

Dancing in Literature: A Partial Bibliography

A collection of fiction and non-fiction books related to dance, with an emphasis on children's & young adult books that connect to traditional, participatory, social dance & music

This bibliography of dance books was compiled in 2017-18 by Chrissy Fowler of Belfast, Maine (chrissyfowler.com). This project was supported by funds from the Maine Arts Commission (mainearts.maine.gov) and Belfast Flying Shoes (belfastflyingshoes.org).

Several individuals offered advice, shared their bibliographies, and edited early drafts of this document. These include Patricia Campbell, Dudley Laufman, Jacqueline Laufman, David Millstone, Paul Rosenberg, Marian Rose, Laurel Sharp, and David Smukler. Each deserves gratitude for their help and, more importantly, for their work as traditional dance leaders and musicians. Other sources for book titles and descriptions include WorldCat and the compiler's own collection. Additional suggestions are welcomed (chrissyfowler.com).

Contents may be freely shared and distributed – especially among teachers, families, community members, librarians, and dance leaders – for the purpose of enhancing the understanding of (and participation in) traditional dance and other dance forms.

Ackerman, Karen; illustrated by Stephen Gammell

The Song and Dance Man (New York: Knopf/Random House, 1988).

Children follow their grandfather up to the attic, where he dons his old costume and shows how he sang and danced on the vaudeville stage.

Aiken, Joan; illustrated by Alan Lee

The Moon's Revenge (New York: Knopf, 1987).

A boy coerces the moon to grant his wish of making enchanted fiddle music, thereby heroically averting calamity in the form of a sea monster, which dances to his fiddle until rendered harmless. (See [Abiyoyo](#) for similar theme.)

Allen, Debbie; illustrated by Kadir Nelson

Brothers of the Knight (New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1999).

An African American reverend in Harlem endeavors to discover why the shoes of his twelve sons are worn to pieces every morning. (A contemporary retelling of the fairy tale, Twelve Dancing Princesses. See versions presented by Jane Ray and Ruth Sanderson.)

Ancona, George

Dancing Is (New York: Dutton, 1981).

Text and photographs introduce some dances of various countries around the world.

Ancona, George

The Fiestas (New York: Benchmark Books, 2001).

Most important Mexican fiestas, or holidays, are celebrated with parades, dancing, and feasting. Each offers an opportunity for family and friends to spend time together.

Ancona, George

Let's Dance (New York: Morrow Junior Books, 1998).

Simple text and photographs describe various dances from all over the world.

Anderson, Douglas R.; illustrated by Sara Anderson

Too Big to Dance (Brooklyn, NY: Handprint Books, 2004).

An alligator, an armadillo, and a zebra (Eloise) attend a dance deep in the bayou, but Eloise can't fit through the dance hall door. The story demonstrates one way to include everyone at a dance.

Anderson, Lydia

Folk Dancing (New York: F. Watts, 1981).

Part of the "First Book" series, discusses how folk dancing began and why it remains popular. Includes instructions for several dances from various countries.

Andreae, Giles; illustrated by Guy Parker-Rees

Giraffes Can't Dance (New York: Orchard Books, 1999).

Gerald the giraffe is too clumsy to dance with all the other animals at the Jungle Dance, but eventually he finds the right music.

Appelt, Kathi; illustrated by LeUyen Pham

Piggies in a Polka (San Diego: Harcourt, 2003).

Pigs dance the night away when a polka band plays at the annual hootenanny.

Armstrong, George and Gerry

The Magic Bagpipe (Edinburgh, Scotland: Printaway Ltd., 1978).

Explores the legend of the MacCrimmons of Skye who received their gift of piping from the faeries.

Asch, Frank

Moondance (New York: Scholastic, 1993).

Bear fulfills his dream of dancing with the moon.

Bartoletti, Susan; illustrated by Annika Nelson

Dancing with Dziadziu (San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1997).

A young girl shares her ballet dancing with her dying grandmother who shares memories of her family's immigration from Poland and of dancing with the girl's grandfather.

Belpré, Pura; illustrated by Paul Galdone

Dance of the Animals (New York: Frederick Warne and Co., Inc., 1972).

In this Puerto Rican folk tale, Señor Dog and Señor Goat outwit the lions who plan to eat them, but Señor Goat acquires a stump of a tail in the process.

Bluemle, Elizabeth

How Do You Wokka-wokka? (Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2009).

