

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

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|--|---|
| <p>1. What was Maria's major impact on the world of ballet?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ She showed the world that women could be more famous than men. Ⓑ She inspired young girls to choose ballet over other forms of dance. Ⓒ She opened the doors of ballet to people of all backgrounds. Ⓓ She led the way for her younger sister to become a famous musician. | <p>3. How are Nijinska and Balanchine alike?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ They both encouraged Maria to open her own ballet company. Ⓑ They both influenced Maria and helped her become a better dancer. Ⓒ They both played the piano while Maria danced. Ⓓ They both came from Native American families, just like Maria. |
| <p>2. Why did Maria's mom enroll Maria in piano and dance lessons at an early age?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ She was a dancer herself as a young girl. Ⓑ She recognized that Maria had a musical gift. Ⓒ She loved the music created by the piano. Ⓓ She worked full time and needed somewhere for Maria to go. | |

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4. Which of the following sentences is an example of the authors expressing their opinion about Maria's dancing?

- Ⓐ *She held the title for thirteen years, until 1965.*
- Ⓑ *Many students whose lives she touched went on to have successful ballet careers.*
- Ⓒ *Never failing to speak her mind, she was also respected for her intelligence and honesty.*
- Ⓓ *Tallchief had a fiery stage presence and was also light on her feet.*

5. George Balanchine was a **choreographer** who started working with Maria and the Russian ballet company.

What is a **choreographer**?

- Ⓐ a person who chooses the style and arrangement of steps and moves for a dance performance
- Ⓑ a group of artists who work and perform together
- Ⓒ a person who is the first to do something new or different
- Ⓓ a type of dance that uses light leaps and turns

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6. What is the main idea of the section "A National Treasure"?
 - Ⓐ After retiring from dance, Maria continued making an impact in the world of ballet by opening the Chicago City Ballet and helping many dancers become successful.
 - Ⓑ Maria Tallchief was the first Native American professional ballerina and the first shining star in American ballet.
 - Ⓒ Maria was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame, which honors extraordinary women's achievements.
 - Ⓓ As the first American prima ballerina, Maria helped inspire a new style of ballet that opened its doors to people of all backgrounds.
7. Which of the following words best describes Maria's personality?
 - Ⓐ boring
 - Ⓑ playful
 - Ⓒ determined
 - Ⓓ lucky
8. What can you infer about the authors' point of view from this book?
 - Ⓐ The authors believe that Europe has the most talented ballerinas in the world.
 - Ⓑ The authors believe that Maria deserves much more recognition than she has received.
 - Ⓒ The authors believe that Maria was a graceful dancer who forever changed the world of ballet.
 - Ⓓ The authors believe that more students should pursue ballet and dedicate themselves like Maria did.
9. What caused Maria to retire from dance in 1965?
 - Ⓐ She wanted to devote more time to her family.
 - Ⓑ She received an injury and was unable to dance.
 - Ⓒ She got pregnant and couldn't dance anymore.
 - Ⓓ She was tired of New York and wanted to move to Chicago.

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10. In the last section of the book, the author states that *Maria Tallchief was an American **trailblazer***. Which words from this section help define the word **trailblazer**?

- Ⓐ *first; inspire*
- Ⓑ *style; ballet*
- Ⓒ *world; star*
- Ⓓ *dancer; grand*

11. **Extended Response:** Why should we remember and honor Maria Tallchief?

12. **Extended Response:** What is one lesson you learned from Maria's story that you can apply in your own life? Explain why.

Quick Check Answer Sheet

Maria Tallchief: Prima Ballerina

Main Comprehension Skill: Author's Point of View

1. Ⓒ *Elements of a Biography*
2. Ⓑ *Cause and Effect*
3. Ⓑ *Compare and Contrast*
4. Ⓓ *Author's Point of View*
5. Ⓐ *Vocabulary*
6. Ⓑ *Main Idea and Details*
7. Ⓒ *Elements of a Biography*
8. Ⓒ *Author's Point of View*
9. Ⓐ *Cause and Effect*
10. Ⓐ *Vocabulary*
11. Answers will vary but should include a summary of Maria's main achievements in her ballet career as described in the book.
12. Answers will vary but should include a life lesson that can be learned from Maria's story.
Sample: After reading about Maria, I learned that she never gave up on her dream to be a famous ballerina, even though there had never been a Native American prima ballerina before. I can apply that in my own life by going after my dreams and never giving up, even if it seems impossible.