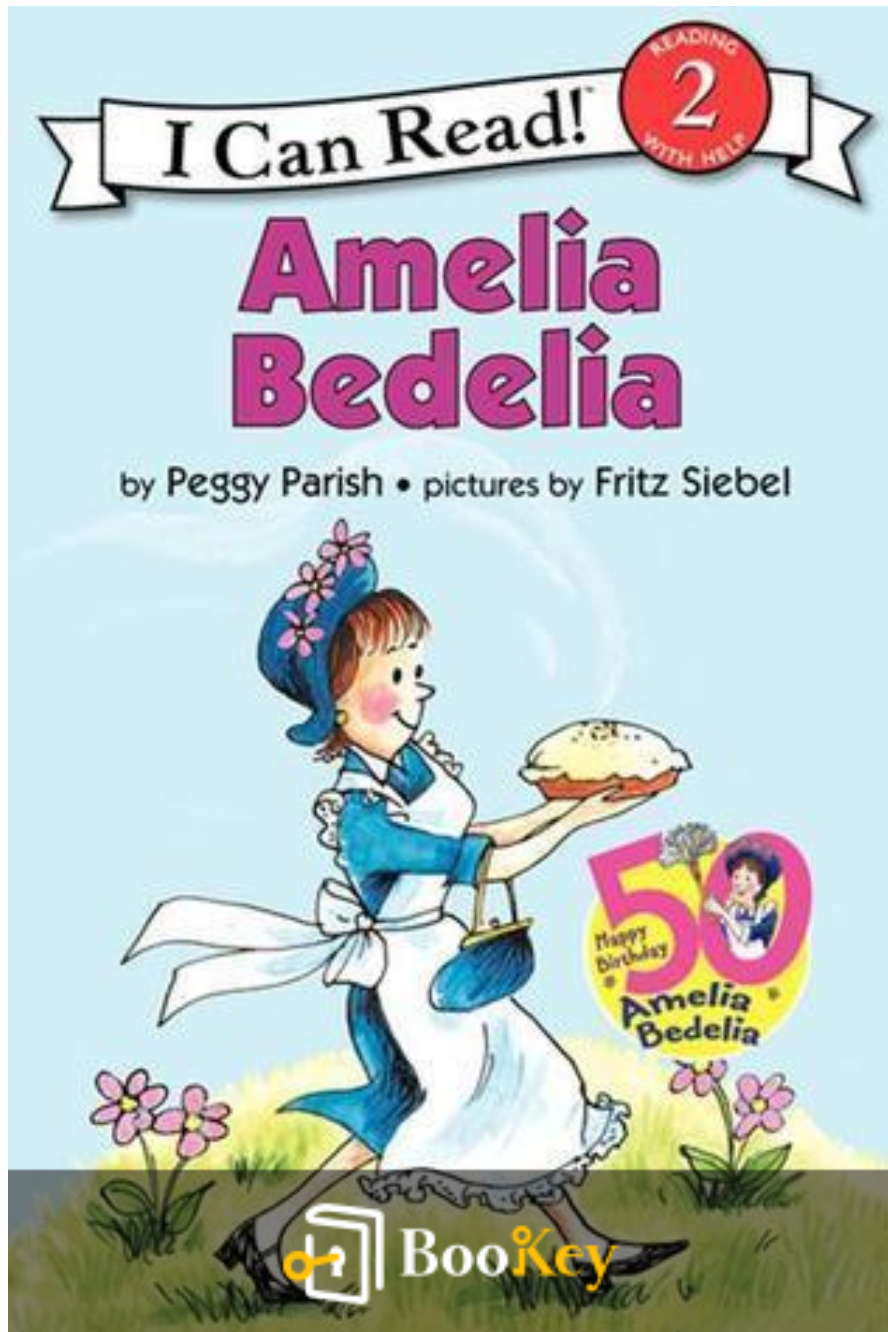


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Peggy Parish



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About the book

Step into the whimsical and charming world of "Amelia Bedelia," where everything is as fresh as her perfectly baked cookies and ready to surprise you with a delightful twist. Authored by the talented Peggy Parish, this beloved classic introduces readers to the loveable and literal-minded housekeeper, Amelia Bedelia, whose hilarious misadventures with figurative language and common expressions keep readers laughing and on their toes. Whether she's "dressing a chicken" in clothes or "drawing the curtains" with pencil and paper, Amelia Bedelia offers a hilarious look at the ups and downs of taking instructions too literally. Join Amelia as she navigates through her everyday tasks with a heart of gold and an unintended sense of humor, charming readers of all ages in this timeless tale of innocent misunderstandings, laughter, and the delightful uniqueness of seeing the world through Amelia's eyes.

