Have you read about the incredible story of a Nigerian dancer? Get inspired by reading this article that appeared in the NY Times and do the activities.

11-Y.O. Nigerian Boy Gets Scholarship from New York Dance School After Inspiring Rain Ballet Performance Goes Viral

The 11-year-old Nigerian ballet dancer whose dance in the rain went viral and inspired millions earlier this summer has been **granted** a scholarship to the American Ballet Theater in New York City.

In case you haven't seen it, the video **lauded** by social media users and influential dance professionals— and Academy Award winner *Viola Davis*— shows Anthony Mmesoma Madu executing exuberant pirouettes and arabesques **barefoot** outside of his dance school in Lagos to the sound of falling rain.

Davis shared Madu's video with her 1.4 million followers on Twitter. She wrote in the caption "*Reminds me of the beauty of my people. We create, **soar**, can imagine, have **unleashed** passion, and love…. despite the brutal obstacles that have been put in front of us! Our people can fly!!!*"

Cynthia Harvey, artistic director of the ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School of Dance, also saw the video.

"*A friend who lives in the UK sent me the video*," she said. "*Within a day, I was trying to find him. Here, we're complaining about not being able to open our buildings*," said Harvey. "*But in that video, I saw a boy who was a perfect example of the **tenacity** someone can have when they have love and a dream. It was immediately obvious how much determination he had.*"

Madu is too young to physically travel and study in New York. The minimum age to be a student in the city and live in a dorm is 15, but he's been offered a summer full scholarship, with the possibility of him continuing this fall under discussion, Harvey said.

The American Ballet Theater is **currently** working on a schedule for Madu that works with the six-hour time difference. The company is also talking to him about taking part in weekend programs. She also helped Anthony's family secure internet access so he could attend this year's virtual intensive remotely.

"*When I got that call that I won a scholarship to the U.S in the year 2021, I was very, very happy, I was like, 'What? Is this what God can do?'*" Madu recalled. Ballet, he added, "*is hard to learn but if you put your effort, you can learn it.*"

Anthony's parents planned for their son to become a priest, but they are pleased with his accomplishments as a dancer and support his dreams. In conversation with the BBC, his mother Ifeoma Madu **urged** parents to be supportive of their talented children. Watching Anthony dance brings her "joy," she said.
Since the video went viral, Anthony's dance studio in Lagos, *Leap of Dance Academy*, has received support and donations from all around the world.

Leap of Dance Academy was founded by 29-year-old Daniel Ajala Owoseni in 2017 where he teaches his 12 students free of charge and without proper **resources**.

Unable to afford class in his youth, Owoseni is a self-taught ballet dancer who started practicing alongside Youtube videos at 13.

"*I saw the need to bring a form of art that shows discipline, dedication, and commitment*," he told Reuters. "*Students who are able to learn all of these can … transfer (them) into other spheres of their lives.*" Owoseni says he will use the donation money to further promote ballet in Nigeria where the art is not yet widely practiced.

"*People say that you can never do ballet the way it is done **abroad** because ballet is not an African dance, but for me it's about making the art form our own*," he said.

1. Read the following definitions and write one of the underlined words from the text next to them.

Set free: _____

Naked feet: _____

Money or assets: _____

To be given: _____

Insisted on: _____

In a foreign country: _____

At the present time: _____

Praised: _____

Rise to a higher level: _____

To be unwilling to give in: _____

2. Read the text again and choose the best answer for these questions.

1) How did Anthony get the scholarship?

a- Viola David promoted him in social media.

b- His performance under the rain went viral.

2) How did the artistic director of the ABT School of dance know about the video?

a- A friend sent it to her.

b- Viola sent it to her.

3) According to Cynthia, Anthony's most characteristic feature is...

a- creativity

b- tenacity

4) Why won't Anthony be able to travel to US?

a- He doesn't have enough money

b- He needs to be elder.

5) How will the American dance company train him?

a- By making him attend workshops remotely.

b- By offering him a full course when he gets 15.

6) Anthony's parents wanted him to be a....

a- ballet dancer.

b- minister from the church.

7) Anthony's teacher is a/an....

a- experimented ballet dancer.

b- self-taught ballet dancer.

8) According to Owoseni, ballet dancers need to show...

a- discipline, dedication and commitment.

b- inspiration, tenacity and creativity.