

Thea Stilton

MOUSEFORD ACADEMY

DANCE CHALLENGE



Scholastic Inc.

If you purchased this book without a cover, you should be aware that this book is stolen property. It was reported as “unsold and destroyed” to the publisher, and neither the author nor the publisher has received any payment for this “stripped book.”

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the copyright holder. For information regarding permission, please contact: Atlantyca S.p.A., Via Leopardi 8, 20123 Milan, Italy; e-mail foreignrights@atlantyca.it, www.atlantyca.com

ISBN 978-0-545-67010-4

Copyright © 2010 by Edizioni Piemme S.p.A., Corso Como 15, 20154 Milan, Italy.

International Rights © Atlantyca S.p.A.

English translation © 2014 by Atlantyca S.p.A.

GERONIMO STILTON and THEA STILTON names, characters, and related indicia are copyright, trademark, and exclusive license of Atlantyca S.p.A. All rights reserved. The moral right of the author has been asserted.

Based on an original idea by Elisabetta Dami.

www.geronimostilton.com

Published by Scholastic Inc., 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

SCHOLASTIC and associated logos are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Scholastic Inc.

Stilton is the name of a famous English cheese. It is a registered trademark of the Stilton Cheese Makers' Association. For more information, go to www.stiltoncheese.com.

Text by Thea Stilton

Original title *Sfida a ritmo di danza!*

Cover by Giuseppe Facciotto

Illustrations by Francesco Castelli

Graphics by Yuko Egusa

Special thanks to Beth Dunfey

Translated by Emily Clement

Interior design by Becky James

12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

14 15 16 17 18 19/0

Printed in the U.S.A.

40

First printing, September 2014



WELCOME BACK, MOUSELETS!

A cool **BREEZE** blew through the port at Whale Island, carrying the crisp scent of autumn along with it.

Mouseford Academy was just opening after the long **SUMMER** break, and Vince Guymouse's ferryboat was filled with chattering students. They were thrilled to be back with their friends again.

"Come on, mouselings!" called Pamela, scampering off the ship with Colette, Nicky, Paulina, and Violet. "I have a feeling lots of fabumouse **surprises** are waiting for us this year."

"You said it!" Nicky said. "I can't wait to check out the creative writing class."



Come on,
mouselings!



“And I’m looking forward to my violin lessons,” said Violet, *smiling*.

“Mouselets, aren’t you forgetting the most important thing?” Colette interrupted.

“Of course!” Pamela remembered. “The headmaster promised us that we’d have *acting, singing, and dancing* lessons this year.”

With a squeak of glee, Paulina grabbed Pamela by the paw. Together the two rodents glided into a graceful tango.

“**HOLEY GHEESE**, you’re way ahead of the rest of us!” Colette laughed. “A special class dedicated to music and theater sounds so fun.”

“Yes, it will be absolutely *fabumouse*,” Nicky agreed. “Let’s all sign up!”

“*Friends together, mice forever!*” the mouselets cheered.



Hooray!

Yay!

The Thea Sisters' enthusiasm attracted the attention of their classmates Tanja and Craig, who were also **scrambling** off the ferry.

“Howdy, mouselets!”
Craig greeted them.
“So good to see you!
What are you five
celebrating?”

“We can't wait to start that new drama class,” Paulina explained.

“This year, we'll have something to **sing** about,” warbled Nicky, pretending there was a microphone in her paw.

“**HA. HA, HA!**” Tanja laughed. “So you're planning to sign up, too? I've been



dreaming about it all summer.”

Shen scurried over to the little group.

“I’ve been preparing for drama class, too,” he said, pointing to the **SUITCASE** he was



dragging behind him. “I’ve got all the most important plays from the last hundred years in there. I want to make a **good impression** on the new professor!”

“Well, I’m not sure the theater is the best showcase for talent as big as mine,” joked Craig, sticking his snout in the air snobbishly. Then he grabbed Violet by the paw and sent her into a series of **twirls** that made her tail spin!

His friends burst into **applause**, encouraging the dancers. With every twist



Ha, ha, ha!

Oops...

Help!

Careful!



and turn, they drew closer to Shen's suitcase. Closer and closer, until . . .

KABLAM!

The two rodents bumped right into the suitcase, knocking it over with a spectacular **CRASH!**

Nicky leaned over and gave Craig and Violet a helping paw. "For now, maybe we should just try to get to class in **one** piece!" she said, laughing.