

“Evelyn Cisneros, Prima Ballerina” Story Guide

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_



Vocabulary Power: pp. 464 – 465. Write the context clues that help you understand what each word means or write the glossary definitions.

Flexibility:

Migrant:

Timid:

Thrived:

Scholarship:

Devote:

Apprentice:

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? \_\_\_\_\_

