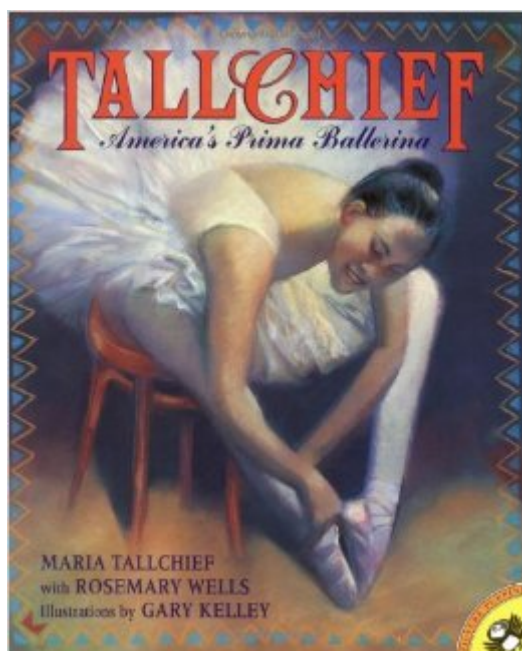


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# Tallchief: America's Prima Ballerina



## Synopsis

Growing up on the Osage Indian reservation, Maria Tallchief was a gifted pianist and dancer. According to Osage tradition, women are not permitted to dance, but Maria's parents recognized her gifts and allowed her to break the rule. Then when Maria reached the age of twelve, her father told her it was time to choose between her two loves. Maria chose ballet. It was a decision that would change not only the course of her life, but the face of classical ballet in America. The fascinating story of Maria Tallchief's rise to become America's prima ballerina will captivate young readers.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 750L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (October 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142300187

ISBN-13: 978-0142300183

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.1 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #638,929 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #143 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Performing Arts](#) #449 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans](#) #873 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

This is a charming book with beautiful artwork. My daughter enjoyed it, though she did wish it had information about the Maria's career once she became a professional in New York.

The story Tallchief Americas Prima Ballerina is by Maria Tallchief and Rosemary Well. This story is a very heart touching story about a girl following her dreams. The book shows you how hard work and dedication gets you far in life. The detailed pictures go great with the descriptive words. They really elaborate what's going on in the story. This realistic story shows the reality of decisions making in life. In this story, She had to make the decision on where she was going in life. This book

also shows the main characters culture and background. Maria Tallchief is half Osage and half Scots-Irish. I think that Tallchief America's Prima Ballerina is a good book because it shows the ambition of a ballerina and what it takes to be one. It also shows reality of a life determining decision, and also teaches about chasing and achieving your dreams.

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Tallchief, America's Prima Ballerina, written by Maria Tallchief with Rosemary Wells, is a lovely, lyrical account of a young girl's fierce desire to express the music she felt within her through ballet. "I was born with music that flowed through my body as naturally as blood in my veins." Both a talented pianist and dancer, Maria was encouraged by her father to choose one "star". "In the way that very young people choose, from the heart, I chose (ballet) and I chose right". Any young reader would choose right in selecting this inspiring account of a unique American star.

It really is for older girls, I would say 10 ish, I bought it for a 5 year old, a bit too much for her.....but, I read it and liked it. It will be fine in a few years, we will dust it off and she will be able to read it.

My daughter is a dancer and is native American on one side of her family. I like that this book talks about hard work and different heritages.

A lovely slice of history. The story of our first Native American ballerina. I gave it to a little dancer friend who really liked it.

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