A young boy who likes to “wokka-wokka, shimmy-shake, and shocka-shocka” gathers his neighbors together for a surprise celebration.

Bonnice, Sherry

Folk Dance (Broomall, PA: Mason Crest Publishers, 2003).

Delves into North America's broad dance heritage, as enriched by immigrants from around the world. Includes the dance traditions of various immigrant ethnic groups, including Mexicans, South Americans, Jews, Africans, Asians, and Northern, Eastern, and Southern Europeans,

Bornstein, Ruth Lercher

The Dancing Man (New York: Clarion Books, 1998).

A boy finds a pair of silver shoes and spends his life dancing in them to produce happiness & joy for others.

Boynton, Sandra

Barnyard Dance (New York: Workman Pub., 2011).

A bespectacled fiddle-playing cow and a pig twirling a sheep are featured in a boisterous barnyard dance. The text is so musical that readers (or listeners) could dance to it. The text also appears as a song on Sandra Boynton's recording, Rhinoceros Tap.

Brett, Jan

Berlioz the Bear (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1991).

Berlioz the bear and his fellow musicians are due to play for the town dance when their bandwagon gets stuck in a hole in the road. The disturbing buzzing of Berlioz's double bass turns into a surprise that saves the day.

Bruchac, James and Joseph; illustrated by Jeff Newman

Rabbit's Snow Dance (New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2012).

A modern take on a traditional Native American fable. Using a traditional Iroquois drum and song, Rabbit can make it snow – even in springtime!

Bryan, Ashley

The Dancing Granny (New York: Atheneum, 1977).

Spider Ananse gets Granny dancing so he can raid her garden, but his own trick does him in.

Burgard, Anna Marlis; illustrated by Leighanne Dees

Flying Feet: A Story of Irish Dance (San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2005).

Based on a true tale, two master dancers compete for the chance to teach the people of Ballyconneely, Ireland, how to dance.

Cass, Joan

Dancing Through History (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1993).

Setting dance within a cultural context that is both understandable and interesting, this reference captures the true art form of dance and traces the activity of dance as it has existed down through the ages and all over the world.

Cosgrove, Stephen; illustrated by Wendy Edelson

Fiddle: From the Land of Barely There (Portland, OR: Multnomah Press, 1987).

Tucked away in the deep woods, three bears hide behind barred shutters and locked doors, afraid of strangers and even one another. One day, a fiddler bear arrives and wins their hearts.

Cox, David

Ayu and the Perfect Moon (London: Bodley Head, 1984).

In a Balinese village, a young girl performs a traditional dance.

Crum, Robert

Eagle Drum: On the Powwow Trail with a Young Grass Dancer (New York: Maxwell Macmillan International, 1994).

This portrait of nine-year-old Louis Pierre, a member of the Pend Oreille tribe, follows his life on the Flathead Reservation in Montana and describes both Louis' interest in grass dancing and the role of the grass dancer in Native American culture.

Davidge, Bud; illustrated by Ian Wallace

The Mummer's Song (Toronto, ON: Douglas & McIntyre, 2002).

Set in rural Newfoundland – a motley crew of boisterous mummers descends on Granny's house after Christmas, to tease and dance before they're off onward down the road.

Davol, Margeruite W.; illustrated by Sheila Hamanaka

The Heart of the Wood (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992).

In this cumulative picture book, a sycamore tree shares its music even after it becomes a fiddle.

DeFelice, Cynthia C; illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker

The Dancing Skeleton (New York: Macmillan Pub., 1989).

An ornery dead man refuses to stay in his coffin and causes a disturbance when the best fiddler in town comes to call on his widow.

Dengler, Marianna; illustrated by Sibyl Graber Gerig

Fiddlin' Sam (Flagstaff, AZ: Rising Moon, 1999).

Wandering through the Ozarks and bringing joy to people with his music, Fiddlin' Sam seeks the right person to take up his fiddle and carry on the practice.

DePaola, Tomie

Oliver Button is a Sissy (New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1979).

Despite his classmates' taunts, Oliver Button continues doing what he likes best.

Dillon, Leo and Diane

Rap a Tap Tap: Here's Bojangles Think of That! (New York: Blue Sky Press, 2002).

The story of Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, one of the most famous tap dancers of all time.

Dorros, Arthur

Ten Go Tango (New York: HarperCollinsPublishers, 2000).

In this counting book, ten groups of animals indulge in ten different dances, from one osprey dancing ballet to ten flamingos doing the tango.

