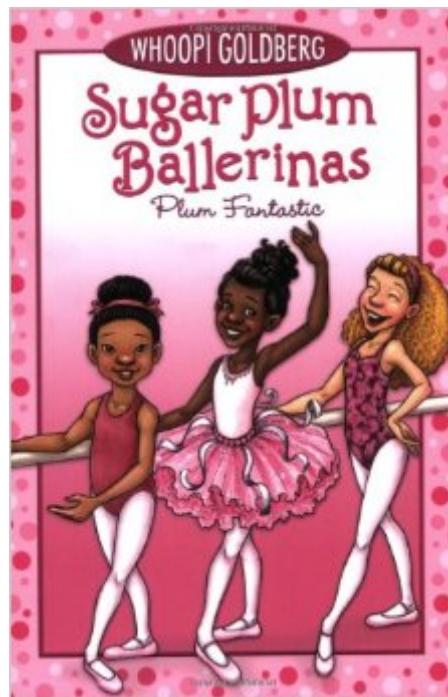


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# Sugar Plum Ballerinas #1: Plum Fantastic



## **Synopsis**

Alexandrea Petrakova Johnson does not want to be a beautiful ballerina, and she does not want to leave her friends in Apple Creek. Unfortunately, that doesn't stop her ballet-crazy mother from moving them to Harlem, or from enrolling Al at the Nutcracker School of Ballet. Life is hard when you're the new ballerina on the block, and it's even harder when you're chosen to be the Sugar Plum Fairy in the school recital! Not only is Al a terrible dancer, but she's also got a rotten case of stage fright! Al's ballet classmates are going to have to use all the plum power they've got to coach this scary fairy!

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 650L (What's this?)

Series: Sugar Plum Ballerinas (Book 1)

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Jump At The Sun (October 21, 2008)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.5 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (171 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #4,864 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Moving #9 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance #35 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences

Age Range: 1 - 9 years

Grade Level: 2 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

This is a wonderful book. The story is engaging and believable, the characters are fully fleshed out, and the illustrations are terrific. Kids will relate to Alexandrea's struggles to adapt to her new life in Harlem, and her efforts to deal with her well-meaning stage mother. Funny and heartwarming, I really cared what happened to Alexandrea and her mother, and I can't wait for the next book in the series. Kudos to Goldberg and her coauthor Deborah Underwood for creating a world kids will want to come back to over and over again!

I learned about this book, authored by Whoopie Goldberg, while watching the "View" and decided to give it a try. This is a wonderful story that my granddaughter just loves. She is now four, knows the characters by name and though she can read some, asks me to read from the book all the time. Mike Colgan

We got this book as a gift and I have been reading it aloud to my 10 year old boy and 6 year old girl. They love it and can't wait for the next installment to come out next spring! A wonderful, innovative story that is very "real" with a main character that tinged with just the right amount of sarcasm. Tempo is good and the imagery is descriptive enough for those getting used to hearing chapter books aloud.

Alexandrea Petrakova Johnson is not crazy about ballet, but her mother is. So much so, she has filled Alexandria's room with everything ballet. Her bedroom mirror has pink ballet shoes painted around it, she has pink ballet shoe drawer handles, the lamp, comforter and pillowcases have ballet shoes too. Her mother was so obsessed with all things ballet that she moved them to Harlem New York so that Alexandria could attend the Nutcracker School of Ballet and so that she could get a job designing costumes. Ms. Debbe, the ballet instructor, announces that there will be a drawing for the Sugar Plum Fairy dance. All the class is excited with the exception of Alexandria. She is not interested at all and feels that her chances are slim of being picked, because she has the competition of 23 other students. But as fate would have it, she is picked to be the Sugar Plum Fairy. Alexandria is worried that she won't be able to learn the routine and once on stage, she will make a complete fool of herself in front of lots of people. When she watches her favorite speed skater on television actually doing a ballet routine, she begins to have hope. She will need lots of help from her new friends at the Nutcracker school. Alexandria is having fun and bonding with her new friends, until she comes home one day to find her mother has packed them up after two months of living in New York. Goldberg has done an excellent job of introducing this wonderful story of ballet. Moving to a new town and making friends is tough for anyone. This is a quick read and a hilarious story that young girls will relate to. The back of the book has the definitions of the ballet terms used.

I bought the first two books of this wonderful series before my daughter actually started reading a couple years ago. Now that she is in the first grade, this series has helped to give her an excitement for reading that I had when I was young reading Judy Blume. Hurray Ms. Whoopi for giving us some

books for our little girls to see themselves in. The Sugar Plum Sisters are a very recognizable group of young girls with real life issues. My daughter absolutely loves this series and we can't wait for the next book to come out! The stories are wonderful and believable. Definitely food for thought for young minds. If you don't have any children of your own, please consider buying for someone else's child!! You are the best Ms. Whoopi and thank you AGAIN!

This book was purchase for my great granddaughter for her birthday. She is 7 and can't quite read it alone. Her Nana reads it with her. But she love the book so I am happy with it as well. Especially since these girls look like her.

This book was great. Perfect reading for a 7-8 year old. The storytelling really drew me and my daughter in. She was excited about going to bed so that she could read to me. She was a little hesitant about reading a chapter book, but after reading the second page she was hooked. My reason for getting this book was so my daughter could have characters she could relate to. I liked the fact that there where characters that looked like her. I think she made a better connection with them because of that. This was want I wanted for her plus some. She can read this on her own or with me or her father. Can't wait to finish the series.

My daughter received this book for Christmas. She is six years old and we are reading it together. It is so good. It reminds me of being a kid growing up. The kids in the book tease each other and my daughter and I talk about the book. My daughter does not like to practice reading. However, she laughed out loud at Brenda talking backward and Tiara girl highmindedness. It is the first time since she has begun reading that she has been excited about a book. I would never have bought a book written by a celebrity. However, I am grateful that someone did and gifted us with this book. It is a true gem for young girls.

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