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# Writing, Illustrating, and Publishing a Children's Book

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# Delilah Discovers Degas



by Sarah Elizabeth Payne



# Delilah Discovers Degas



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This book was written and illustrated as part of my  
undergraduate senior honors project  
at the University of Rhode Island.

Meet Delilah.

Delilah

*leaps*

across the

kitchen floor

to the

refrigerator.





Delilah counts  
the seconds that  
she can  
**balance**  
on her tip-toes  
while brushing  
her teeth.

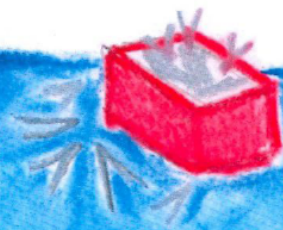


"1, 2, 3, 4... 1, 2, 3, 4... 1, 2, 3, 4..."

When she gets ready  
for ballet class,  
Delilah spends time

twisting,  
turning,  
and pinning

her wiry curls  
into a bun.





It's so hard to choose between the  
pink skirt and the purple skirt.

"That one is sparkly, but

this one spins

when I  
turn!"



Delilah beams.

"Finally! My favorite time of  
day: ballet class with Ms. Seibert!"

During warm up exercises, Delilah sees a new picture.

"I love that painting!"

"Me, too!" says Ms. Seibert.

"It was painted by **Degas** in 1880."

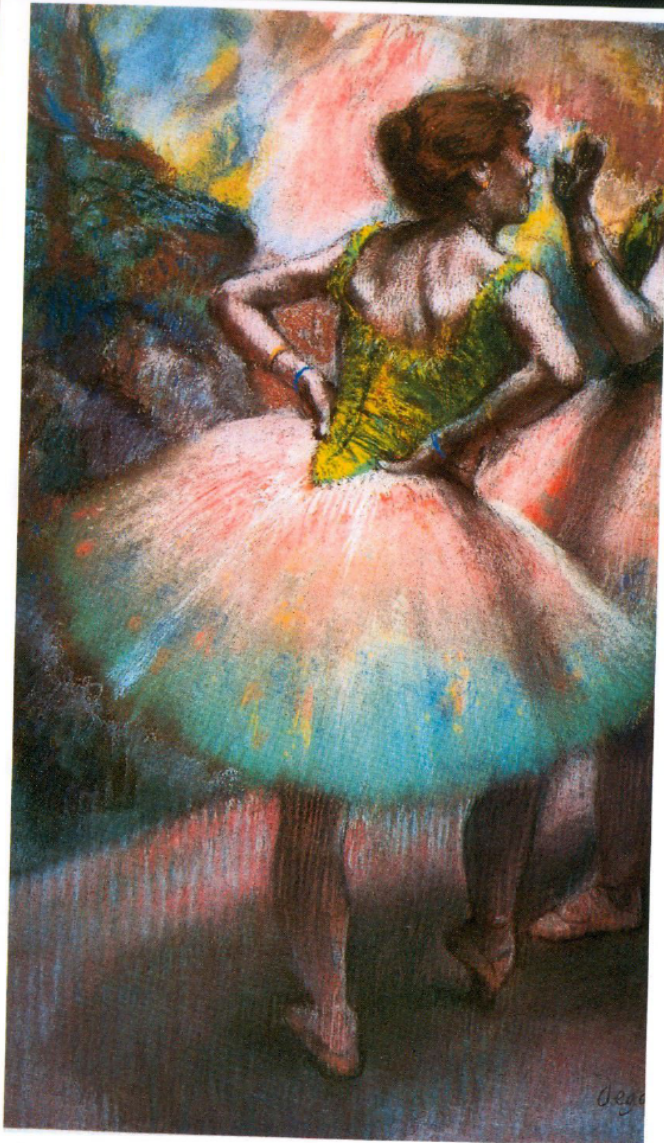
"Wow! I didn't know ballet was *that* old."

"**Ballet** has a wonderful history. I can lend you a book with more of Degas' ballerinas if you'd like."

"Yes, please!"







For the whole week,  
Delilah reads through her new book.

