

## Core Skills Analysis

### Arts and Theatre Studies

- Cameron learned how ballet performances use visual elements like costumes and colours to convey character traits and narrative groups effectively.
- She was introduced to the concept of symbolism in the arts, noticing how colour choices communicate themes such as good versus evil and social roles within the story.
- By discussing the merging of colours (purple) to depict unity between characters, Cameron gained insight into how artistic techniques enhance storytelling in performing arts.
- Cameron developed an appreciation for ballet despite initial reluctance, showing openness to new art forms and experiences.

### Critical Thinking and Social Awareness

- Cameron reflected critically on the association of 'black' with evil in the production and identified how such symbolism could have negative social implications, such as reinforcing racial stereotypes.
- She demonstrated an ability to question and analyse cultural messages embedded within artistic works.
- This activity fostered her awareness of potential biases in storytelling and encouraged empathy and thoughtful observation about social justice.
- She engaged actively in a dialogue about the ethics of symbolic representation, which enhances moral reasoning skills.

### Tips

To build on Cameron's interest and emerging critical thinking, consider exploring other performances or stories that use symbolism, comparing how different cultures or authors represent themes like good and evil. Engage Cameron in creating her own artwork or stories using colour symbolism to express ideas or emotions, helping her to internalize these concepts creatively. It would also be valuable to discuss the historical context and evolving meanings of colours and symbols in various societies to develop a deeper cultural understanding. Finally, encourage reflective conversations after performances or books that address sensitive social topics, bolstering empathy and nuanced thinking.

### Book Recommendations

- [The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art](#) by Barb Rosenstock: This picture book tells the story of Wassily Kandinsky, who used color and shape to express emotions, perfect for understanding how art conveys meaning.
- [Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness](#) by Anastasia Higginbotham: A gentle, age-appropriate introduction to concepts of race and bias, helping children reflect critically on social issues.
- [The Story of the Ballet: The Swan Lake](#) by Christine Isom-Verhaaren: An engaging book about the famous ballet 'Swan Lake' and its story, costumes, and choreography, ideal for young ballet enthusiasts.

### Learning Standards

- ACADRM029: Respond to and interpret artworks, including theatre, by identifying key features such as costume and symbolism.
- ACELT1595: Interaction with literature and performances to develop understanding of different perspectives and cultural contexts.
- ACPPS057: Explore emotional awareness and social skills through discussion about symbolic meanings and their societal impact.
- ACELY1682: Create literary texts that use language features stylistically to represent ideas and

characters.

### **Try This Next**

- **Colour Symbolism Worksheet:** Create a chart for Cameron to assign colours to characters or emotions in her favourite stories or movies.
- **Write a Short Story:** Prompt Cameron to write a brief story using colours to symbolically represent different characters or moods.
- **Role-Play Activity:** Re-enact scenes using costume colours to discuss how visual choices influence perceptions.
- **Art Project:** Design costumes on paper using specific colours to convey particular traits or themes.

### **Growth Beyond Academics**

This activity revealed Cameron's growing curiosity, open-mindedness, and emotional maturity. Initially hesitant, she overcame her reluctance to appreciate ballet and engaged critically with complex social ideas like symbolism and racism. This reflects burgeoning self-confidence, empathy, and independent thinking as she processes and discusses nuanced perspectives.