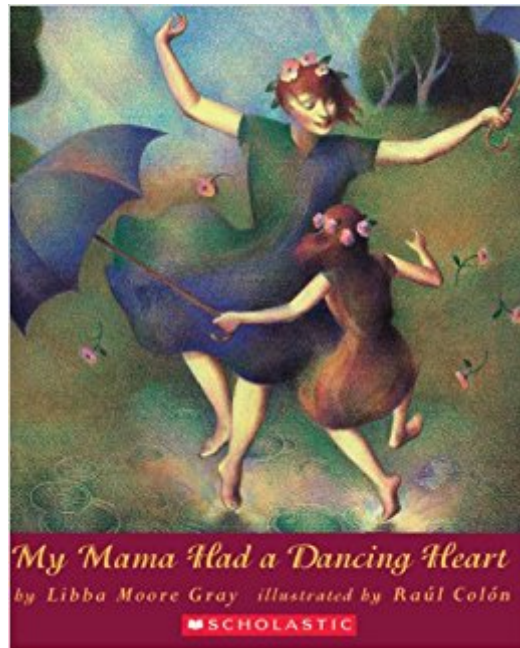




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# My Mama Had A Dancing Heart (Orchard Paperbacks)



## Synopsis

Captured by her mother's infectious love of dance, a young girl joyously follows her mother in a dance through the seasons. Illustrations.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 900 (What's this?)

Series: Orchard Paperbacks

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Inc.; Ill edition (September 1, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0531071421

ISBN-13: 978-0531071427

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 8.5 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 46 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #54,494 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance #1942 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life #3337 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Gray's (Small Green Snake) narrator shares a melodic remembrance of her mother, who welcomed each season with boundless enthusiasm-and bade her daughter to do the same: "Bless the world/ it feels like/ a tip-tapping/ song-singing/ finger-snapping/ kind of day. / Let's celebrate." The two danced barefoot in the spring rain, ran through the summer surf with balloons and kites tied to their wrists, performed a "leaf-kicking/ leg-lifting/ hand-clapping/ hello autumn ballet," and lay on the ground to make snow angels in winter. Shifting to the present tense, the girl-now a ballerina-notes how these memories serve as inspiration as she leaps across the stage. Though her imagery tends toward the precious, Gray has crafted a genuinely affectionate, personal tribute to someone who embraced life wholeheartedly. Colon (Always My Dad) contributes sophisticated, inventively textured art, rendered in an intriguing combination of watercolor washes, etching, and colored and litho pencils. The pictures gracefully convey the chronic motion described in Gray's text; their muted,

earth-toned colors lend a nostalgic feel. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
--This text refers to the School & Library Binding edition.

PreSchool-Grade 3-In spring, summer, fall and winter, a mother leads her young daughter in dancing a celebratory ballet, a hymn to the season. When the girl is older, she is a ballerina and remembers that her mother gave her a dancing heart. Gray writes with her trademark hyphenated, onomatopoeic descriptions. In the winter, they are like "galoshes-galumphing" snowmen, and in the fall, Gray describes the "eye-blinking blue air" and the "leaf-kicking leg-lifting hand-clapping hello autumn ballet." The end of the story is sentimental and perhaps nostalgic beyond children's understanding. But what is clear is that the daughter credits her mother with her joy of movement. Also special is the closeness the two share whether sipping hot tea or cutting out paper snowflakes. Colon's etched watercolors in earth and muted jewel tones give the book an old-fashioned ambiance. Purples, roses, rusts, and greens are textured from the etching and the shading with color pencils, and the technique lends a sense of motion to the paintings, as does Colon's depiction of the dancers with their arched backs, kicking legs, and outstretched arms. Gray's writing lends itself to reading aloud, but independent readers will also enjoy it. Pair this with one of Patricia Lee Gauch's "Tanya" books (Philomel), which exhibit the same joy in movement, or with Shimmy Shake Earthquake (Little, 1992), a collection that is written with the same exuberant celebration of dance. Cheri Estes, Detroit Country Day School Middle School, Beverly Hills, MI Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the School & Library Binding edition.

My Mama Had a Dancing Heart written by Libba Moore Gray and illustrated by Raul Colon Is an uplifting, circular story that captures the love and memories between a mother and daughter throughout the seasons. The poetic language and fun phrases such as, "We'd do a seabird-flapping dolphin-arching hello summer ballet" engages readers from beginning to end. The poetic language, alliteration, imagery, and illustrations make this a must-have book for any classroom.

An amazing picture book to read aloud for great words! Encourage writing with this story with such titles as "My Dad Had a Sporting Heart" or "My Grandma Had a Musical Heart"....the possibilities are endless!!

Can't recommend this enough. A gorgeous book! Colon's illustrations are so warm and welcoming,

and Moore's writing is evocative and moving. A mother-daughter relationship to inspire any reader.

Sweet story! Good for getting kids to think about their own memories. Used it to start 4th graders writing about one specific memory.

This is a beautiful book that any mother would want to read to a daughter, or even a son. It is full of joy, lilting, musical, and poetic. After reading it, a quick dance around the kitchen or family room or back patio, with a child in your arms, is definitely in order. I have purchased several of these, since I want any mother that I know with a young daughter to have it. Rachel

Beautifully illustrated book that brought tears to both me and my daughter who's a momma now too. Very sweet book.

Book came in great condition. Great primary book used to teach writing in the primary grades. Great condition and price

This book captures the delight of mother-daughter fun in all seasons. It is a beautiful poem with lovely, painting-like illustrations that my daughter kept requesting from the library, so we finally had to buy our own copy to treasure. And you don't have to be a dancer to identify with their fond memories.

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