

If you only have 15 minutes ...

Watch the video of Andrew Nemr, "[Andrew Nemr Taps Into Story](#)," in which he performs his unique mix of tap dance and storytelling. As you watch the video, use the summary points below to guide your viewing. Watch the video as many times as you need.

Video Segment (5:12) Summary Points

- Andrew Nemr says, "It's not about trying to do a new thing. It's just about trying to do a thing well."
- Watching the challenge scene in the movie *Tap* influenced Andrew so much he fell in love with tapdancing.
- As a storyteller, Andrew wants to share with his audience some of the most personal aspects of his life through tap and talk.
- Tapdancing relies on a lot of improvisation, much like live music. For Andrew, this experimentation has a profound effect on his spiritual life.
- Andrew wants to share how the positive experiences of life are fundamentally rooted in the experiences of love. And that when these experiences are shared with others, they have the potential to create change.

After watching the video, read over the questions below and discuss or write down your answers.

1. Discuss your thoughts on Andrew Nemr's opening statement: "It's not about trying to do a new thing. It's just about trying to do a thing well." What do you think he means? How can you relate to this statement in the things you do?ⁱ

2. For Andrew, watching the film *Tap* greatly influenced his life. Explain how this happened for him. Is there a film, book, song or other media presentation that has influenced your life? Explain.ⁱⁱ
3. What does Andrew hope to accomplish by combining tapdancing with storytelling? How effective do you think this method is?ⁱⁱⁱ
4. What do you think the meaning of Andrew's goal of sharing the positive experiences of life with others through his performances and classes to create change?^{iv}
5. What is Andrew's philosophy of life and art?^v

Common Core Standard(s) Met:

CCRA.R.1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

CCRA.R.2 Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

CCRA.R.3 Analyze how and why individuals, events, or ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

CCRA.R.7 Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

ⁱ Answers will vary.

ⁱⁱ Students should be able to explain how the film *Tap* made Andrew Nemr fall in love with tap dancing.

ⁱⁱⁱ By tapdancing and storytelling, Andrew hopes to bring others into the experience he was having and the world he was living in. Choosing to tell stories that other people can relate to.

^{iv} Answers will vary but students should comment on the idea that by sharing stories and dance, people can relate and see how they can change for the better.

^v Some examples: Life and art together provide a spiritual experience; life and art provide opportunities to share positive experiences in life; or positives experiences of life are rooted in the experiences of love. Sharing these experiences with others creates possibilities for change.

