

'I know!' Bobby thought, 'I'll tell Dad and he can explain it to Ms Lovejoy.' 'I don't understand what the problem is,' Dad said. 'Your movements are so elegant! I watch you dancing when you don't know I am there. I watch you put your hand on the floor and lift your body out of your chair. I watch you do so many things that other dancers can't do. You can dance just as well as everybody else.'



Bobby thought Dad just didn't understand so he decided to tell Mum. 'She'll understand,' he thought.

But when he told Mum, she said 'I watch you dancing at night in the garden. You spin your wheelchair around. You bend your body backwards and forwards. You move exactly in time to the music and you show feelings with your body. You can dance just as well as everybody else.'

Activities

5 Find and write the sentences that show Bobby has the qualities of a dancer.

Rhythmic:

Strong:

Expressive:

Graceful:

6 Complete the sentences.

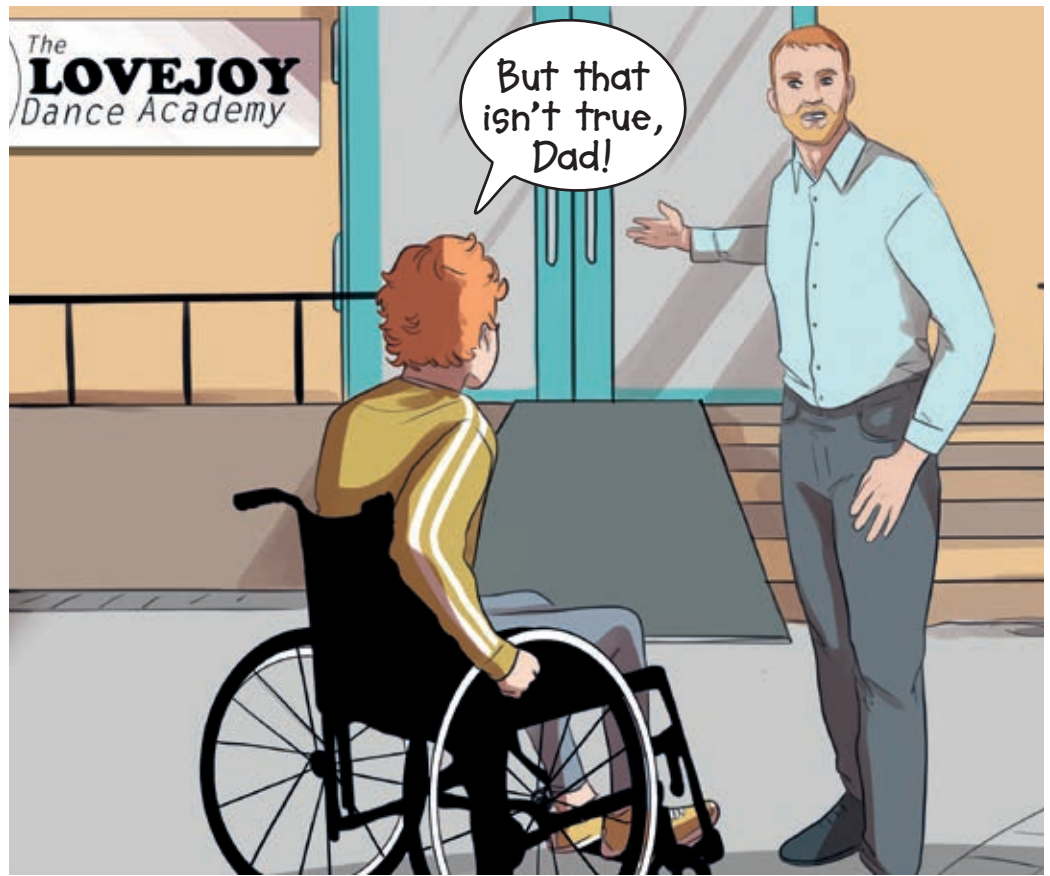
in class	on his own	on stage
----------	------------	----------

a) Bobby likes dancing and

b) Bobby doesn't like dancing

Bobby made lots of excuses not to go to dance class. He complained that he didn't feel well. Then he had too much homework. Then his wheelchair was broken. 'Listen Bobby', said Dad, 'Don't make silly excuses. Tell your teacher you don't like dancing anymore.'

Bobby wheeled his chair in through the door of the dance academy. Jessica ran over to him. She was very excited. She explained the story about the two children who needed to find the Bluebird to bring happiness to a little girl. 'And you are going to dance the role of the Bluebird, Bobby!



'How can I be the Bluebird? Dancers do things I can't do!' he shouted. 'Don't worry,' said Jessica, 'Birds fly and NONE of us can fly! But you can do things we can't do.'

Activities

- 7** Find and underline Bobby's excuses.
- 8** Work with a classmate.
 - a) Think of four movements to imitate a bird.
 - b) Practice and perform the movements.

Story focus

1 Answer the questions.

- a) Why does Bobby like dancing?
- b) Why is Bobby's dancing different from the other kids?
- c) What qualities of a good dancer has Bobby got?
- d) How do Bobby's parents change his mind?
- e) How does Bobby imitate the movements of a bird?
- f) Why do Bobby's parents change his wheelchair?
- g) How does the audience feel about Bobby's dancing?

2 How do Bobby's family and friends answer his worries?

Bobby worries that...

Their answers:

- a) ... he can't move like a bird.
- b) ... he doesn't look like a dancer.
- c) ... his wheelchair is ugly.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

3 Write the words next to their definitions.

lift push spin stretch sway

- a) Move something higher.
- b) Move slowly from side to side or backwards and forwards.
- c) Make a part of your body longer.
- d) Move something away from you.
- e) Turn quickly in a circle.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

4 Use the verbs in activity 3 and give instructions to your classmates.

Sway from side to side
and lift your arms.

BRILLIANT BLUEBIRD

by Leo Summers

On Saturday, 15 June, the children from the Lovejoy Dance Academy performed a dance version of the Bluebird story. Parents and friends filled the Union Theatre for the 6 o'clock show.

Ms Lovejoy set the dances to music by Prokofiev. All the children had a role in the performance. The youngest children slowly swayed their bodies and waved their arms. For the dance of the butterflies, four dancers jumped and turned quickly in the air.

The highlight of the evening was the amazing performance by Bobby Bond as the Bluebird. Bobby sharply twisted and turned his head and arms and he moved powerfully around the stage. For the last dance, he gently lifted his partner, Jessica, in the air and they danced gracefully together. It was a brilliant performance.



1 Match the sentences to the paragraphs.

Paragraph 1

A description of Bobby's performance.

Paragraph 2

A description of the group dances.

Paragraph 3

Factual information about the show.

2 Find and write the adverbs and verbs that describe movement.

a)

d)

b)

e)

c)

f)

3 Complete the sentences with body parts and words from activity 2. Demonstrate the movement.

arms body hands head hips legs shoulders waist

a) I my

b) I my