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About the author

Peggy Parish, a cherished American author renowned for her delightful children's literature, illuminated the world of young readers with her engaging readability and whimsical charm. Born in Manning, South Carolina, in 1927, Parish cultivated a passion for storytelling from a tender age, a pursuit she adeptly transformed into a fulfilling career. Her teaching experiences imbued her narratives with relatable characters and light-hearted humor, making learning an enjoyable adventure for children. Perhaps her most celebrated contribution to literature is the creation of the endearing and often scatterbrained housekeeper, Amelia Bedelia, whose literal interpretations of idioms create both hilarious misunderstandings and heartfelt moments. Through Parish's unique ability to craft stories filled with warmth and humor, she has left an indelible mark in the realm of children's books, leaving behind a legacy that continues to spark creativity and laughter in the hearts of young readers across generations.

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Chapter 1 Summary: Wanda Dance?

Amelia Bedelia had been eagerly anticipating a special moment all week.

She had completed her homework, prepared a delicious snack, poured a large glass of apple juice, and arranged everything neatly on the table next to her father's beloved recliner. This recliner, upholstered in soft leather, was where her father frequently relaxed to watch sports on TV, often drifting off to sleep in the process. Her mother jokingly referred to it as his "throne," given how much he cherished the seat. Amelia Bedelia knew she wouldn't dare sit in it when her father was home, but fortunately, he was still at work.

Finding herself comfortably nestled in the recliner, Amelia Bedelia mused about how aptly named the piece of furniture was. Unlike other furniture—like an armchair without actual arms—the recliner truly did recline, offering a footrest that popped up with a simple pull of a lever.

Her dog, Finally, placed her front paws on the seat, contemplating joining Amelia in the chair. "Down, girl!" Amelia chided, joking that her 'King Dad' would never approve. Finally settled on the floor beneath the footrest, while Amelia basked in the comfort of the recliner. She directed the remote at the TV and started her favorite show, "The World Is a Village."

This show explored far-flung places around the globe that were new to Amelia, making it captivating. Despite its age, sometimes evident with



episodes in black and white, it offered insight into exotic customs, costumes, and ceremonies. The episode began with the exploration of rainforests, featuring tribal dances and drumming that ignited Amelia's imagination, making her wish for her own drum to play along.

As the announcer described vivid and unfamiliar scenes, such as a feast including the unusual dish of honey-dipped grasshoppers, Amelia's concentration was momentarily disrupted by the inviting aroma of freshly popped popcorn as her mother entered with a bowl. She humorously invited herself next to Amelia on the "throne," sharing the popcorn bounty as they continued watching together.

Interspersed with her mother's questions about the show, which Amelia tried her best to answer despite missing parts of the narration, they enjoyed some playful bantering. However, the arrival of Finally into the recliner set off a chain reaction, sending the bowl of popcorn airborne and spilling its contents, much to their shared amusement.

Their laughter was interrupted by an unfamiliar sound coming from outside. Investigating, they discovered it was Amelia's Aunt Wanda arriving, dressed in a costume with tap shoes that clicked energetically on the walkway. Wanda's exuberant presence was immediately felt, and Amelia excitedly greeted her aunt. Wanda, a dynamic character with a lively spirit, had a proposition: to help set a state tap-dancing record, an unexpected and



thrilling invitation. Intrigued by the prospect, Amelia and her mother prepared to join Wanda on this impromptu adventure.

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Chapter 2 Summary: Who's That Tapping on My Door Street?

