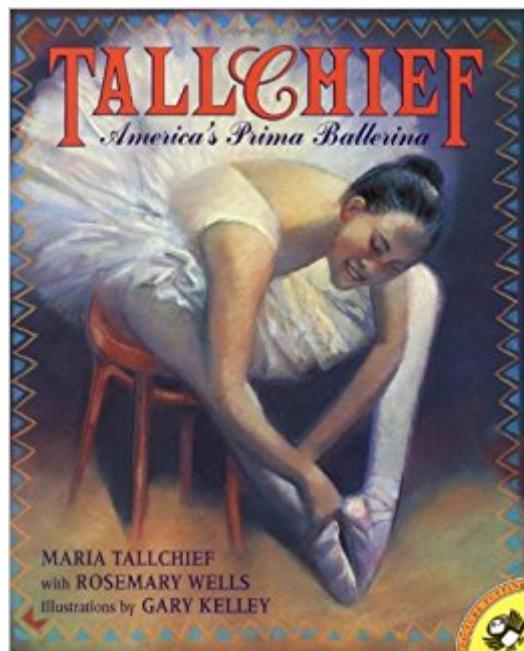


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# Tallchief: America's Prima Ballerina



## 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; 1 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: 3.8 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #587,582 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #113 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Performing Arts #332 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance #365 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

This volume, relayed in what PW called "metaphorical language," follows Tallchief through her adolescence, on the way to joining the Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo. PW wrote, "Kelly's softly focused paintings underscore the lyrical tone, enveloping the characters and settings in gauzy, dreamlike light." Ages 5-9. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Grade 2-4-A picture-book autobiography of the early years of America's first internationally significant ballerina. Through eloquent words, readers are immediately drawn into this first-person narrative. The story opens with Tallchief's birth on an Osage Indian reservation. Her Scots-Irish

mother made sure that Maria and her sister received dance and music lessons, and eventually her father persuaded her to choose between piano and dance. The rest is history. The story ends when, at age 17, Maria left home to seek her fame and fortune in New York. As beautiful as the text is, so too are Kelley's pictures. The large illustrations, several covering double-page spreads, are rendered in soft pastels. The text and artwork combine to make a pleasing introduction to a fascinating person. Wells's personal connection to ballet and Tallchief, explained in the introduction, makes this effort all the more stirring. All told, a simple, lovely offering. Anne Chapman Callaghan, Racine Public Library, WI Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A very short account of Maria Tallchief (26 pages). It was interesting but not much detail. The price did not justify the content. It is more appropriate for a young girl who is interested in ballet.

This was a sweet story. I liked that it had diversity with the characters. It's a fairly short book, so when we were finished reading it, we passed it on to another girl.

Great book for a 2nd grader's book report.

This was very helpful for the project my daughter had. This was actually her only source needed for her research.

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.

My granddaughter likes this book

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.

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