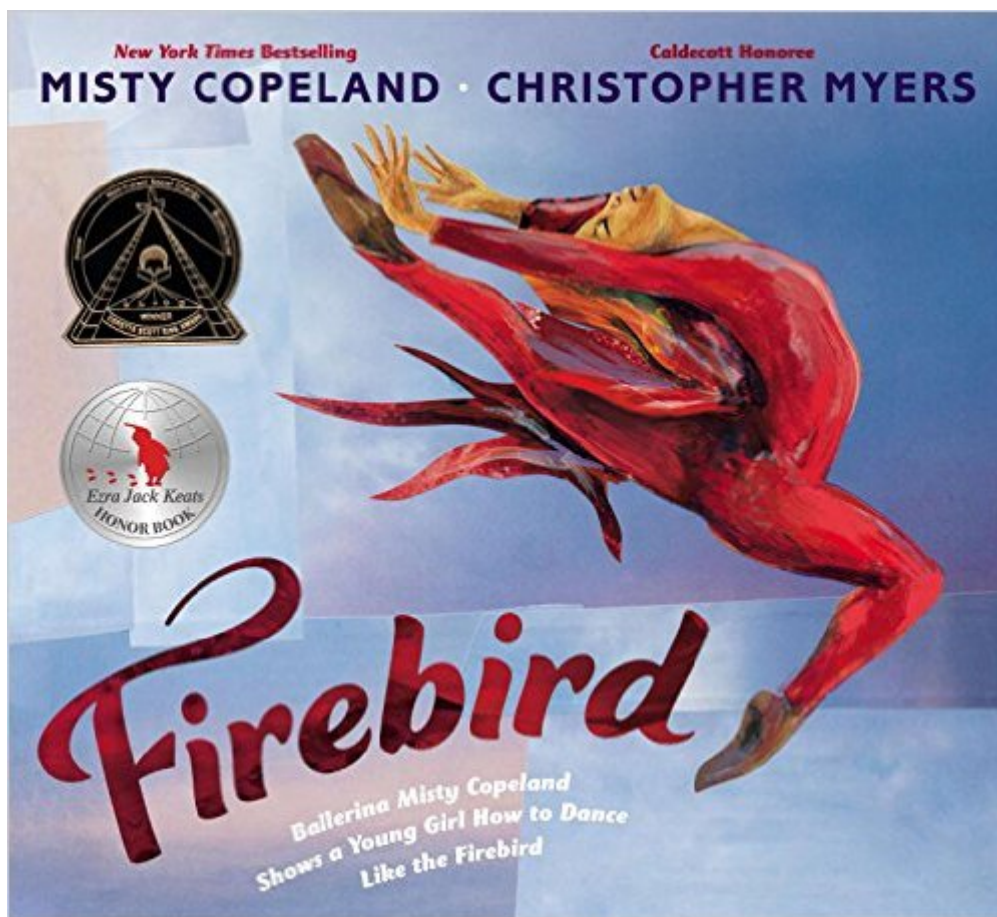


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# Firebird



## Synopsis

In her debut picture book, Misty Copeland tells the story of a young girl--an every girl--whose confidence is fragile and who is questioning her own ability to reach the heights that Misty has reached. Misty encourages this young girl's faith in herself and shows her exactly how, through hard work and dedication, she too can become Firebird. Lyrical and affecting text paired with bold, striking illustrations that are some of Caldecott Honoree Christopher Myers's best work, makes Firebird perfect for aspiring ballerinas everywhere.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers; First Edition edition (September 4, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399166157

ISBN-13: 978-0399166150

Product Dimensions: 11.4 x 0.3 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (98 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #21,325 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

[Biographies > United States](#) #22 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography >](#)

[Performing Arts > Dance](#) #60 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures >](#)

[Multicultural Stories > African-American](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

A dear friend of mine purchased Firebird as a gift for my 8 y. o. granddaughter in recognition of her upcoming performance in Ballet Pensacola's presentation of The Nutcracker. Liz was concerned the book would be too easy for a second grader's reading level. Firebird is a PICTURE book. I am a 7th grade reading teacher, and I assured her Firebird would be a perfect gift. To quote novelist Amelia Barr, "It is the simple that produces the marvelous." • Firebird is indeed marvelous. Copeland deliberately uses simplistic terms to deliver her powerful and enduring message: dream big; believe in yourself; and boldly move into your future. Oftentimes the most effective and memorable messages are stated in the simplest terms: "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." • John F. Kennedy; "The only thing we have to fear is fear

itself. • Franklin D. Roosevelt; • As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. • Jesus Christ. Reading is about understanding. Picture books require readers visually literate. Visual literacy is the ability to • read • pictures • to draw inferences about their meaning and make connections to text. I am purchasing 3 copies of Firebird for a friend to give to students in her nonprofit organization Arts Quest. I am also purchasing a copy for Ballet Pensacola to be used in its outreach activities. Please do not deny a child the opportunity to be inspired by Copeland's message simply because the words are easy to read.

Firebird is applicable to so many situations. I am 65, with a 40 year career behind me, and many more years ahead, I hope! Covert discrimination is so much more difficult to address than overt discrimination. I see it even today. Ms. Copland has presented this -- being perceived as being different, coping with the perception, and overcoming it -- beautifully and with so much grace. Her message, "the solution is within me", is said with poignancy and sensitivity. Enjoyed Firebird very much!! Kris

Fantastic, inspirational children's book. I didn't like the illustrations at first because I thought that they were distorted. Now I think they were done deliberately to emphasize the way people viewed the (black) dancers. This opened up discussions of perception, appearance and judgement with my daughter. Love it! Bought another copy and donated it to our public library.

The pictures were lovely but I was disappointed with the written content. The book is a poem that's hard for a child to follow. There isn't a story with a main character. I think it's worth checking out to see if it's for you, but I won't be purchasing for any other little girls in my life. Purchased it for a niece who was interested to see what was inside but didn't ask to read again and didn't seem to understand the point.

This is on 's best books list for 6-8 years old, but I don't think the age rating is correct. The colors are bright, but the illustrations seem a bit gloomy or mature for young children. I thought this was going to be a straight-forward, inspirational-type story for 6-8 year old dancers. It's actually a picture book of modern-art style dance paintings, with accompanying words/sentences meant to be poetic-like. To a 6-8 year old, (an age when children take words literally) this style book may be confusing, rather than helpful to a young reader. Maybe this is a book for older children who are ready to look at modern-poetry-styles.

my daughter twirls around the house all day pretending to be a ballerina but she is shy and timid. she read this book with me and her face lit up. "yes little bud, you too can bloom big" I said. this book is inspiring and misty is awesome.

I got this as a gift for a ballet-obsessed 7 year old. She immediately started reading it and loved the beautiful illustrations, as did her mom. It was a big hit, and I loved introducing her to Misty Copeland, who is such a positive role model in the ballet world.

If you've ever had a dream and knew you would have to overcome some major obstacles, this is a marvelous book about the power of being a mentor to a young person embarking on a journey that will be rewarding but difficult. I have not shared it with any of my students yet, but I think they will enjoy the message. The illustrations are beautiful and the message is wonderful.

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