Amelia Bedelia, her mother, and Aunt Wanda set off on an unexpected adventure, guided by Wanda's energetic driving. Their destination is Tepper's Department Store, but not for traditional shopping. Instead, they are about to participate in "Tap into Tepper's," a tap dance event held annually, which coincides with the store's big sale. Aunt Wanda provides Amelia Bedelia and her mom with tap shoes, even though they're novices. Wanda's enthusiasm and quick speech earn her the nickname "Motor Mouth" from Amelia's father, but today, her rapid pace will serve them well.

Upon arrival, they join a large crowd of fellow dancers. Dana, a friend of Wanda's, stands on a platform, leading the proceedings in a dazzling red, white, and blue sequined outfit. Through a bullhorn, she gives instructions to the eager participants. Starting with basic toe and heel taps, Dana gradually introduces more complex steps like the "brush-and-drag." Despite some initial confusion over Dana's instructions, Amelia Bedelia gets swept up in the rhythm and excitement of the mass tap lesson.

Amelia is amazed at the unity and sound created by the hundreds of tap dancers. They set a new state record of 348 synchronized dancers, prompting cheers and applause. As the crowd celebrates, a man in tails and a lady in a pink gown catch Amelia's attention. Mistakenly believing his jacket is torn,



she learns about "tails," a design feature in formal dancewear. The man demonstrates an impressive routine using a cane, drawing a crowd and awing Amelia with his skill.

Amelia is introduced to Dana, who she will see more of in the future, hinting at possible future endeavors. The day concludes with Amelia Bedelia's mother suggesting they explore the sale inside the store, creating a blend of excitement from both the dance and the potential shopping spree.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embrace New Experiences With Enthusiasm

Critical Interpretation: In this chapter, you can draw inspiration from the way Amelia Bedelia, her mother, and Aunt Wanda embrace a novel challenge when they join the 'Tap into Tepper's' event. Facing this unfamiliar situation with enthusiasm, despite being novices at tap dancing, illustrates the beauty of jumping into new experiences with an open heart. Their willingness to partake in a communal dance, learn new steps, and enjoy the unexpected journey shows that taking risks and trying new things can lead to joy, unity, and even record-breaking achievements. This serves as a reminder to welcome opportunities to expand your horizons and to engage in shared experiences, as they may spark creativity and open paths to future connections and adventures.



Chapter 3 Summary: Care to Dance? NO!!!

Amelia Bedelia, her mother, and Aunt Wanda return home to a surprising scene; the noise coming from inside makes them think they might need to call the police. As they approach the door, Wanda identifies the noise as a vacuum cleaner. Inside, they find Amelia Bedelia's father valiantly operating the vacuum to clean up popcorn scattered across the family room, much to Wanda's admiration.

An amusing exchange ensues when Wanda mistakenly believes Amelia Bedelia's father is unable to hear her praise, only to find out that her yelling was unnecessary. The conversation then shifts to Amelia Bedelia's mother's recent shopping spree using a credit card, humorously dismissed by the father, who inquires about dinner as he relaxes in his recliner. Amelia Bedelia's mother comments they'll have leftovers, to which Aunt Wanda offers to make her distinctive anchovy-raspberry dressing, causing silent expressions of skepticism between Amelia Bedelia's parents.

Dinner turns out to be a pleasant affair, with Aunt Wanda's dressing surprisingly palatable. Aunt Wanda entertains Amelia Bedelia with amusing stories about her father's childhood, reminding Amelia Bedelia that he, too, was once young like her. After dessert, Aunt Wanda presents part two of Amelia Bedelia's early birthday gift: dance lessons at Dana's School of Dance. This is a bit of a surprise for Amelia Bedelia, who had been secretly



hoping for something more in line with her interests, like a drum set.

Initially disheartened, fearing a focus on ballet, Amelia Bedelia's mother encourages her to express gratitude and consider tapping, which she humorously suggests is akin to drumming with one's feet. Despite some playful theatrics and reluctance, her father's humorous encouragement brings levity to the situation, and Aunt Wanda remains optimistic about Amelia Bedelia's potential for dance, recalling that she picked up tap dancing quickly before.

