



Book Study:

BALLERINA DREAMS

FROM ORPHAN TO DANCER

Literacy activities created by:

The Curriculum Corner

Name: _____

What I've learned about Michaela DePrince

Find facts and complete the graphic organizer. You will need to use the book and research on-line to find the answers.

Michaela DePrince was born in

(place)

Birth date: _____

What do we learn about Michaela's birth parents?

Michaela is close with one girl at the orphanage.
Tell about her here...

How is Michaela treated by many of
the children at the orphanage?

Name: _____

Supporting Your Beliefs

Use the book to complete the graphic organizer.

One word
that can
describe
Michaela
is:

Share three events or ideas from the book that support your word.

dreamer

courageous

hard worker

active

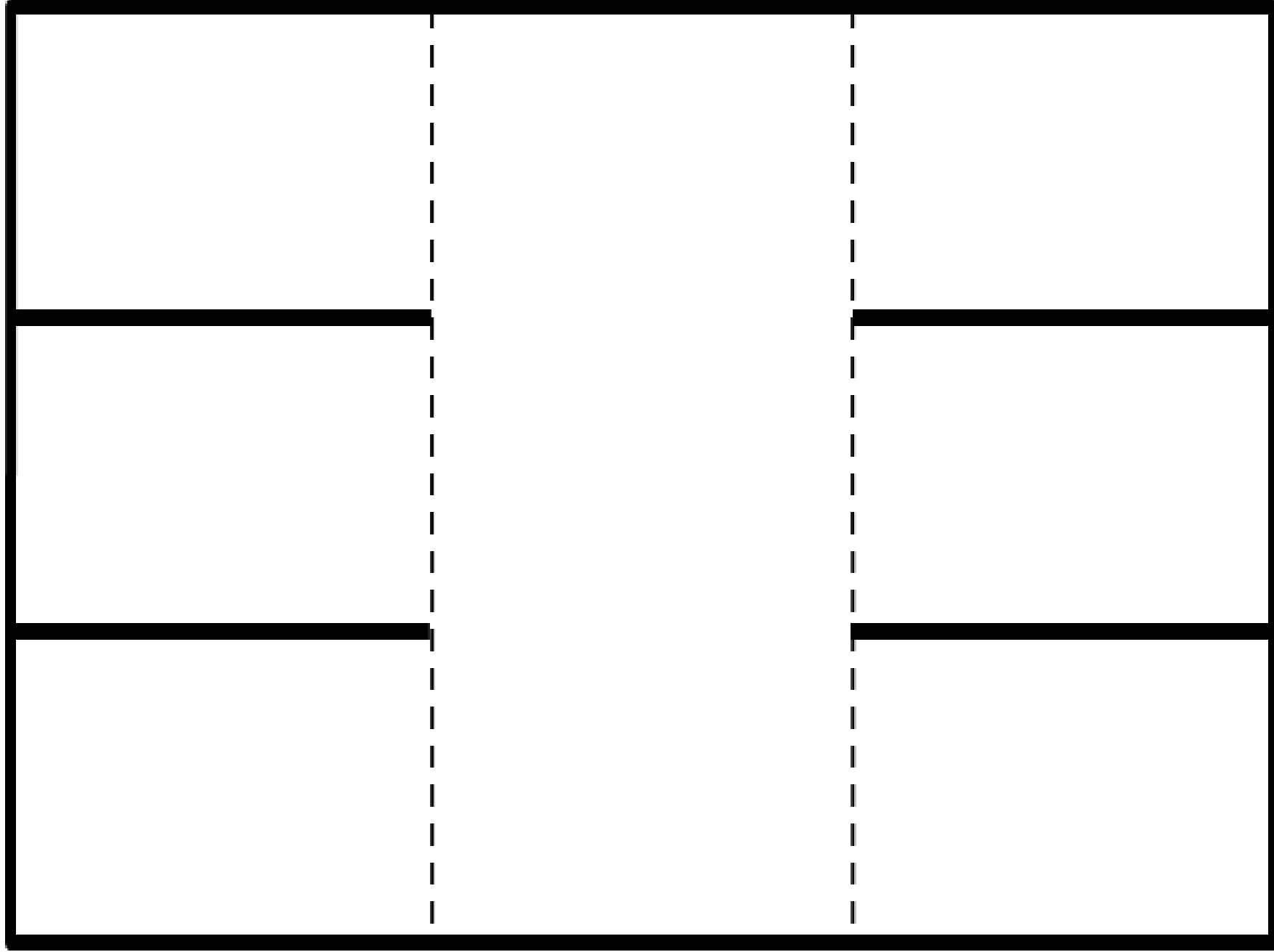
athletic

disciplined

daring

afraid

determined



Name: _____

Thinking about Michaela

Do you know anything about Michaela, her birthplace of Sierra Leone or ballet?	SCHEMA
Share how you felt as you read pages 8 through 10, what you saw in your head & questions you have.	THINKING
Share what connections you can make to the reading. (It might be about school or a challenge you have faced.)	CONNECTIONS
Share how your thinking has changed or what you understand now that you did not before. Or, share how what you have read has made you feel.	SYNTHESIZING

Name: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

Problem & Solution

A problem Michaela faced:

This is what the text told me about the problem:

This is what the text told me about the solution.

