

Study Questions-Ballet Folklórico

■ ***Lupita's First Dance by Lupe Ruiz-Flores***

1. How did Lupita connect to the dance "La Raspa?" How has dance or other art forms made you feel connected to your culture?
2. Why do you think that the students had to wear specific clothing for the dance? What traditional types of clothing do you have in your own culture?
3. Why do you think that it was so important for Lupita's dance partner to be in the performance? What are some examples in your own life where having a companion or team member was important?
4. What things have you done in school or outside of school that have helped you to learn about your culture?

■ ***Danza! Amalia Hernandez and El Ballet Folklórico de Mexico by Duncan Tonatiuh***

1. In the story, Amalia became very interested in learning about different Mexican Folk dances since many of them were a part of her culture. Explain a time that you became very interested in learning about a historical topic. Were you able to make a connection to your own culture? If so, how?
2. Amalia was faced with learning about many new cultures and traditions. When was a time that you learned about a new culture? How did it make you feel?
3. How does Amalia express herself through Ballet Folklórico? In what ways do you express yourself through art/hobbies?
4. Amalia eventually takes her performances of the different Mexican Folk Dances to many different parts of the world, and many people of different cultures were excited to see these dances. How have you connected to a different culture? How have you made connections between your own culture and cultures other than your own?
5. The book talks about the different regions that Ballet Folklórico stems from. In what ways does your own culture stem from different regions, states, etc.?

■ ***After School Experiences Documentary***

1. Some of the students had never been to Mexico, but they were wearing outfits from states that their grandparents and great grandparents are from. When is a time that you were able to learn about your culture through an activity or hobby?
2. By dancing ballet folklórico the dancers are able to represent their culture. What are some ways that you have been able to represent your culture?
3. How has ballet folklórico changed the way the dancers view themselves and Mexican-American culture? Why do you think it has this effect on them?
4. Why is it important for the dancers to understand where the outfit that they are wearing and dance they are dancing come from? How can this be beneficial to the younger generations of Mexican-Americans?