As tensions rise over the unexpected gift, Amelia Bedelia's mother deftly diffuses the situation by suggesting they clear the table together. In a moment of sincerity, Amelia Bedelia graciously thanks Aunt Wanda and commits to giving the dance lessons a try. A humorous misunderstanding about Aunt Wanda being a "busybody" adds a final note of comedy to the evening, as the family's banter underscores the warmth and complexity of their relationships.



Chapter 4: Say What Kind of Mall?

Amelia Bedelia's introduction to the world of dance begins with her first lesson at Dana's School of Dance. The excitement truly starts when her mother, eager to prepare, scours the town to buy the necessary dance attire. Amelia is amused and slightly puzzled as she examines her new outfit without fully appreciating its purpose. She holds up the snug leotard and questions aloud why something clearly labeled "leotard" didn't have the checkered pattern she expected. Her mother's patience shines as she agrees to the joke, bending the language to fit Amelia's literal interpretation.

Their arrival at the dance school reveals another host of linguistic misunderstandings. When Amelia embarrassingly disputes the mention of a "strip mall," fearing she might have to undress in public, her mother reassures her that they'll enter properly. Once inside, Amelia hesitantly steps into what she imagines must be a daunting environment. Dana, the enthusiastic and welcoming dance instructor, quickly calms any nerves and directs Amelia to join the ongoing class in Studio One.

Inside the studio, Amelia meets her classmates, a vibrant mix of young dancers with varying levels of enthusiasm and expertise. Brad, a tall boy clutching a skateboard, stands awkwardly yet shares an immediate connection with Amelia, mirroring her reluctance. Dana introduces Amelia to her new classmates: the graceful Gracie, lively Willow in a radiant tie-dye



outfit, and the impressively synchronized Hernandez twins, Alex and Alexandra. Amelia is amazed by their skill and intricacy.

Despite her initial concern over not wearing a belt for these new dance moves, Amelia relaxes upon realizing that the phrase was not meant literally.

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Chapter 5 Summary: You Say Flamenco, I Say Flamingo

In this chapter, Amelia Bedelia finds herself amid a bustling scene at Dana's Studio One, which is undergoing some changes. As she arrives, she nearly walks into Brad and Alex, who are handling sheets of plywood, causing a humorous moment of confusion for Amelia. She mistakenly believes the plywood is being used as a sleeping surface, but Dana clarifies that they are to protect the floor for their guest dancers—flamenco dancers.

A misunderstanding ensues about the nature of flamenco, with Brad confusing it for flamingo birds, prompting laughter among the group. Dana explains that flamenco is a traditional Spanish dance characterized by rhythmic footwork, often mistaken due to its similar pronunciation to flamingo, a well-known bird.

Soon, the Españas, a talented flamenco dancing couple, arrive to provide a demonstration. Senor España educates the group about the origins of flamenco, emphasizing its blend of music, song, and dance that produces unique percussion rhythms, which initially puzzles Amelia. Through a live demonstration, where Senora España claps and taps her heels to supplement her partner's guitar, the group gains a deeper appreciation of flamenco's vibrant and percussive nature.

As the Españas perform with increasing tempo, the class is invited to join,



making music with their hands, their claps merging seamlessly with the dancers' steps. Following the performance, the class splits as Senora España teaches the girls some basic flamenco steps, using tap-dancing shoes for a similar sound effect, while Senor España introduces the boys to flamenco guitar rhythms.

In a final dance, Senor España mimics a call-and-response with his wife, combining guitar and movement to create a captivating performance. The sequence concludes comically with Brad humorously maintaining his initial bird association, suggesting that the dancers would look good as lawn ornaments. Amelia Bedelia enjoys the cultural encounter but finds humor and warmth in her mistaken expectations and interpretations throughout this immersive experience.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embrace cultural curiosity and open-mindedness

Critical Interpretation: In this chapter, you witness how Amelia Bedelia's open curiosity and willingness to engage with the unfamiliar world of flamenco dancing lead not only to laughter but also a deeper understanding and appreciation of a new culture. Her innocent misunderstandings initially provide comic relief, yet they serve as a reminder that stepping out of your comfort zone and being willing to embrace new experiences, even at the risk of getting it wrong, enriches your perspective. This chapter inspires you to approach cultural differences with an open-minded attitude, viewing each experience as an opportunity for learning and laughter. By engaging with unfamiliar traditions with respect and curiosity, you invite a broader understanding and gain a deeper connection to the rich diversity that exists in the world around you.