Name: _____

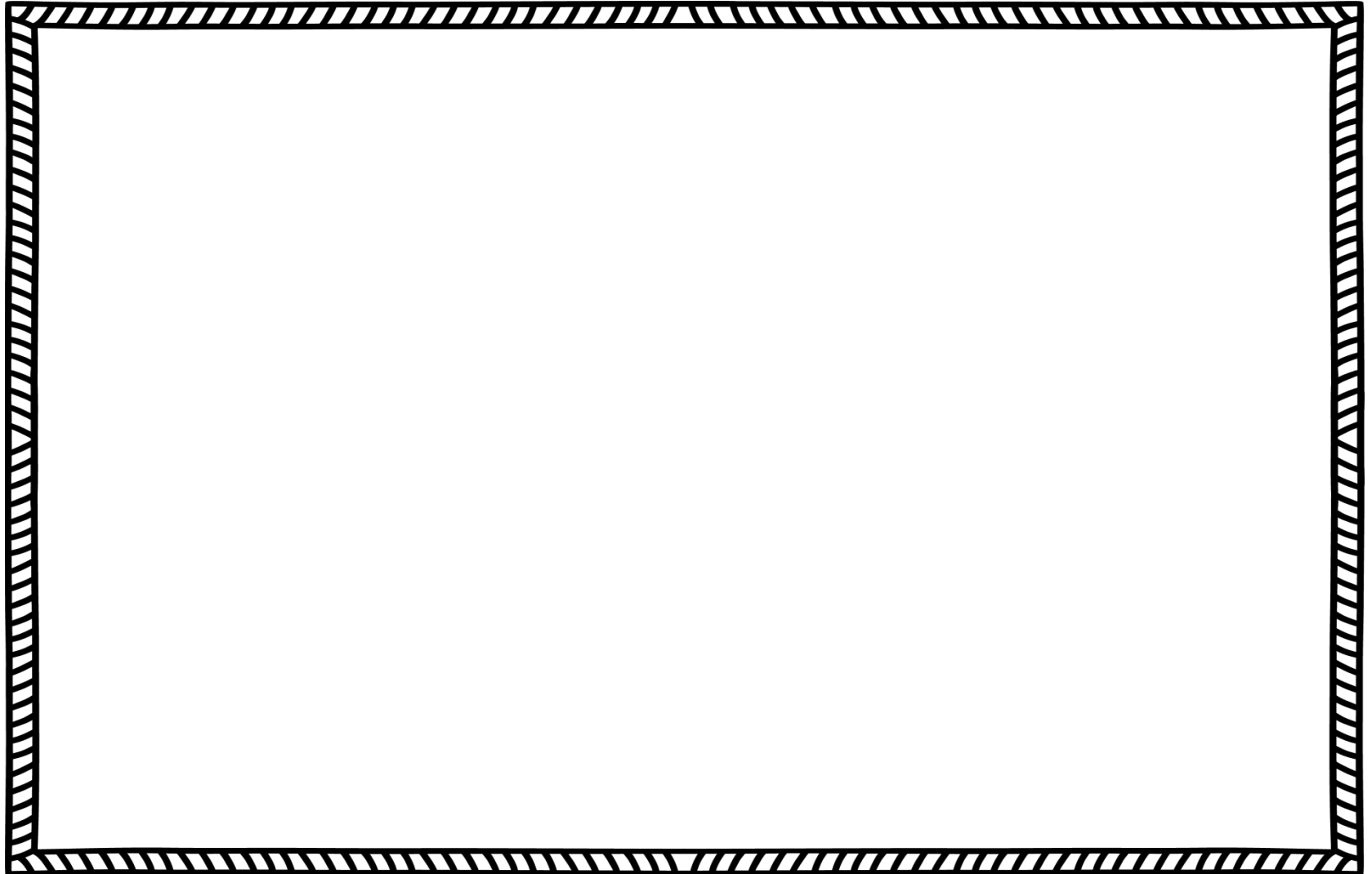
Comparing Lives

	Me	Michaela
Where we live / lived as children		
Challenges		
Dreams		

Name: _____

Every dream begins with one step. After that, you must work hard and practice every day. If you never give up, your dream will come true.

~ Michaela DePrince



Michaela DePrince

Share three words that you would use to describe Michaela's life in Sierra Leone.

Every dream begins with one step. After that, you must work hard and practice every day. If you never give up, your dream will come true.

What is a dream you have? What is one thing you can do to help you reach your goal?

Life in Sierra Leone

Use pictures to show how the girls supported each other.

Michaela had to work very hard.

Share two examples in the book that show she worked hard to reach her goal.

Hard Work Pays Off

Use pictures to show how Mia worked hard to reach her goal.

Michaela and Mia have a special relationship. How did they support each other when they lived in the orphanage?

Forever Friends

Use pictures to show your answers.

Michaela overcame many obstacles to reach her dream. Tell about two obstacles she faced.

Overcoming Obstacles

Name: _____

Cause & Effect

Name two events that happened in Michaela's life. Next, write the effect each event had on Michaela's life.

Cause	Effect

CAUSE

EFFECT

Michaela's
parents died in
the war.

Michaela was sent
to live in an
orphanage.

The director and
children in the
orphanage needed a
safe place to live.

They traveled by foot
through the
mountains and jungle
to leave the country.

Michaela showed her
new mama a picture
of a ballerina.

Her mama said
she could take