Doucet, Sharon Arms

Fiddle Fever (New York: Clarion Books, 2000).

In 1914, teenager Felix LeBlanc feels stifled by life on his family's farm in Louisiana. After hearing his wayward uncle play the fiddle, Felix decides that he wants to be a fiddler too, even if it means making his own fiddle and going against his parents' wishes.

Doyle, Malachy; illustrated by Steve Johnson & Lou Fancher

The Dancing Tiger (New York: Viking, 2005).

A tale of a tiger who appears when the moon is full and dances through the night.

Driver, Ian

A Century of Dance: A hundred years of musical movement, from waltz to hip hop (New York: Cooper Square Press, 2000).

From ballroom dancing to break dancing, this book offers an engaging exploration of dance.

Edwards, Richard; illustrated by Caroline Anstey

Moles Can Dance (Candlewick Press, 1994).

Despite being told by all the other animals that moles cannot dance, a mole persists and proves that moles, indeed, can dance.

Emery, Lynne Fauley

Black Dance: From 1619 to 1970 (Princeton Book Company Publishers, 1980).

The history of black dance in America, from the Caribbean, through southern plantations, the north, and minstrelsy to the concert dance of today.

Flournoy, Vanessa and Valerie; paintings by James E. Ransome

Celie and the Harvest Fiddler (New York: Tambourine Books, 1995).

Celie, an African American girl living in the South in the 1870s, wants desperately to win the costume contest at the All Hallows' Eve harvest festival. A mysterious fiddler gives her a mask that grants wishes.

Friedman, Dawn; illustrated by Nicole in den Bosch

Dance, Annie (New York: Children's Press, 2001).

Annie performs a variety of dances in her recital as she blows in the wind, twirls, taps her toes, and strikes a pose.

Grau, Andrée

Dance [Eyewitness Books] (London: DK Publishing, Inc., 2005).

This survey of all forms of dance throughout the world discusses dance's cultural and social significance, its costume, its history, and noted dancers and choreographers.

Gray, Libba Moore; illustrated by Raul Colon

My Mama Had a Dancing Heart (Orchard Books, 1995).

A ballet dancer recalls how she and her mother welcomed each season with a dance outdoors; the story conveys the joy of dancing.

Gray, Libba Moore; illustrated by Lloyd Bloom

When Uncle Took the Fiddle (New York: Orchard Books, 1999).

Uncle's inspired playing of the fiddle causes sleepy family members to pick up other instruments and play along, while the neighbors come to join the celebration.

Haas, Jessie

Will You, Won't You? (New York: Greenwillow Books, 2001).

Spending the summer with her strong-willed politician grandmother, a fourteen-year-old girl achieves breakthroughs in both her horseback riding and her Scottish dancing, and begins to develop the self-confidence she has always lacked.

Harter, Debbie

The Animal Boogie (New York: Barefoot Books, 2000).

In the jungle, the animals' toes are twitching, their bodies are wiggling, and their wings are flapping--as they teach children how to do the animal boogie.

Heine, Theresa; illustrated by Sheila Moxley

Elephant Dance: A Journey to India (Cambridge, MA: Barefoot Books, 2004).

Grandfather tells many stories about his native India in answer to Ravi and Anjali's questions, such as the tale of a procession of elephants on the feast of Diwali when he was a boy. Includes facts about life in India, a list of cooking spices, and descriptions of Indian animals.

Hollinshead, Marilyn

The Nine Days Wonder (New York: Philomel Books, 1994).

Tells the story from his diary of Will Kemp's wager to morris dance 117 miles from London to Norwich in under ten days in the midwinter of 1600. (Kemp, dubbed the merriest dancer in England, was a favorite of William Shakespeare.)

Jones, Bill T; Susan Kuklin

Dance (New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 1998).

Introduces basic concepts of dance through poetic text and photographs.

Kinsey-Warnock, Natalie; illustrated by Leslie W. Bowman

The Fiddler of the Northern Lights (New York: Cobblehill Books, 1996).

The Pepin family lived in the north woods along the wild St. Maurice River. One night, Henry and Grandpa Pepin ventured upriver in search of the fiddler whose music makes the Northern Lights dance.

Laufer, Peter; illustrated by Susan L. Roth

Made in Mexico (Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 2000).

Describes the importance of the guitar in Mexico, especially in Paracho, a town which is pivotal in the Mexican guitar industry.