Chapter 6 Summary: The Best Teacher, Barre None

In this engaging chapter of Amelia Bedelia's adventures, we find her both anxious and reluctantly anticipating a ballet lesson, while her friend Gracie is excited for it. The class is awaiting the arrival of Madame Dansova, a prominent ballet mistress invited by Dana, who is their dance instructor. Madame Dansova, although delayed by traffic, is highly respected and known for her expertise with a famous ballet company, dedicated to creating exceptional dancers.

The class begins warming up, and a humorous discussion unfolds as the children, including Amelia Bedelia, muddle through ballet terminologies, which leads to several misunderstandings. Dana explains that many ballet terms are French because King Louis XIV of France founded the first ballet school. This historical nugget helps the class understand why the terminology is so heavily French-influenced.

Madame Dansova arrives and is warmly greeted by Dana. She promptly captivates the class with her description of a ballet company's mission: to produce dancers so graceful that captured audiences are transported to another realm. Amelia Bedelia notices Gracie is entranced by Madame Dansova's words.

When Madame Dansova instructs the class to go to the "barre," it triggers a

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playful misunderstanding with the children, especially Brad, who jokes about being too young for a bar. Dana clarifies that the "barre" they need is the wooden rail attached to the studio walls, used for ballet exercises.

Through Madame Dansova's guidance, along with Dana's demonstrations, the children attempt several ballet movements, including the demi-plié and grand plié. Gracie stands out with her skill, while the rest of the class laughs and topples like dominoes with their attempts, forming a comical heap on the floor. Despite this, Madame Dansova and Dana skillfully direct and correct them, gradually improving their posture and poise.

As the class ends, Madame Dansova promises to teach them the five basic positions of ballet in her next visit, which leaves an exhausted but intrigued Amelia Bedelia curious about what those positions entail. Dana hints at a different surprise for the next lesson, adding to the anticipation. Amelia Bedelia returns home tired yet unexpectedly fond of ballet, pondering over the new and unfamiliar world introduced to her, and even humorously invents her own "sixth position" by sprawling out asleep on a recliner.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embrace the unfamiliar

Critical Interpretation: Even when approached with hesitation, Amelia Bedelia discovers a newfound fondness for ballet by immersing herself in its unfamiliar world. This chapter highlights the importance of stepping out of your comfort zone and embracing experiences that may initially seem daunting or foreign. By doing so, you open doors to unexpected passions, knowledge, and growth, as demonstrated by Amelia Bedelia's growing interest and curiosity towards ballet. Let this inspire you to engage with the unknown and challenge yourself to learn and grow in areas you've never explored before.

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Chapter 7 Summary: Breaking into Dancing

Amelia Bedelia and her mother were unexpectedly delayed by a thunderstorm, causing them to arrive late for Amelia's dance class. When they reached the school, they found a group of familiar faces like Brad, Alex, Alexandra, Gracie, and Willow, along with their guardians, waiting outside a locked door. Gracie wondered aloud where Dana, the usual dance instructor, was.

Amelia Bedelia's mother reassured Gracie that Dana should have been there, but the confusion deepened when three unexpected visitors arrived. They were dressed in basketball jerseys, prompting a misunderstanding. They introduced themselves as Bill, Rita, and Jasper—breakdancers invited by Dana to give a special demonstration, an idea Dana had previously hinted to the class.

The arrival of Wanda, another caregiver, ended the uncertainty as she arrived with the keys to the school. Wanda confided to Amelia Bedelia's mother that Dana had an accident—slipping on wet stairs—and was at the emergency room. Despite her injury, Dana wished for the class to continue with the breakdancers leading the way, so Wanda took charge of the situation.

