

“Dancer” by Vickie Sears

1. **Character:** Make a chart with 2 columns, one recording Clarissa's characteristics when she first came to the foster home, and the other noting how her demeanor and behaviour changed after living there for awhile.
2. **Theme:** Read the final paragraph of the story again. Write down your ideas about the meaning of the statement: "That's when I saw that old Eagle woman come down and slide right inside of Clarissa, scooping up that child." How does the last paragraph as a whole relate to the theme of the story?

Finding your place in the world, how the woman embraced Clarissa, she became a part of her culture.

3. **Vocabulary:** This story uses a lot of words that refer specifically to aspects of Aboriginal culture. List these words, research their meanings, and create a glossary. You should complete this in chart form, similar to what is shown below.

Term	Inferred Meaning	Actual Meaning	Reference Source
Powwow			
Owl Dance			

4. **Mood vs. Tone:** Look up the difference between mood and tone. What is the tone of the story altogether? What is the mood of this passage?:

We all danced an Owl dance, a Friendship dance, and a couple of Circle dances. Things was feeling real warm and good, and then it was time for the women's traditional. Clarissa joined the circle. She opened her arms to something nobody but her seemed to hear. That's when I saw that old Eagle woman come down and slide right inside of Clarissa, scooping up that child. There Clarissa was, full up with music. All full with that old, old spirit, letting herself dance through Clarissa's feet. Then Molly Graybull come dancing alongside Clarissa, and they was both the same age.

5. **Writing:** Complete 1 different diary entry from Clarissa's point of view. Your diary entry should cover one of the points listed below. You will be handing these in, so ensure you proofread for grammar and spelling. Make sure to include Clarissa's thoughts and feelings surrounding the events in her life.
 - a. After Clarissa first came to the new foster home.
 - b. After Clarissa went to the first dance.
 - c. After Clarissa dances the Circle dance at the end of the story.