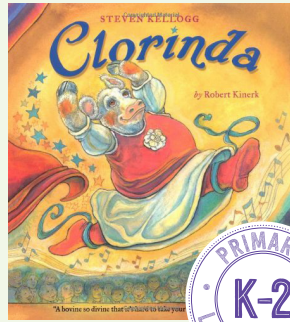


# Clorinda

by Robert Kinerk and illustrated by Steven Kellogg

## Themes

Do Your Best  
Never Give Up  
Uniqueness of Me  
Determination  
Self-Acceptance  
Humility  
Courage  
Following Dreams  
Encourage Others



Clorinda the Cow loves to dance even though her farm friends tell her she can't dance. Farmhand Leonard is the only one who encourages her to be bold and imaginative and shoot for the sky! Clorinda's determination and "Never Give Up" attitude takes her on an amazing adventure where she learns that the most important thing is to always "Do Your Best."

### Key Vocabulary

**Remote:** a far distance away from town  
**Mischance:** an unfortunate incident or accident  
**Scoffed:** make fun of  
**Throb:** mild, steady pain  
**Theatrical agent:** person who helps actors and dancers get hired for jobs  
**Indisposed:** temporarily not available  
**Fervent:** with great feelings  
**Hushed:** to become quiet  
**Gasped:** sudden breath because of surprise  
**Stunned:** shocked or amazed  
**Triumph:** joy from victory or success  
**Nimble:** with quick, gentle, easy movements  
**Planks:** piece of wood or board

### Ballet Terms

**Pirouetting** (peer-oo-wetting): twirling around on one foot  
**Corps de ballet** (core, di, bah-lay): large group of dancers  
**Jetes** (zhe-tays): from French word – to throw. Dancer jumps and weight is thrown from one foot to the other.  
**En barre:** dance stretches and exercises using a bar attached to the wall  
**Bravo and Bravissima:** expressions to say "well done"

### Tricky Phrasing

**"Buck Up":** cheer up and don't be discouraged  
**"Pounded the pavement":** means to walk through the streets looking for job

**Teacher Note:** NED reminds kids to do their best at everything!  
"Even if you can't do something as great as someone else – you should always try to do YOUR personal best. That's what makes you a champion at school and in life!"

## Before Reading: Discussion Starters

1. Have you ever wanted to try something but thought you couldn't do it?
2. Do you know anyone who said they couldn't do something, but when they tried, they could do it?
3. What if you loved doing something but weren't very good at it - would you keep doing it? How would you feel if others told you to stop trying?

## After Reading: Discussion Starters

1. What made Clorinda want to try to dance? She watched a show on classical dance. She really liked what she saw and wanted to try.

# Clorinda

by Robert Kinerk and illustrated by Steven Kellogg

2. Those around Clorinda had different reactions to her dancing. How did they respond and who was most NED-like? *The farmhand Leonard supported her by building a stage for her. But, the other animals said she couldn't do it and even called her names. Leonard was most NED-like when he told her to be bold, be imaginative and "Never Give Up" on what she loved.*
3. How did Clorinda respond to her critics? *She cried because it hurt but she never gave up and listened to the encouraging words of one friend – Leonard.*
4. What did Clorinda do to help herself reach her goals? *Practiced hard, moved to New York, searched for dancing jobs, worked other jobs while waiting, didn't get discouraged by the rejections, cried yet she never gave up trying to do her best!*
5. Did Clorinda do her best? Was her best as good as someone else's best? Why did she receive applause at the end of the performance? *Clorinda did her very best at all times. Sometimes, it was just as good as others, but in the end she failed at the big jump. The audience applauded because she did her best, even though she missed.*
6. Have you ever done your very best and failed? *Answers will vary. Allows students to share their stories and help them to see that what is important is doing your best at all times.*
7. How did Clorinda's friends change at the end? *They were willing to try something new, like ballet.*



PRINTABLE:

Story Writing



PRINTABLE:

Good, Better, Best

## Writing Prompt

Use the printable to tell the story of a time when you tried something and failed. What did you learn? What happened when you didn't give up and continued to "Do Your Best"?

## Activities

**Self Reflection** When you do your best, sometimes things you do are 'good' or 'better' or 'best.' You don't have to be the best at everything – you just need to "Do Your Best"! Using the printable assessment, direct student to make a list of 10 things they like to do. They can rate themselves on their effort level for each item and think of ways to improve.

**Movement Activity: Beat Your Best!** As a group, jump on one foot and count the jumps. When you miss, sit down and write down the number of jumps you successfully made. Keep going until everyone has a number. Afterward, discuss: *How many of you think you did your best? Could you do a little better? Let's try to BEAT YOUR BEST by jumping again and trying your best to jump two more times than your previous number.*

**Post it!** Make posters for your school to encourage others! Focus on determination and perseverance and show your classmates that success is within your reach if you "Never Give Up" and "Do Your Best."

Resources

Accelerated Reading Quiz: 74022  
Author Website: [www.robertkiner.com](http://www.robertkiner.com)

"I Did My Best" Button

NED buttons are a great reward when students do their personal best! Visit [www.ShopNED.com](http://www.ShopNED.com) to purchase.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Make a list of 10 things you like to do. Score yourself on your effort. What could you do to 'Do Your Best' - not necessarily be the best - at each of them.



Score yourself:

THINGS I LIKE TO DO!

GOOD

better

BEST

Are you doing your best?  
If not, what could you do to "DO YOUR BEST"?

	GOOD	better	BEST	Are you doing your best? If not, what could you do to "DO YOUR BEST"?
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				