Left Hand Bull, Jacqueline and Suzanne Haldane; photographs by Suzanne Haldane

Lakota Hoop Dancer (New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1999).

Follows the activities of Kevin Locke, a Lakota (Hunkpapa band) and Anishinaabe, as he prepares for and performs the traditional Lakota hoop dance.

Lemieux, Margo; illustrated by Francis Livingston
The Fiddle Ribbon (Parsippany, NJ: Silver Press, 1996).

Spending the summer at their grandparents' farm in the Canadian Maritimes, Jennie and Jimmy learn about their heritage through the fiddle and the step-dance. According to their grandfather, "Music is the ribbon that ties people together. It goes on and on from generation to generation and never ends."

Little Sugar, Amy; illustrated by Ian Schoenherr
Marie in Fourth Position (New York: Philomel, 1996).

After she models for the artist and sculptor Edgar Degas, Marie feels transformed into a butterfly and becomes known all over the world as "The Little Dancer."

London, Jonathan; illustrated by Gilles Pelletier
The Sugaring-Off Party (New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1995).

A French Canadian grandmother reminisces about her first sugaring-off party, complete with music, dancing, and lots of food.

Lowell, Susan; illustrated by Jane Manning
Cindy Ellen: A Wild Western Cinderella (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2000).

In this Wild West version of Cinderella, Cindy Ellen loses one of her diamond spurs at the square dance.

Lowery, Linda
Twist With a Burger, Jitter With a Bug (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1995).

Illustrations and rhyming text provide a humorous look at all kinds of dancing.

MacLachlan, Patricia
Grandfather's Dance (New York: Joanna Cotler Books, 2006).

As her family gathers for the wedding of her sister Anna, fourth-grader Cassie Whiting sees the many changes brought about by everyday life and finds comfort in the love of those around her, especially her grandfather. (Part of the "Sarah, Plain & Tall" series.)

Manson, Christopher
A Farmyard Song: An Old Rhyme with New Pictures (New York: North-South Books, 1992).

In this cumulative rhyming tale, various farm animals are fed...and the "cat goes fiddle-i-fee."

Martin, Bill Jr. and John Archambault; illustrated by Ted Rand
Barn Dance! (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1988).

Unable to sleep on the night of a full moon, a young boy follows the sound of music across the fields and discovers an unusual barn dance in progress.

Martin, Rafe; illustrated by Tatsuro Kiuchi
The Eagle's Gift (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1997).

Hoping to win the return of his two brothers, an Eskimo boy follows the directions of Eagle Mother and learns to dance, sing, and tell stories, thereby spreading joy throughout the world.

Mayer, Mercer

The Queen Always Wanted to Dance (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1971).

To put a stop to his wife's unqueenly behavior, the king makes singing and dancing illegal, only to discover the queen is quite willing to sing and dance in jail with the rest of the kingdom.

McCarthy, Bobette

Buffalo Girls (New York: Crown, 1987).

In the traditional folk song, the buffalo girls sleep in the kitchen, sing by starlight, and dance by the light of the moon.

McKissack, Patricia C; illustrated by J Brian Pinkney

Let's Clap, Jump, Sing, and Shout; Dance, Spin, and Turn it Out!: Games, songs, and stories from an African American childhood (New York: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2017).

A songbook, a storybook, a poetry collection, and much more, all rolled into one. Find a partner for hand claps, or form a circle for dancing games.

McKissack, Patricia C.; illustrated by Jerry Pinkney

Mirandy and Brother Wind (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1988).

Dreaming of winning first prize in the junior cakewalk competition, Mirandy wants the wind for her dancing partner.

McPhail, David

Mole Music (New York: Holt, 1999).

Feeling something is missing in his simple life, Mole learns to play beautiful, joyful music on the violin, and unwittingly changes the world in the process.

Medearis, Angela Shelf; illustrated by Samuel Byrd

Dancing with the Indians (New York: Holiday House, 1991).

An African American family of the 1930s observes dancing at a Seminole Indian powwow. They recall the tales of a grandfather, a runaway slave who found refuge with the Seminoles.

Morris, Neil

Music and Dance (St. Catharines, ON: Crabtree Pub., 2000).

People all over the world dance and make music – to worship, to entertain, to tell stories, and to enjoy themselves.

Parkinson, Siobhán; illustrated by Troy Howell

Kathleen: The Celtic Knot (Middleton, WI: Pleasant Co., 2003).

