© 2010 by Lucy Calkins and Kathleen Tolan, from Units of Study for Teaching Reading: A Curriculum for the Reading Workshop, Grades 3-5 (Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann). This page may be reproduced for classroom use only

Bust a Move: Break Dancing

Face Off

A flat piece of cardboard box is on the ground. Two dancers face each other. A big group of people stands around them.

One dancer steps
forward onto the flat
box. He spins his body.
He stands on his hands.
People cheer. He spins on his head!

What is he doing? He is break dancing.

What Is Break Dancing?

Break dancing is a kind of dancing. It is also called b-boying. Some moves are simple steps. Others are more difficult.

Dancers spin. They spin on their hands. They spin on their bottoms. They spin on their heads.

Dancers also balance. Dancers stand on their hands. They even stand upside down on their heads!

History of Break Dancing

Break dancing was started by
African American and Latino
American people in the South
Bronx. The South Bronx
is a neighborhood in
New York City.
People started break dancing in
the 1970s. People danced to
hip hop music. They danced

Break Dancing Today

Break dancing is still popular today. It is on television and in movies. People still break dance on the sidewalks in some cities.

at parties. They danced on the street.

Have you ever tried break dancing? Go ahead. Bust a move!