



“Evelyn Cisneros, Prima Ballerina” Story Guide

Name _____ Teacher _____

Who is Evelyn Cisneros? a _____

Why was Evelyn shy as a child? _____

Why is it so difficult for people to believe that Evelyn was a shy child? p. 469 _____

When and where was Evelyn born? p. 469 _____ Where did she grow up? _____

Why did Evelyn’s mother enroll her in dance classes? p. 470 _____

Who was Evelyn’s first real ballet teacher? p. 470 _____

Why were Evelyn’s first ballet classes uncomfortable for her? _____

Why did Evelyn work to change the way her left foot turned inward? _____

What did Evelyn do to straighten her rounded shoulders? _____

What is the main idea of the second paragraph that starts on p. 472? _____

Why did Evelyn have to choose between other school activities and dance? p. 472 - 473

“Evelyn taught tap dancing and demonstrated ballet *positions* for younger students.”

What does *positions* mean? p. 472 _____

Why did the San Francisco Ballet School offer Evelyn a summer scholarship? _____

How did Evelyn feel about her dancing after her experience at the San Francisco Ballet School? _____

Why did Evelyn accept a scholarship to the summer session of the American Ballet School in New York City? _____

Was Evelyn happy in New York? Why or why not? p. 474 _____

Why did her parents suggest that Evelyn return to the San Francisco Ballet School? p. 474 _____

How do you think Evelyn felt when she became an apprentice and then a full member of a professional ballet company at such a young age? p. 474 _____

What event made Evelyn famous? _____

Why do you think the author included details about Evelyn's personal difficulties in this story? _____

What is the main idea of the third paragraph on p. 476? (The paragraph begins with "There were professional....") _____

How do you know that the Hispanic community appreciates Evelyn's accomplishments? p. 478 _____

Do you agree with Evelyn that ballet is athletic? Why or why not? _____

Name at least two awards and honors that Evelyn has received from the Hispanic community. _____

How does the author organize this text? (circle one) 1. by importance of events 2. by time order 3. by cause and effect 4. by problem and solution

What quality about Evelyn do you most admire? Why? _____

This story is a biography. What is a biography? _____
