

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Read this article about rejecting ballet and then answer the questions.

It is very odd that no one is afraid of the word "dance" and no one would object to the phrase "let's go dancing," but mention "ballet" and people start complaining. These social prejudices come from several misconceptions and from certain historic facts. Ballet is the western theatrical dance form that developed over a period of four centuries. It has always depended upon government or royal support for its life. In more modern times, this support came from wealthy people who attended the ballet in beautiful theaters in some of the world's great cities. People have therefore come to see ballet as a cultural form, unfamiliar to anyone who does not come from a particular city or a particular class. Over time, ballet has developed its own language, one that many ordinary people do not understand. Being a ballet dancer involves seven years of very difficult training from an early age, yet anyone can dance at a social gathering, give a certain amount of effort and derive the physical benefit of both male and female dancers in very applied, and costuming is so essential in many cases, with its tight slippers, and tights. For these reasons, it is not possible for the general public to have the kind of identification with a ballet dancer that they often feel for an actor, film star, or athlete.

It is also strange that a visual art that speaks directly to the eye, in the same way a soccer match or Olympic gymnastic cannot do, will people apprehensive. Too often people stay away from ballet because they think they will not "understand" it. However, they never seem to find this problem when they watch popular ice dance championships on television. Nor are they afraid to express their opinions and sometimes disagree with the judges' decisions. People enjoy watching sports because they enjoy its physical nature. They appreciate athletes' superbly conditioned bodies working at maximum efficiency. If people only looked at dancing—any form of dancing—in the same way they appreciate sports, there would be fewer prejudices to overcome.

It is better to look at dancing with a completely untrained eye. If