She learns that Degas was a  
French impressionist painter.

That means his paintings  
are full of

**movement and light.**

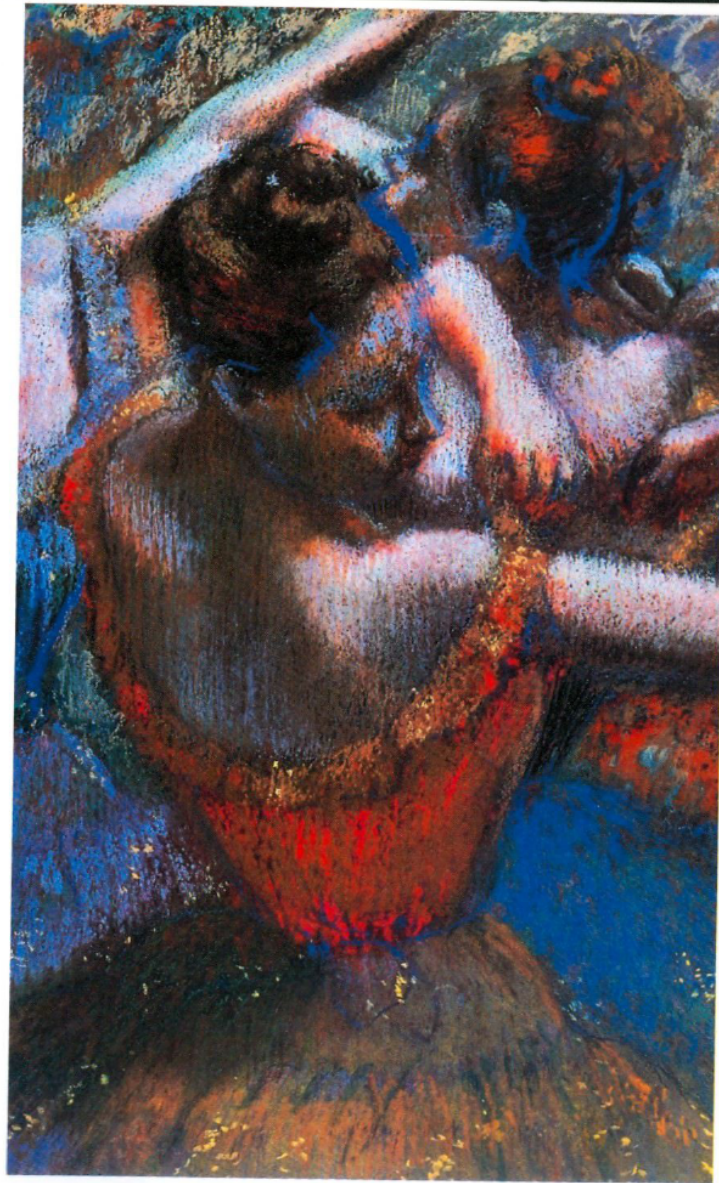


Degas liked to paint ballerinas during their long hours of practice at the studio.



"Degas' ballerinas are so lucky!  
Ballet is what they **live** for.

I want to be just like them one day!"





The next morning Delilah wakes up.  
"8 o'clock! Only 9 hours until ballet class!"

