



Story Guide

THE FIRST TIME I EVER DANCED WITH A GIRL

BY
Sam Payne

Watch the video of storyteller Sam Payne live at the 2019 National Storytelling Festival [here](#).
(Right click on link to open it in a new tab.) All videos include ASL interpretation.

Story run time is 00:00 - 11:00

Now, enjoy exploring the story with the activities outlined below.



explore it

- Sam begins with a song that says, "...spread your wings and take to the sky" and ends with a song that says "Music move these little ones." How do these songs fit with his story? What tone do the songs create?
- This story is a "rite of passage" story, a story about leaving childhood and coming into adulthood. Sam's first dance made him feel as if he changed from a boy to a man. Describe an important event in your life that marked a time of change for you. How did you feel?



think it

- Why did Sam and Darrin go down to the church gym?
- What does Sam mean by, "It was a Christina Rossetti kinda night?"
- How long did it take Sam to ask the girl from Riverton to dance? Why do you think he waited so long?
- Who showed up while Sam was dancing, and what did he do? Describe the car ride home.
- After seeing Sam's own son dance years later, what does he say about the silence from *his* father all those years ago?



create it

- Draw a picture of Sam's dad in the outfit he wore to the dance. Pay special attention to the facial expression on his dad's face. Was Sam's dad there to participate in the dance? How do you know?
- Sam's final song was about his first dance. Think of a special moment in your life and write a poem or song about what happened, how you felt, and what you learned. Share it with a friend or family member.



tell it

- Ask a parent, grandparent, or guardian to tell you a "rite of passage" story that happened to them or someone in your family. Share it with another family member.
- Journal about how anger was handled in this story. How do you handle anger? Is it ever appropriate to be angry? What are some constructive ways to handle anger? Can anger lead to positive results?