As the class commenced in Studio One, Bill, Rita, and Jasper impressed everyone with their breathtaking breakdancing skills. They demonstrated



various moves, captivating the students with their seamless spins and complex footwork. The students were excited to learn, but attempting the moves proved challenging. Regardless of their struggles, the class atmosphere was filled with laughter and excitement as they tried to master the basic steps.

On the way home, Amelia Bedelia expressed her concern for Dana, worriedly asking if Dana broke something while they were breakdancing. Her mother reassured her that Dana's injury was from the fall, not from their class session. Back at home, the family was joined by Wanda, who shared that Dana had broken her leg in two places from the fall. When Amelia Bedelia expressed her desire to visit Dana, Wanda gently mentioned that Dana needed rest. Still, in Dana's spirit of perseverance, Wanda promised to keep the class going with guest dancers until Dana's return.

Amelia Bedelia was cheered by the thought of continuing dance classes and excitedly suggested that Aunt Wanda, who was a skilled tap dancer, should showcase her expertise to the class. This new possibility brought a light-hearted end to the day's worries, emphasizing a collective hope for Dana's speedy recovery and the continuation of their dance adventures.



Chapter 8: Ballet—What's the Pointe?

When Madame Dansova heard about Dana's accident, she immediately returned to teach ballet class. Amelia Bedelia, one of the students, was less concerned about mastering the ballet positions than keeping her hair tidy. As the class began warming up, Madame pointed out that Amelia's hair was getting in the way and suggested she wear it in a bun—like the neat, round one at the back of Madame's head. Amelia amusingly wondered which type of bun bread Madame had hidden under her hair but didn't ask as the class started.

Madame introduced the first position, emphasizing that successful dancers must "dance with their ears," urging the students to listen carefully. Amelia Bedelia thought the phrase sounded painful. Madame demonstrated how to hold the arms as if cradling a delicate soap bubble and instructed the class to turn their legs out from the hips to the heels.

Madame noticed Amelia had placed her left foot forward instead of her right. Amelia explained that she preferred her left foot because she's right-handed, claiming it maintained her balance. Madame acknowledged the importance of balance but pointed out she was on the wrong foot. Amelia promptly corrected her stance.

Seeing Amelia struggle with her hair, Madame asked Gracie, a student who



perfectly executed first position, to help Amelia fix her hair properly for ballet. In the dressing room, Gracie revealed how short her own hair was after undoing her bun. Amelia was surprised and asked for the recipe for Gracie's ballet bun.

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Chapter 9 Summary: Salsa Inside and Out

The chapter opens with Wanda bustling into a dance class, juggling grocery bags and breathless from a hectic schedule that has intensified since Dana injured herself. Without time for lunch, Wanda lightens the mood with a suggestion: “Let’s start off with some salsa.”

Alex and Alexandra, the vivacious dancing twins, erupt with excitement. Salsa, their favorite dance, is a family legacy passed down from their parents. Bursting with infectious energy, they demonstrate a series of vibrant steps, mesmerizing the class who can't help but clap along. Their routine consists of a forward and backward movement with pauses, an easy rhythm even beginners can follow. This introduction to Salsa dancing sets the scene for a lively and engaging session.

Wanda, in a playful twist, shares her version of “salsa” by pulling out a jar of the dip from her grocery bag, instructing the class through her own three-step process: open, pour, and scoop with chips. Having skipped lunch, she invites everyone to join her impromptu meal.

The camaraderie peaks as Alex introduces the “famous double salsa”—integrating dance with chip-eating. Humor and fun blend seamlessly as the class partakes in this culinary twist.



Amid the laughter, Wanda notices an elderly couple watching through the window, captivated by the vibrant spectacle. Intrigued, Wanda invites them in to share their story. Bob and Lois Quinn, former ballroom dance instructors, reveal their admiration for the young dancers, reminiscing about their own decades of teaching dance.

Wanda gives the Quinns a warm welcome, encouraging them to partake in both literal and figurative salsa. Graciously accepting, Bob and Lois launch into a graceful rumba, displaying timeless fluidity and synchronicity that leaves the audience spellbound.

