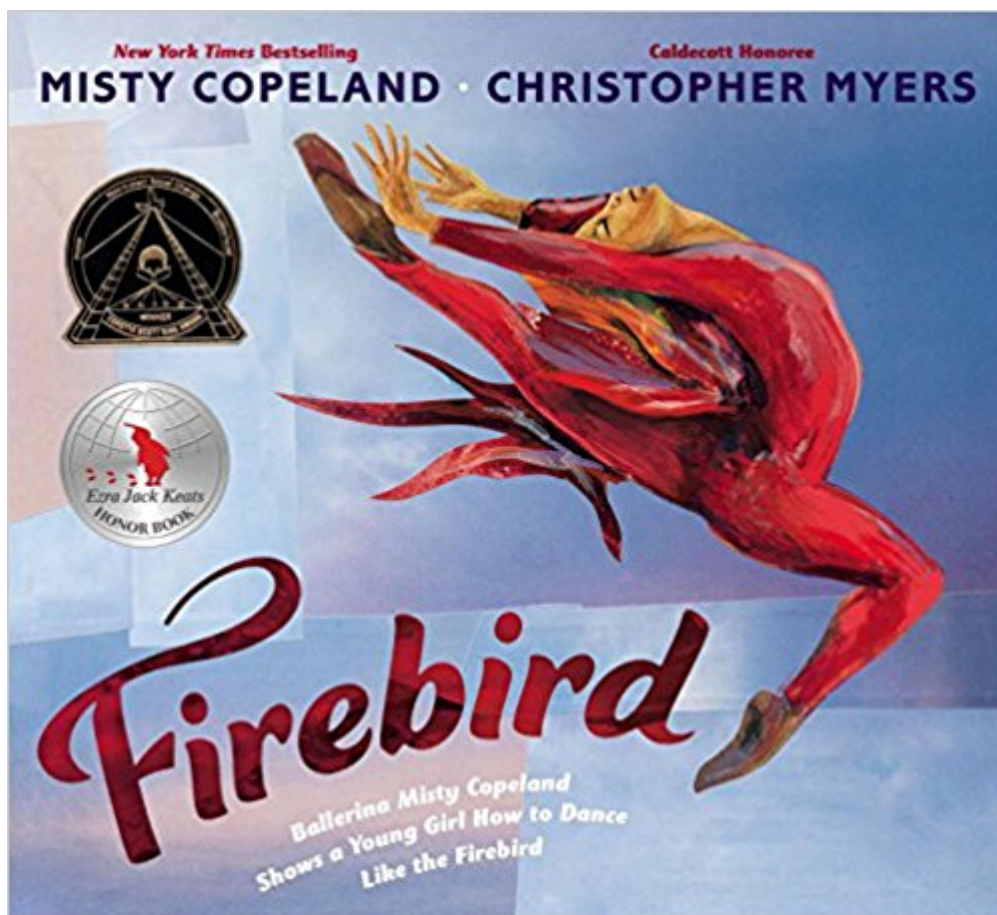


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# Firebird



## 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: 10.2 x 0.3 x 11.3 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 120 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #47,894 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > United States](#) #39 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance](#) #135 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Gr 2-6 • A poetic dialogue between an aspiring young dancer and the American Ballet Theater's soloist comprises the text of this stunning picture book. Copeland provides words of encouragement to boost the dreams of an African American girl whose desire to be a ballerina is hampered by her low self-image and lack of confidence. "I was a dancer just like you," Misty tells her, "a dreaming shooting star of a girl/with work and worlds ahead." Copeland's title role in Stravinsky's *The Firebird* serves as the theme for Myers's signature paint and collage illustrations, which feature full spreads bursting with color and excitement. Elongated forms and slanted geometric shapes are infused with a color palette of browns, yellows, and fiery reds contrasted with cool blues, purples, and splashes of white. Scenes of dynamic action and quiet serenity work

together to move the narrative forward, leaving readers with a sense of hope for the future of the young dancer. The author includes a note that discusses her own struggle and need for affirmation, acknowledging those who helped her along the way. A very successful collaboration, appealing to all and particularly valuable to collections on the performing arts. — Marie Orlando, formerly at Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY

Praise for FIREBIRD: Winner of the 2015 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award Received the 2015 Ezra Jack Keats Book Award New Writer Honor An NPR Best Book of 2014 An Best Book of 2014 — Ages 6-8 An Best Book of the Month, September 2014 Essence Magazine Best Children's Book of 2014 — "The language soars into dizzying heights of lyrical fancy | Myers' artwork... pulsate[s] with kinetic synergy | A starscape filled with visual drama and brilliance. — Kirkus Reviews, starred review — "Ballet dancer Misty Copeland makes her children's book debut with this inspiring love letter to young people, containing breathtaking illustrations of airborne dancers by Caldecott Honor artist Christopher Myers | Brava! — Shelf Awareness, starred review "An inspirational picture book for children daunted by the gap between their dream and their reality." — Booklist — "A poetic dialogue between an aspiring young dancer and the American Ballet Theater's soloist comprises the text of this stunning picture book — which feature[s] full spreads bursting with color and excitement | A very successful collaboration. — School Library Journal — "[A] soaring debut picture book by American Ballet Theater star Misty Copeland | Myers' extraordinary artwork captures the mystique of the Firebird ballet and Copeland's indomitable spirit. This is a tale that will inspire all up-and-comers. — BookPage — "Scenes of an older dancer guiding a young student | reinforce the feeling that Copeland is speaking directly to readers | Myers paints portrait after portrait of Copeland dancing, placing the images against collages of colored paper whose curves, sunbursts, and radiating rays echo the rhythms of the dancers' movements | a strong impact. — Publishers Weekly — "Firebird celebrates optimism — the mentality that you will succeed if you set your mind to it. And we think that's a pretty darn awesome message. — Dance Spirit — "World-renowned ballerina Copeland shows that the power and grace she displays on the stage translates to the page as well, paired with Myers' strong illustrations. — HuffPost Books — "American Ballet Theatre soloist Copeland is just as graceful with words as she is with her body | Myers' stunning collages layer

strips of thickly painted paper to echo the wings of a firebird (Copeland's signature role), whether they are illustrating the stage curtains or a cloudy sky. This book encourages today's aspiring dancers of all colors and backgrounds. •The Horn Book "Misty Copeland's first children's book is destined to become a staple in classrooms and libraries. Copeland's empowering words are matched by award-winning illustrator Christopher Myer's dazzling red and gold hues. •Essence Magazine "Vivid and emotional. Copeland's writing and Myers' art draw you into a beautiful world, rich with color, texture and drama. For all budding young artists who maybe don't have role models they can relate to, this little book provides some inspiration. •NPR Staff Picks, For Art Lovers, Kids' Books

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 wish so much grace. Her message, "the solution is within me", is said with poignancy and sensitivity. Enjoyed Firebird very much!! Kris

I bought this book to read with my 2 year old and she loves it. The pictures are nice, and the different scenes prompt her to ask lots of questions which is awesome. She has not done dance or anything, but it is great to have a book with a ballerina who looks like her. After we read the books a few times, I showed her some videos of Misty Copeland performing and she was mesmerized. Thanks for this book.

My 8 year old niece received the Firebird Barbie doll this year and I felt this book would be a welcomed add on. She enjoys the story and because the doll is pose-able she helps to create the story line..

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.

Wonderful art work and story

We purchased this book for our great granddaughter, who is almost 5. She's always dancing throughout the house like a ballerina, and what better role model for her than Misty Copeland. Wonderfully illustrated. Her PopPop reads it to her often!

Love this! Beautifully written and inspiring!

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.

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