

DANCE OF THE DEER BY REBECCA HINSON

(HISTORY/NONFICTION)

Questions for *Dance of the Deer* by Rebecca Hinson

LEVEL 1: What does it say?

General Understanding

- How specifically does the text describe the Dance of the Deer? Who are the characters of the dance?

Key Details

- What specific details from the text describe the conflict that the Maya hunters faced?
- How does the hunter resolve this conflict?
- How long have the Maya been performing the dance? What does the text say or infer?

LEVEL 2: How does it work?

Vocabulary

- What is a *marimba*?
- Who is *Mother Earth*?

Structure

The author explains the origin of the Dance of the Deer and the origin of the Dominican carnival in *Carnival Masks*. How are her explanations similar and different? Compare and contrast the author's presentation of traditional characters in the two books.

Author's Craft

- *Dance of the Deer* and *Carnival Masks* both explain the historical significances of masks in two different events from Central America and the Caribbean. Compare the author's point of view in these two texts.

LEVEL 3: What does it mean?

Author's Purpose

- Does the author aim to interpret the dance as a legendary tradition or as a historical reenactment? What evidence do you find in the text?

Intertextual Connections

- The Dance of the Deer is performed in many countries of Central America. Observe the following versions of the dance on YouTube.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzOGmK2_r6k

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2npNtRk_Kc&list=PLfyVr1Ipkam0J1J_kiE_GWmdvGQQ29hbf

How do those dances compare with the one in *Dance of the Deer*?

LEVEL 4: What does it inspire you to do?

Opinion with Evidence or Argument

- Analyze two or more YouTube videos of the Dance of the Deer. Explain the dance as it is performed in at least two different countries of Central America. Which version is the most powerful representation of the story? Why?

Sources

Rebecca Hinson, *Carnival Masks*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzOGmK2_r6k

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2npNtRk_Kc&list=PLfyVr1Ipkam0J1J_kiE_GWmdvGQQ29hbf