Twelve-year-old Dubliner Kathleen Delaney is given the chance to take Irish dancing lessons in 1937 and discovers she has a talent for it.

Pinkney, Brian

Max Found Two Sticks (New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2005).

With just two sticks and a lot of imagination and energy, Max fills his urban neighborhood with music.

Price, Christine

Dance on the Dusty Earth (New York: Scribner, 1979).

Examines the folk dances of many cultures which have been handed down from one generation to the next.

Raczek, Linda Theresa; illustrated by Katalin Olah Ehling

The Night the Grandfathers Danced (Flagstaff, AZ: Rising Moon, 1988).

When the boys her own age run away from her at the Bear Dance, Autumn Eyetoo picks a partner from among the old men of the tribe.

Raczek, Linda Theresa; illustrated by Gary Bennett

Rainy's Powwow (Flagstaff, AZ: Rising Moon, 1999).

A Native American girl attends the traditional powwow where she is expected to choose for herself a specific form of dance and receive her special name.

Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan

The Sojourner (New York: Scribner, 1953).

The Sojourner is the story of a good man and of the influence of his steady, quiet strength upon others, especially the members of his immediate family, and of what they – characters less strong and less stable – do to him throughout the course of a long life. The protagonist, Asahel Linden plays flute for barn dances and for “the Roms” who camped on the Linden farm. Making music is one of the few great pleasures of his life.

Ray, Jane

The Twelve Dancing Princesses (New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1996).

A retelling of the traditional tale of how the king's twelve daughters wear out their shoes every night while supposedly sleeping in their locked bedroom. (See versions presented by Debbie Allen and Ruth Sanderson.)

Ruiz-Flores, Lupe; illustrated by Gabhor Utomo; translated by Gabriela Baeza Ventura

Lupita's First Dance/El Primer Baile de Lupita (Houston, TX: Piñata Books, an imprint of Arte Público Press, University of Houston, 2013).

Lupita is excited about dancing *la raspa*, a Mexican folk dance, with her first-grade class at a celebration of Children's Day, *el día de los niños*. She's devastated when her partner, Ernesto, sprains his ankle just before the performance, but Lupita dances on stage anyway.

Rubin, Susan Goldman; paintings by Henri Matisse

Matisse Dance for Joy (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2008).

Matisse paper cuts paired with text describing movement and dance.

Ryder, Joanne; illustrated by Steven Kellogg

Big Bear Ball. (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2002).

Outlandishly dressed bears of all shapes and sizes (and even species) arrive by balloon from near and far for the Big Bear Ball, complete with fiddles, trumpets, and wild dancing.

Sanderson, Ruth

The Twelve Dancing Princesses (Boston: Little, Brown, 1993).

Retells the classic Brothers Grimm tale of twelve princesses who dance secretly all night long and reveals how their secret is eventually discovered. (See versions presented by Debbie Allen and Jane Ray.)

San Souci, Robert D.; illustrations by Gary Kelley

The Red Heels (New York: Dial Books, 1995).

An itinerant shoemaker in colonial New England makes a pair of shoes for a beautiful young woman, although he fears the red heels are a sign that she is a witch. He spies on her, discovering “her secret delight” – she dances on the moonlit pond.

Say, Allen

Music for Alice (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2004).

A Japanese American farmer recounts her agricultural successes and setbacks and her enduring love of dance. Based on the true life story of Alice Sumida.

Schaefer, Carole Lexa; illustrated by Christine Davenier

Full Moon Barnyard Dance (Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2003).

A beautiful night and a full moon inspire the barnyard animals to hold a dance by the pond, where the arrival of some clouds provides them with an unexpected experience.

Schotter, Richard and Roni; illustrated by R.W. Alley

There's A Dragon About: A Winter's Revel (New York: Orchard Books, 1994).

Adapted from the St. George play from Oxfordshire, a band of children enacts the dragon play from door to snowy door.

Schroeder, Alan; paintings by Bernie Fuchs

Ragtime Tumpie (Boston: Joy Street Books, 1989).

Tumpie, a young black girl who will later become the famous dancer Josephine Baker, longs to find the opportunity to dance amid the poverty and vivacious street life of St. Louis in the early 1900s.

Seeger, Pete; illustrated by Michael Hays

Abiyoyo, based on a South African lullaby and folk story (New York: Simon & Schuster, Macmillan/Scholastic, 1963 & 1986).

