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**Meet Gus. Why walk when you can dance?
Gus has a dance for everything but he
needs a dance teacher and figures out his
steps to get one.**

**Story by Leslie Tryon
Illustrations by Jan Spivey Gilchrist**



“Just like yesterday and the day before, Gus KICKED out of bed, LACED-UP his thumbtack sneakers and did his teeth-brushing dance. Next he did his bed-making dance, and then his getting-dressed dance.

His mama knew Gus was up because she could hear, the tip-a-tap, rap-a-slap, flap-a-dap thumbtack rhythms through the kitchen ceiling.”

Gus has a dance for everything! Gus is a most promising, most energetic and most talented young dancer who figures out how to make enough money to upgrade his tip-a-tap thumbtack sneakers to a new pair of real tap shoes.

Leslie Tryon is the author of the clever, charming and inventive Albert series and several other books for young readers. She is the illustrator of Alma Flor Ada's Dear Peter Rabbit and With Love, Little Red Hen. She has received an ALA Notable book recognition, a Parents Choice Honor and an Ezra Jack Keats Award for Excellence in the Arts. Leslie has written that she might have begun her career as an author and illustrator much earlier if she hadn't become a dancer first. With her experience as a tapper, Leslie has stepped into her own world of dance with *The Thumbtack Dancer*.

Jan Spivey Gilchrist is the award-winning illustrator-author of seventy-four children's books. Dr. Gilchrist illustrated the highly acclaimed picture book *The Great Migration: Journey to the North*, written by Eloise Greenfield. This book was recognized with a Coretta Scott King Honor, named a Junior Library Guild Best Book, was an NAACP Image Award nominee, a CCBC Best Book, and a Georgia State Children's Book Award nominee. Jan received a Coretta Scott King Award for her illustrations in *Nathaniel Talking* and a Coretta Scott King Honor for her illustrations in *Night on Neighborhood Street*, both written by Eloise Greenfield. In *The Thumbtack Dancer*, Jan brings Gus' moves to life and puts his talent on display.

Come “slap-a-dee-dap, slap-a-dee-dap – down the sidewalk” with Gus!

The Thumbtack Dancer

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