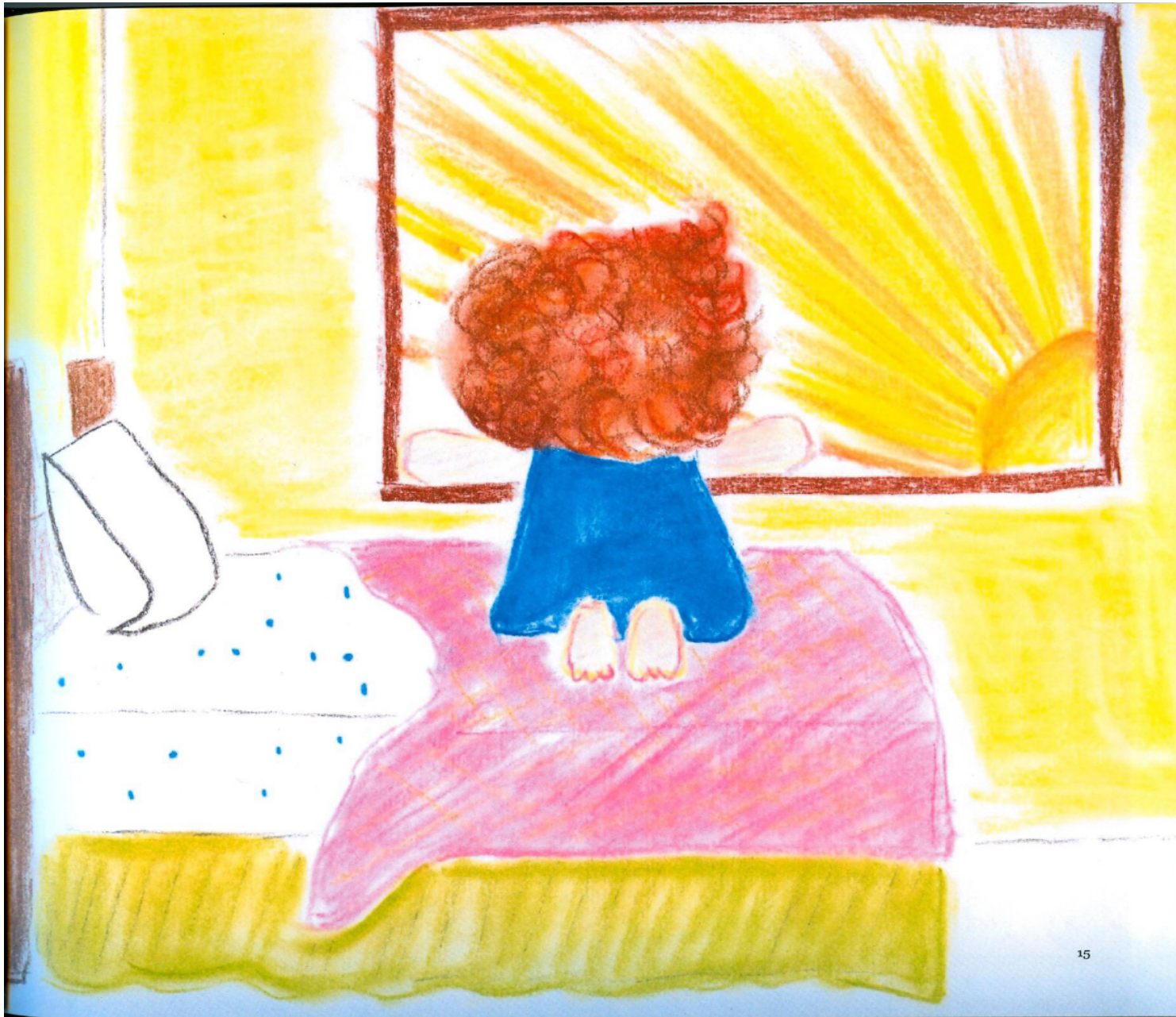




For the whole day, Degas' paintings **brighten** her world.

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The rays of sunshine that pour through her window...



remind Delilah of pink and yellow tutus.





