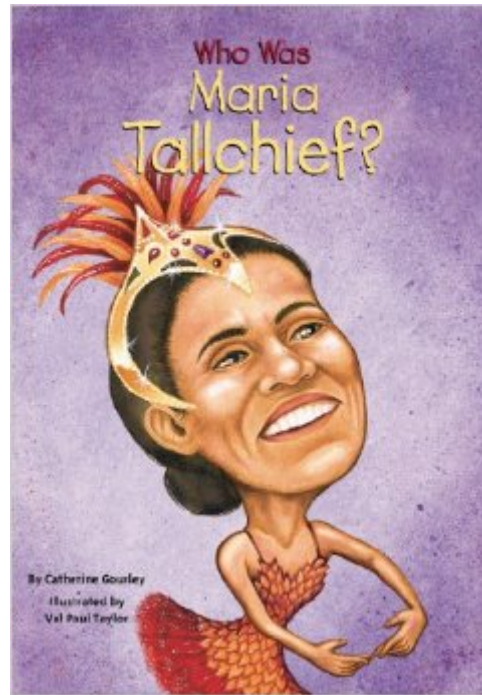


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# Who Was Maria Tallchief?



## Synopsis

Born in 1925, Maria Tallchief spent part of her childhood on an Osage reservation in Oklahoma. With the support of her family and world-renowned choreographer George Balanchine, she rose to the top of her art form to become America's first prima ballerina. Black-and-white illustrations provide visual sidebars to the history of ballet while taking readers through the life of this amazing dancer.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 740L (What's this?)

Series: Who Was...?

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Grosset & Dunlap; Who Was...? edition (July 22, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0448426757

ISBN-13: 978-0448426754

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.2 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #105,865 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 in [Books > Children's Books](#)

[> Biographies > Performing Arts](#) #107 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures >](#)

[Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans](#) #111 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

[Biographies > Women](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Although I purchased this book for my children, I could not put it down. I had never hear Maria Tallchief's story. We get a very balanced view of her life. It tells of the hardships she endured without overemphasizing them. It is a very honest book and does not hide what some might find to be the uncomfortable events of her life. Yet, while the authors include hardships, they focus on her successes and how the various choices and people in her life had a part in helping her succeed. Her father was an alcoholic, but they portray him as a whole person. Her mother was very driven in her desire to see her daughters succeed, but the reader still has compassion for her. I love how Maria remained friends with Balanchine after their divorce. I admire how she did not let prejudice

stop her from trying to build a bridge between the two cultures in which she lived. Due to some of the content, you may want to read the book to your younger children. This way you can discuss some of the difficult events together. But there is no way the information is written in a rough or gratuitous manner. I highly recommend this book.

This series of biographies is terrific. They are styled like graphic novels, but loaded with detail. Confession: I didn't know who Maria Tallchief was until my daughter read this book for a third grade book report. Not only was she America's first prima ballerina, but she was also Native American. It was quite an inspiring story for any little girl. The story follows her life through modern day. She still teaches dance. Any young person between third and sixth grade would enjoy it, little girls in particular.

This is a good biography series for early chapter book readers. There are a lot of picture books that are biographies and there are a lot of chapter books, but this is one of the few in-between series.

I had never heard of Maria Tallchief until I read this book. Maria Tallchief was the first United States prima ballerina. The book told you all about her story. The book was well written.

Cannot keep it in the library - children love the series they find the books easy to understand and to use for their essays

This book is a good choice for teachers of adult ESL or limited English students. Mature, but simple writing, this and others in the "Who was..." Series will help your students improve vocabulary while providing myriad discussion opportunities.

This was perfect for my 3rd grader's book report. The content was perfect for her to present to the class in an oral report.

This book was perfect for my fifth grader. It was AR approved, age appropriate and had presented the information in a manner that kept my reader interested in the story.

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