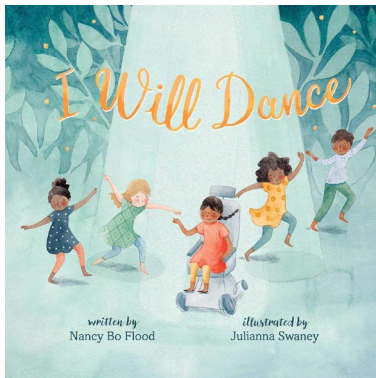




2021 – 2022  
Children's Book Award Finalist  
Elementary Grade Levels 3-5



**I Will Dance**  
*Atheneum Books for  
Young Readers*



**Nancy Bo Flood**  
*Author*



**Julianna Swaney**  
*Illustrator*

### Summary

“Like many young girls, Eva longs to dance. But unlike many would-be dancers, Eva has cerebral palsy. She doesn’t know what dance looks like for someone who uses a wheelchair.

Then Eva learns of a place that has created a class for dancers of all abilities. Her first movements in the studio are tentative, but with the encouragement of her instructor and fellow students, Eva becomes more confident. Eva knows she’s found a place where she belongs. At last her dream of dancing has come true.” (amazon.com)

### Genre

Contemporary Realistic Fiction

### Book Conversation

After reading the story aloud, you may use the following questions to prompt a book conversation with students.

- What does inclusion mean to you?
- What did Eva learn by going to the audition? What in the text makes you think this?
- How would you include someone in things you do with your friends?
- If you could talk to Eva, what would you ask her? What would you recommend to her?
- Does anyone have a connection to the story? Do you know someone who has been challenged by a disability and worked hard to be part of a group. Discuss the difficulties they



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***Florida Statute 1003.42.2 requires that K-12 public school instructional staff teach specific character education, cultural, and historical topics. This book may assist teachers in partial fulfillment of that requirement.***

[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&URL=1000-1099/1003/Sections/1003.42.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=1000-1099/1003/Sections/1003.42.html)

### **Extension Activities**

- Have students write about a time when they were determined to achieve something that they were having a problem accomplishing.
- Have students list ways that they could include others to make them feel important.
- Create a word web that includes words students would use to describe how hard people with disabilities must work to do things that come easily for those with no challenges. Discuss the thinking behind these words.
- Watch the Paralympics video below and discuss the challenges these athletes must face. Ask students to compare their athletic lives with the athletes.

### **Websites**

- Meet the Author- <https://nancyboflood.com/about/>
- Meet the Illustrator- <https://www.juliannaswaney.com/about>
- Watch a read aloud of the book-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3dFwilkS9dM&t=62s>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-CokOCnY1g&t=29s>
- Watch a video of the Paralympics competition.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAHYmBRflwU>

### **Diversity and Multicultural Features**

Author: female

Illustrator: female

Character(s): girl with physical disability (cerebral palsy)