Banished from the town for making mischief, a little boy and his father are welcomed back when they find a way to make the dreaded giant, Abiyoyo, disappear. (See [The Moon's Revenge](#) for similar theme.)

Shannon, George; illustrated by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey

Dance Away (New York: Greenwillow Books, 1982).

Rabbit's dancing saves his friends from becoming Fox's supper. (Rabbit dances the schottische, a dance regularly done at contemporary public contra dances.)

Siegelson, Kim; illustrated by Lisa Cohen

Dancing the Ring Shout! (New York: Jump at the Sun, Hyperion Books for Children, 2003).
A boy is old enough to attend the ring shout – a celebration filled with dance, song, and praise shouted out to God for the year’s blessings. The book honors the longstanding ring shout tradition from West Africa and the American South.

Smith, Cynthia L.; illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu

Jingle Dancer (New York: Morrow Junior Books, 2000).

Jenna, a contemporary member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, in Oklahoma, wants to honor a family tradition by jingle dancing at the next powwow. Includes a note about the jingle dance tradition and its regalia.

Solway, Andrew

Country and Folk Dance (Oxford: Heinemann Library, 2010).

Provides a detailed look at the huge variety of country and folk dancing from all over the world, from line and square dancing to sword and stick dancing, as well as storytelling within dance.

Spinelli, Eileen; illustrated by Paul Yalowitz

Boy, Can He Dance! (New York: Aladdin Paperbacks, 1997).

Although his father wants him to follow the family tradition and become a chef, a young boy would much rather dance.

Stanford, Candice; illustrated by Flo Hosa Dougherty

The Man Who Set the Town Dancing: El hombre que puso a bailar a todo el pueblo (Santa Fe, NM: Clear Light Publishers, 2002).

A profile of José Tena, who dreamed that someday everyone in his town would know the folk dances from when New Mexico was still a Spanish colony, and who made that dream come true through his Ballet Folklorico.

Staples, Suzanne Fisher

Shiva’s Fire (New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2000).

In India, Parvati is invited to study *bharata natyam* – a sacred dance form. This honor is a dream come true for her, since Parvati knows that she was born to dance, but there are complexities.

Stops, Sue; illustrated by Marc Vyvyan-Jones

Maurice! (Spindlewood, 1988).

Out of print book has a theme of morris dancing.

Stroud, Bettye; illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu

Dance Y’All (New York: Marshall Cavendish Corporation, 2001).

With the help of his grandfather and his sleepwalking cousin, Jack Henry overcomes his fear of the long coachwhip snake he’s seen in the barn. Much of the narrative points to the African American family’s rousing evening of waltzes and square dances on the parlor floor, but Jack Henry dances only after he has faced his fear and overpowered it.

Thomas, Mark

African Dancing (New York: Children's Press, 2001).

A young girl learns African dancing. Describes the music, clothing, and moves of the dance.

Thomas, Mark

Irish Step Dancing (New York: Children's Press, 2001).

Provides a simple overview of Irish step dancing.

Thomas, Mark

Square Dancing (New York: Children's Press, 2001).

Provides a simple overview of square dancing.

Tripp, Edward; illustrated by Maurice Sendak

The Tin Fiddle (New York: Oxford University Press, 1954).

Young Cicero receives a red tin toy violin; when the only sounds the instrument produces are painful screeches, the boy is sent outside to play it. No one, including the creatures in the woods around his home, can stand the sound, so he gives the instrument to an overjoyed field mouse family for a home.

“Trosclair”; edited by Howard Jacobs; illustrated by James Rice

Cajun Night Before Christmas (Gretna, LA: Pelican Pub., 1992).

A Cajun version of the famous poem “The Night Before Christmas,” set in a Louisiana bayou, complete with dancing and revelry.

Vallely, Fintan (editor)

The Companion to Irish Traditional Music (Cork, Ireland: Cork University Press, 2011).

Descriptions of individuals, traditions, and instruments of traditional Irish music, as well as an analysis of the modern history of traditional music-making.

Vanasse, Deb; illustrated by Nancy Elizabeth Slagle

Lucy's Dance (Fairbanks, AK: University of Alaska Press, 2011).

Lucy helps her grandfather – and her entire community – recall the traditional dance festivals that they used to enjoy before the outsiders came. Includes author's note on the history of traditional Yupik dance festivals.

Van Zandt, Eleanor

Dance (Austin, TX: Steck-Vaughn Library, 1990).

