Drum Dream Girl

By Margarita Engle & Rafael López



Before Reading: Get Ready

Review the book synopsis with the student to confirm interest in reading the book. Share the title, author, and illustrator. Talk about the cover.

Activate comprehension and set a purpose for reading. Today's book is actually a poem! It was inspired by a true story that I will tell you about after we finish reading. In this poem, a girl wants to play the drums, but was told she could not do so because she was a girl. As we are reading, let's make pictures in our mind and see if we can "hear" in our mind the sights and sounds the girl in the book experiences.

Introduce important vocabulary and ask your student to listen for these words during reading.

- timbales: Timbales are a special kind of drum.
- **cafe**: A cafe is a little restaurant. In our story, people go to cafes to listen to music too.

During Reading: Read Together

Sit side-by-side to share the book. Follow the conversation prompts and invite your student to ask questions or comments connected to the text to ensure their comprehension.

On a piece of paper, label one side "Words and Phrases From Our Book." Label the other side "What I See or Hear." As your student tells you the pictures/sounds (creates images) they see and hear when you are reading, record them on this chart.

- After reading p. 8: What do you think "quiet secret drumbeat dreams" (Note: Write this phrase under the first column on your chart) would look and sound like?
 - A possible response may include that the sounds in the dream would be very quiet and soft, and that the dream would be dark like the night sky.

- After reading p. 10: What do you think "her own imaginary music" (Note: Write this phrase under the first column on your chart) would sound like?
 - A possible response may include that her music would sound happy and loud and have lots of drum beats in it.
- After reading p. 12: What do you think the girl is seeing and hearing? (Write down the words on page 12 under the first column on your chart) would look and sound like?
 - A possible response may include that the girl would see tall trees with lots of happy colors and hear the noise of a breeze blowing and birds chirping.
- After reading the last page of the story: What do you think the girl's "dream-bright music" (Note: Write this phrase under the first column on your chart) would sound like? How would you tap out the drum rhythm?
 - A possible response may include that the music would sound fast and rhythmic, and that you would mostly hear a drum beating.
- Read the "Historical Note" at the back of the book.

NOTE: This book does not have page numbers. These conversation prompts will be marked in the book for your use.

After Reading: Discuss and Extend

After reading, briefly discuss the text and revisit vocabulary words to ensure your student understands text.

- Let's write to respond to this story. (Choose a prompt for student response and copy the selected frame into your student's notebook.)
 - If I were the girl in the story, I would have ____.
 - An instrument I would like to learn how to play is ____ because ____.
 - The author of this book wants to teach us that ____.