A sudden honking interrupts their performance—their bus is waiting. Wanda handles the bus driver's impatience with her customary sass, ensuring the Quinns' safe departure with a promise of a future visit. Bob humorously suggests they could bring a "busload of fossils," like themselves, for a show. This sparks curiosity in Amelia Bedelia, whose innocent love for fossils adds a charming note.

As the chapter closes, Wanda seems contemplative, perhaps scheming her next adventurous plan. Amelia Bedelia observes cues of upcoming excitement, ensuring that life indeed might get more interesting.



Chapter 10 Summary: Difference Makes All the Difference

Amelia Bedelia was excited as she got a ride home from her Aunt Wanda after dance class. During the drive, Amelia expressed her surprise at how much she enjoyed the class, which was a gift from her aunt. Aunt Wanda was relieved, having been worried that Amelia might not enjoy it at all.

Amelia appreciated the diversity of the kids in her dance class, noting how each of them is uniquely different from her school friends and each other. Aunt Wanda encouraged this understanding, highlighting it as a mature perspective. They both agreed that differences among people make life interesting rather than boring.

As they drove, Aunt Wanda proposed an idea that intrigued Amelia—a dance recital. A recital, Aunt Wanda explained, is an event where dancers perform what they've learned in class to showcase their skills to family and friends. Amelia was enthusiastic about the idea.

Aunt Wanda further offered Amelia the role of a choreographer, someone who designs and plans dances. She explained that the best dances tell a story and convey emotions or ideas. Amelia was open to the idea, thinking she might excel in it, having observed her classmates' talents—Willow with art, Brad with skateboarding, Gracie with gymnastics, and Alex and Alexandra



with their adeptness at various dances. Amelia believed that encouraging kids to do what they naturally excel at is important for their growth and happiness.

Section	Summary
Ride Home from Dance Class	Amelia Bedelia is driven home by Aunt Wanda after attending her dance class, a gift Amelia surprisingly enjoyed.
Diversity at Dance Class	Amelia notes the diversity in her class, appreciating the uniqueness of each student, differing from her school friends.
Learning about Dance Recitals	Aunt Wanda introduces the concept of a dance recital, where dancers perform their learned skills for an audience.
Invitation to Choreograph	Aunt Wanda proposes the role of choreographer to Amelia, who is intrigued by designing dances that tell stories and express emotions.
Observing Classmates' Talents	Amelia reflects on her classmates' unique talents and the importance of nurturing individual interests for personal growth and happiness.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Diversity and Appreciation of Differences

Critical Interpretation: By navigating a world filled with a range of personalities and talents, this chapter inspires you to embrace the diverse tapestry of unique experiences around you. Amelia Bedelia experiences joy and wonderment upon realizing how different each of her dance classmates is from one another - each contributing distinct strengths and perspectives. This key point serves as a reminder that acknowledging and valuing diversity in people, their skills, and ideas enriches your life, making it colorful and captivating. By celebrating differences, you cultivate a mindset of acceptance and potential for learning, where every interaction fosters growth and understanding. It empowers you to support others in what they're naturally good at, enhancing community bonds and personal fulfillment. Let Amelia's insights inspire you to approach each situation with curiosity and optimism, recognizing that it's these unique differences that make the world an endlessly fascinating play to dance through.

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Chapter 11 Summary: “Do It for Dana!”

In Amelia Bedelia’s dance class, everyone was excited about their upcoming recital, which they dedicated to their injured friend, Dana. Their slogan, "Do It for Dana," kept them motivated despite challenges. As they brainstormed dance routines, two unexpected groups arrived at the studio, adding an interesting twist to their preparations.

First came dancers from the Polynesian Society, invited to teach the hula—a vibrant dance from the Pacific Islands characterized by its flowing hand movements that tell stories, often about nature and community. Even amidst the recital preparation frenzy, Wanda, the teacher, welcomed them warmly. Alexandra guided the guests to get dressed while Wanda organized the class.

Then entered another ensemble, the Celtic Club, adorned in kilts, ready to showcase traditional dances from Scotland and Ireland. Despite the surprise, Wanda adapted, realizing Dana must have invited them before her accident. The Celtic dancers demonstrated the Highland fling and Irish step dancing, highlighting the intricate footwork and arm positions crucial to Celtic traditions.

