



Billy Elliot

“Inside every one of us is a special talent waiting to come out. The trick is finding it.”

This is a summary of the first part of the film. Can you fill in the blanks with the following words?

pretends	growing up	grandfather	secretly
widowed	letter	bans	miners
yourself	ballet	strike	routine
pupils	died	1984	boxing
talent	audition		

Billy Elliot is an 11-year-old boy in a mining village in north-east England. His father and older brother are both who are out on in early days of the big miner's strike of Billy goes to lessons each week following in the steps of his father and One week, however, the hall is being shared by the class and Billy finds himself drawn towards it.

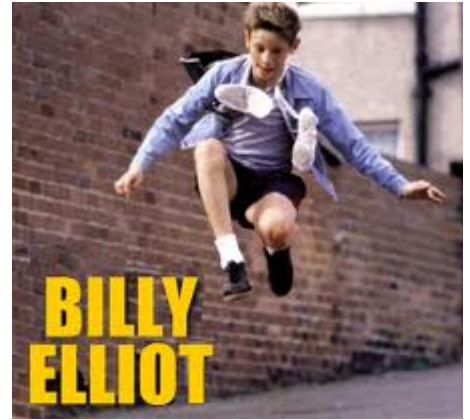
He going to boxing but takes up dancing classes. The teacher, Mrs Wilkinson, quickly spots that he has the she never had and pushes him hard at the expense of her other

Eventually his father, Jackie, discovers that Billy is spending his boxing money on what he thinks an ‘unmanly’ activity and his son from ballet. Mrs Wilkinson, however, wants Billy to for the Royal Ballet School and coaches him privately and As they begin to prepare a for the audition, she asks Billy to bring some things that are really important to him. Billy brings a written to him by his mother before she In it she tells him to 'always be

Speaking: answer these questions.

1. In what ways is Billy a conventional young boy?
2. Billy and Debbie: Why is he hesitating about continuing to dance? How does Debbie try to persuade him?
3. At home Billy hides the ballet shoes: what does his father tell him to be careful with?

4. Why does Billy go to the library? Why is he not allowed to take the book out?
5. Supermarket: describe and explain what happens in the supermarket between Tony and the man.
6. Billy and his dad: why is Billy's dad upset?
How does Billy respond?



PART TWO:

1. Why do Billy and the teacher Mrs Wilkinson argue?
2. She **reproaches** him **for**
3. Mrs Wilkinson follows Billy into the toilets.
How does he criticise her?

<input type="checkbox"/> she is posh	<input type="checkbox"/> she is horrible to him	<input type="checkbox"/> she tells him what to do
<input type="checkbox"/> she does it for her own benefit	<input type="checkbox"/> she messed up her own life	<input type="checkbox"/> she is jealous of him

4. Make sentences:

He **accuses** her **of**

He **criticises** her **for**

Car Ferry: Fill in the story of Swan Lake:

The woman is captured by Then she is forced to be a except for a few hours every night when she is allowed to come One night, she meets a young who falls in with her. She realises that she needs in order to become a real

5. What reaction does Billy have to the story?
6. What happens at the end of the story?
7. Billy sees his mum again. What does she tell him to do? Why do you think he “see” her now?

PART THREE: The Teacher goes to Billy's house.

8. What accusations does Tony make against Mrs Wilkinson?

<input type="checkbox"/> she doesn't know what they are going through at the moment	<input type="checkbox"/> she is trying to replace Billy's mum
<input type="checkbox"/> she is a snob	<input type="checkbox"/> it will turn him into a “poof”
<input type="checkbox"/> Billy will look stupid	
<input type="checkbox"/> he's only a kid	
9. What does this dancing scene allow us to understand about Billy?

Christmas: Why does Billy's dad cry at Christmas? (Try to think of three reasons)

- a)
- b)
- c)

PART FOUR: THE ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL

10. How do you think Billy and his father feel in this situation? Why?

11. Make a list of all the things at the audition which put Billy off?

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)

12. What does Billy do as a result of this stress?

Interview: Write the responses:

Q. Why did you become interested in ballet?

Q. Are you a fan of ballet?

Q. Are you completely behind Billy?

Q. Would you like to ask any questions?



When the lady asks Billy what it feels like when he is dancing, what does he reply?

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> exciting | <input type="checkbox"/> you forget everything | <input type="checkbox"/> you come alive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> you disappear | <input type="checkbox"/> as if it's your birthday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> on fire | <input type="checkbox"/> free | <input type="checkbox"/> change in your body |
| <input type="checkbox"/> like electricity | <input type="checkbox"/> like gas | |

FUTURE: What happens at the end of the film to:

- a) Billy:
- b) his friend Michael:
- c) his family:

Writing:

What has Billy gained through making it to the Royal Ballet School? Has he lost anything along the way? Do you think he has really discovered who he is?

Billy **misses** the audition because his brother, Tony, has to appear in **court** after a clash between striking miners and the police. Mrs Wilkinson comes to find him and has a **quarrel** with Jackie and Tony. Billy runs out and dances a dance of anger and frustration at how he is being hemmed in by his family's prejudice. At Christmas Billy goes in to the hall with his friend Michael to show him about dancing. His father finds them there and Billy dances his routine as an act of defiance. Realising his son's talent and love for dancing at last, he goes to see Mrs Wilkinson to find out how Billy could get another audition.

In order to raise money to send him, Jackie decides to leave the strike and go back to mining, enduring shouts of 'scab' from his friends and Tony. Tony appeals to his father not to break the strike. Jackie insists that they must do something to help Billy and so pawns a treasured piece of his wife's jewellery.

At last Jackie takes Billy to London for an audition and, although it seems to have been a disaster, Billy is offered a scholarship. Billy leaves his home for the Royal Ballet School and eventually succeeds as a ballet dancer with the Royal Ballet.