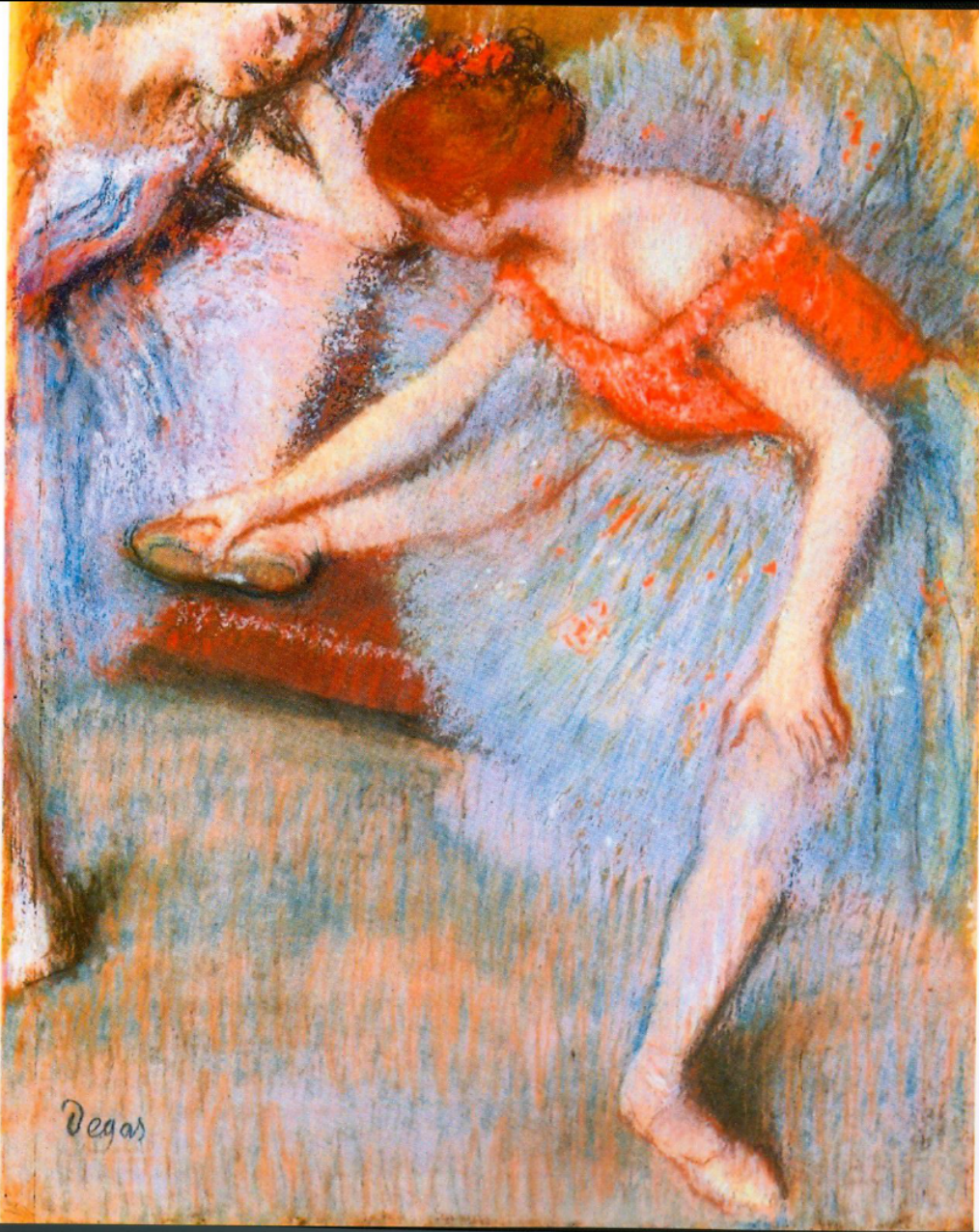
As she ties her sneakers for school,





she imagines tying her pointe shoe ribbons before a performance.





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At school Delilah's teacher asks the class,  
"What is  $5+4$ ?"



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But Delilah imagines the ballet teacher in Degas' painting saying,  
"Straighten your back and point those toes!"





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While doing her homework that afternoon,