ballet lessons.

Michaela
practiced every
day.

When Michaela was seven and a half, she was ready to dance on her toes.

Michaela was in a documentary called First Position.

Many people wanted to know more about Michaela.

Many girls wrote Michaela messages about the movie.

Michaela felt brave. She thought she might be able to inspire others to study ballet.

Name: _____

Reading Response

Share something Michaela did that shows she is a hard worker.

Name: _____

Reading Response

Share something Michaela did that shows she is a hard worker.

Name: _____

Reading Response

What is one dream you have? What can you do to achieve your goal?

Name: _____

Reading Response

What is one dream you have? What can you do to achieve your goal?

Name:

3-2-1

The topic is:

3 things I learned

2 questions I have

1 opinion I have

Name:

3-2-1

The topic is:

3 things I learned

2 questions I have

1 opinion I have

Name: _____



What would she say?

What would Michaela say to her followers on Facebook?
Write two Facebook posts you think she would share.

Two sets of horizontal lines for writing, each set enclosed in a dashed rectangular border. Each set contains four lines.

Name: _____

Making Words

Use the letters in the word below to make new words. List all of the real words you think of.

BALLERINA

A

A

E

I

B

L

L

N

R

Michaela

DePrince

was

born

in

the

country

Sierra
Leone

.

Michaela

dreamed

of

becoming

a

famous

ballerina

someday

.

Michaela

and

Mia

became

sisters

when
they

were

adopted
together

.

Michaela

has

had

many

roles

in

different

ballets

.

She

tells

others

to

work

hard

and

practice

.