulary: conga, bongó, timbales, carnival, stilts, rhythm

Purpose for Reading: Say to students, "As we read, think about what the *Drum Dream Girl* had to overcome to achieve her dream of playing the drums."

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING FOR COMPREHENSION

- What kind of instruments does the main character want to play?
- Where is the girl dreaming of playing?
- What do the people in her town think of girls playing the drums?
- Why can't the *Drum Dream Girl* keep playing with the all-girls dance band?
- How does her father find out if her drums deserve to be heard?
- What happens when the girl works with a music teacher?
- At the end of the story, what does everyone decide about boys and girls playing drums?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: What challenges does the *Drum Dream Girl* have to face because of gender roles in her culture? Ask students to think about activities that seem to have mostly boy or mostly girl participants.

Extending Our Thinking: How can widely held beliefs about equality and access affect an individual

with a dream? Ask students to think about their own aspirations and whether there are any challenges they expect to face.

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- Extension Activities for Educators are also available.
- Vocabulary Scaffolding sheet also available.