

A DECODABLE TEXT ANTHOLOGY

# Creative Tales: Artists Through Time

by Ariel Devoy

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# Chapter 1

# Alvin Ailey

### page 3

#### a\_e & o\_e

shame	hoped	face
age	names	hope
make	spaces	fame
craved	brave	

#### Challenge Words

born	single	started	joined
Rogers	grew	early	cotton
Texas	poor	money	dance
raised	town	family	perform

### page 4

#### i\_e & a\_e

time	stale	fine
pride	life	fame
shine	made	

#### Challenge Words

practiced	took	moves
learned	theater	talent
mentor	show(s/ed)	
Lester Horton	suite	

### page 5

#### ee

keen	breeze	succeed
freely	three	seen
deep	feel	screen
freedom		

#### Challenge Words

diverse	provide	ballet
experiences	African	Texas
founded	stories	gospel
American	revelations	

### page 6

#### ea as /ē/

beat	meaningful	treat
team	lead	
reach	neat	
leave	each	

#### Challenge Words

created	number	happy
bright	birthday	precision
music	tribute	wildfire
third	women	turning

### page 7

#### Suffix: -est

finest	deepest
greatest	strongest
oldest	bravest
boldest	

#### Challenge Words

legacy	world	artistic
choreographer	inspiring	vision
challenges	journey	impact
emotions	influence	mark

In 1931, Alvin Ailey was born in Rogers, Texas. He was raised by a single mom and grew up in a small, poor town. Ailey did not feel shame when he started working at an early age to help his mom make money for their family. At the age of five, Ailey joined his mom and started working in the cotton fields with her. Soon, Ailey and his mom left for Los Angeles. He saw a dance show for the first time in Los Angeles when he watched a performance by Katherine Dunham's dance team. After that, he craved dance and started training. He hoped to one day make a name for himself in the dance world. There were not many spaces for Black dancers at this time, but Ailey worked through this stress with a brave face. He put in long days in the studio and his dancing skills got better. Just as he wished, Alvin's hope and fame grew as he danced with more skill.

Alvin Ailey worked hard to make new dances. He practiced day after day and learned from his mentor, Lester Horton. Over time, his ideas took shape. When he took over Lester Horton's Dance Theater in 1953, he started to make his own dances. He was filled with pride. He took every risk he could to shine and made his performances into top-notch shows. His style, seen in *Blues Suite*, was not stale but full of zest and life. The dance moves were made from jazz and the blues. This performance showed Alvin's fine talent and helped him gain fame all over the globe.

In 1958, Alvin was keen on sharing diverse experiences and founded the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. He planned to provide other African Americans with a space to tell their stories freely with dance. Before too much time passed by, he made a classy and deep ballet dance named *Revelations*. It was based on his life in Texas as a child and had blues, gospel, and spiritual songs. These songs helped the viewers feel a sense of freedom. Getting people to like the dance was a breeze because each of the three parts had its own meaning, tone, and style. As he had hoped, creating the dance company helped African American dancers succeed and gave them more chances to be seen on stage and on the big screen.

The dances that Alvin Ailey created were a blend of bright dreams and grim facts. The beat of the music and the way the dancers bent, twisted, and glided helped the team reach this look and feel. He did not want his fame to leave, so he worked hard to keep his shows good. His third number, named *Cry*, was made in 1971 as a birthday gift for his mom. It was a meaningful tribute to all African American women and moms. He wanted people to feel a wide mix of feelings at the same time such as happy, mad, calm, and sad. With Alvin at the lead, his team of dancers performed with neat precision. As a result, his performances spread all over the globe like wildfire, turning each show into a treat for the viewers.

Alvin Ailey's legacy is still one of the finest in dance. He went from a dancer to one of the greatest choreographers because of his hard work. His oldest and boldest performances, such as *Revelations* and *Cry*, made people think about their lives and feel many emotions. These dances left the deepest mark on the world. He met many inspiring people on his journey, with Lester Horton having the strongest influence on his artistic vision. Alvin always faced his challenges with the bravest heart and made an impact that will be remembered for a long time.