Surveys dance as an art form, examining such categories as folk dance, ballet, modern dance, ballroom dancing, and contemporary dance, and discussing the creation and recording of dance.

Varriale, Jim

Kids Dance (New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1999).

Explores ballet and dance training, as experienced by the students of Ballet Tech, America's first public school for ballet.

Walsh, Ellen Stoll

Hop Jump (San Diego: Harcourt Brace & Co., 1993).

Bored with just hopping and jumping, a frog discovers dancing.

Walter, Mildred Pitts; illustrated by Margot Tomes

Ty's One-Man Band (New York: Scholastic, 1980).

On a hot, humdrum day, Ty meets a man who claims to be a one-man band. Using a washboard, comb, spoons, and pail, the man fills that night with music and makes everyone dance.

Walton, Rick; illustrated by Ana López-Escrivá

How can you dance? (New York: Putnam's, 2001).

Rhyming text explores the many ways one can dance, like the leader of a marching band, like a crab on a sunny day, like a tree as it waves in the breeze.

Walton, Rick; illustrated by Thor Wickstrom

Noah's Square Dance (New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1995).

Old Noah himself calls a dance for the animals and people on the ark. His wife and son are pictured playing fiddles, while a daughter-in-law plays the harmonica.

Warren-Mattox, Cheryl (collected and adapted by); illustrations by Varnette P. Honeywood and Brenda Joysmith

Shake it to the One That You Love the Best: Play Songs and Lullabies From Black Musical Traditions (Nashville: Warren-Mattox Productions, 1990).

A collection of play songs, games, and lullabies which advance children's awareness in two aspects of Black culture – music and art.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls; illustrated by Renée Graef

Dance at Grandpa's (New York: HarperCollins, 1994).

A young pioneer girl and her family attend a sugaring party and dance at her grandparents' house in the big woods of Wisconsin. (Adapted from the "Little House" books.)

Wilder, Laura Ingalls

Little House in the Big Woods (New York: HarperCollins, 2001).

Classic memoir about the author's pioneer childhood includes a chapter about a house dance during maple sugaring season (see *Dance at Grandpa's*) and regularly refers to her father's fiddling, including specific traditional tunes.

Willems, Mo

Elephants Cannot Dance! (New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2009).

Gerald the elephant is certain that he cannot dance but his friend Piggie convinces him to try.

Wilson, Budge; illustrated by Susan Tooke

A Fiddle for Angus (Toronto: Tundra Books, 2006).

In Angus' musical family, everyone has their own instrument and knows how to make music. Angus can't decide on an instrument for the family band until he hears the fiddle at a local *ceilidh* in Cape Breton. But fiddling is hard; he can't make the music he wants. With patience, practice, and lots of lessons, Angus' fingers learn how to play, and the music inside him finds a way out.

Winslow, Barbara; illustrated by Teri Sloat

Dance on a Sealskin (Anchorage, AK: Alaska Northwest Books, 1995).

In honor of her grandmother, who passed away, Annie does her first dance at a traditional potlatch in her Yupik Eskimo village.

Wolkstein, Diane; illustrated by Jesse Sweetwater

Bouki Dances the Kokioko: A Comical Tale from Haiti (San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1997).

After much coaching, Bouki wins the prize for dancing the king's secret dance but is then outwitted by his sneaky friend.

Yolen, Jane and Heidi E.Y. Stemple; illustrated by Helen Cann

The Barefoot Book of Dance Stories (Cambridge, MA: Barefoot Books, 2010).

Collection offers introductory materials to other dance styles not usually found in children's books and ties them to stories from their respective cultures.

Zanes, Dan; illustrated by Donald Saaf

Jump up! (New York: Little, Brown, 2005).

An illustrated collection of one original and four traditional songs: Jump up!, Going to Boston, Hal an Tow, Mango Walk, and Sail Away Ladies. Includes fold-out pages and CD of folk tunes.

Ziefert, Harriet; illustrated by Donald Saaf

Animal Music (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1999).

Assorted animals playing various instruments make different kinds of music in Mr. Lion's Marching Band and Sheep's Dance Band. The cadence of the text evokes the rhythm of the music – first a march, then a hoedown.

Zitkala-Sa; illustrated by S. D. Nelson

Dance in a Buffalo Skull (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 2007).

Because a group of young mice are too busy making merry to pay attention to their surroundings, they are almost eaten by a cat.