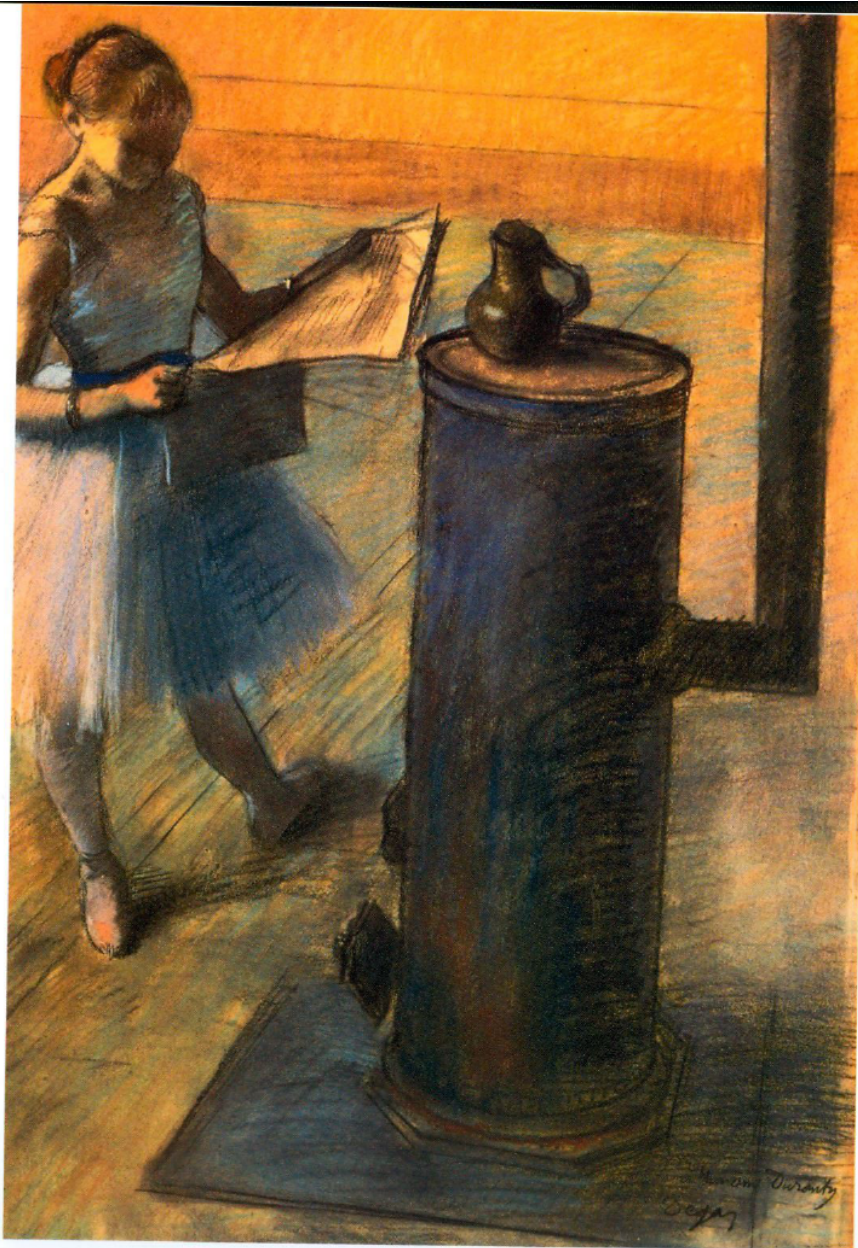






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Delilah imagines reading for fun during a break from ballet practice.



And when it's finally time for ballet class,  
Delilah **dashes** out of the house,  
stray curls flying out of her bun.





She bounds across the studio: "Ms. Seibert!"  
"Did you like the book, Delilah?"

"Yes! And one day I will be a *real ballerina*,  
just like in Degas' paintings!"





#### Acknowledgments

The copies of the Degas paintings used in this book have been taken from the following sources.

Gordon, Robert, and Andrew Forge. Degas. NY: Harry N. Adams, 1988. Print.

Kendall, Richard. Degas and the Little Dancer. New Haven: Yale UP, 1998. Print.

Roberts, Keith. Degas. NY: Watson-Guption, 1990. Print.

Kendall, Richard. Degas: Beyond Impressionism. London: National Gallery Publications, 1996. Print.



The copies of the Ledger published used in this book have been taken from the following sources:

Central, Robert, and Andrew, George, 1892-1893.  
Kendall, Richard, Devereux, and the Little, Brown, New Haven, 1894-1895.  
Kendall, Richard, Devereux, and the Little, Brown, New Haven, 1896-1897.  
Kendall, Richard, Devereux, and the Little, Brown, New Haven, 1898-1899.