As the lesson unfolded, Amelia Bedelia and her classmates sat captivated by the contrasts between the Polynesian dancers’ simple steps paired with expressive hand gestures and the Celtic dancers’ restrained upper bodies but



lively feet. Amidst laughter, they noted a shared element among the dancers: the men's attire, akin to skirts, across both cultures.

The session became interactive and educational when the Polynesian dancers playfully included Alex, dressing him in a grass skirt and teaching him hula moves. The entire class soon engaged in learning and swapping styles. By the end, they mixed the cultures further, with Celtic dancers trying out the hula sway and Polynesians attempting the nimble Celtic footwork, all while sharing laughter and camaraderie.

Amelia Bedelia's heartfelt comment wishing for global unity mirrored the spirit of the day—people from diverse backgrounds coming together harmoniously. Wanda's affirmation that such shared experiences were a promising beginning resonated as they wrapped up an unexpectedly enriching and joyous dance class.

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Chapter 12: Birds of a Feather Dance Together

On the day of her dance recital, Amelia Bedelia's father dropped her off early at Dana's School of Dance. In her haste, Amelia had taken one of her father's prized socks from the laundry to use for her hair bun but ended up giving it back to him. Left without a way to secure her hair, Amelia resourcefully used a forgotten bagel from her backpack, managing to humorously create a makeshift bun without anyone noticing.

The recital drew a large audience, including family and friends as well as various performers and dance troupes, creating a vibrant atmosphere. The recital was dedicated to Dana, the children's beloved dance teacher, who was in a wheelchair due to an injury. As a show of perseverance and support for Dana, the recital reflected the hard work and creativity of the students.

The program began with Willow, who creatively combined modern dance with painting, using a jazz saxophone solo as her backdrop. Her performance wowed the audience when she revealed an abstract portrait of a saxophonist. Following Willow, Brad showcased his break-dance skills with a unique twist by incorporating a skateboard, earning enthusiastic applause.

As the recital transitioned to Hawaiian music, Amelia Bedelia and her friends performed a whimsical dance, simulating ocean waves with long blue fabric. The fun continued with Alex, who joined them in a grass skirt,



and the surprising inclusion of Scottish bagpipes when Brad, in a kilt, skateboarded as if surfing. This imaginative piece left Amelia Bedelia's parents both amused and impressed.

The recital proceeded with a lighthearted interpretation of a "pas de deux"

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Chapter 13 Summary: Wanda Around

The lively celebration at Dana's School of Dance spills joyfully onto the streets, as Wanda leads a cheerful conga line outside to the parking lot. Along the sidewalk, tables are laden with a variety of delectable treats—cupcakes, pies, and lemonade—awaiting the enthusiastic dancers and their supporters.

Amelia Bedelia, known for her literal interpretations and humorous mishaps, carries the conga drum to join the festivities with Alex on guitar and Alexandra on ukulele. The whimsical music conjures memories of her favorite show, "The World Is a Village," now only airing reruns. She imagines how their vibrant celebration, with performers in elaborate costumes—one dancer adorned with feathers under her arms and others dressed as giant flamingoes or in grass skirts and kilts—would have perfectly fit the show's theme of cultural diversity and community spirit.

Her father, calling her "Bagel Bun" teasingly notes that she smells like his favorite deli. Despite his playful jest about her using cream cheese to slick her hair back, Amelia Bedelia is touched by his pride. Her mother affectionately pulls her into the conga line, expressing her admiration for Amelia Bedelia's courage and dedication in taking dance lessons. This supportive gesture underscores the value of embracing new challenges and learning through fun experiences.



Overwhelmed with gratitude, Amelia Bedelia stops to embrace her mother, prompting a heartfelt "family hug." Her father and Wanda soon join, creating an "extended family hug," as they all bask in the warmth of familial bonds. This touching moment resonates with the music and laughter surrounding them, highlighting the importance of family, friendship, and community in celebrating achievements and shared joy.

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