

Synopsis for Young Readers

The Story of Ballet

Act I - Dracula's Castle. Count Dracula and his brides wake up in their coffins in the crypt of his castle. The brides swarm and dance around Dracula. A carriage arrives with Renfield, Dracula's trusted henchman, and Flora, a frightened young woman from the village. Flora tries to flee but is trapped in the castle and in Dracula's grasp. She will become his next bride.

Act II: The Village. In the village, the innkeeper and his wife are celebrating the eighteenth birthday of their daughter Svetlana. The entire village is there, dancing and celebrating. Frederick, a young man from the village, is in love with Svetlana, and he asks the innkeeper for his daughter's hand in marriage. The innkeeper agrees, and Frederick and Svetlana joyfully dance together. All of the villagers join in again and dance.

Suddenly Flora enters; she is pale and weak. The villagers are concerned and the innkeeper helps her to a chair. The priest notices the bite on her neck—everyone is horrified. Flora lashes out at the villagers. Lightning reveals Dracula's castle high on the hill and Dracula appears.

Dracula has heard about the beautiful, young Svetlana. He intends to kidnap her and make her another one of his brides. The priest tries to ward off the Count with his cross held high. Flora springs to life and attacks the priest to defend Dracula. The carriage careens into view; Renfield grabs Svetlana and forces her into the coach. Frederick and the villagers try to attack him but they are no match for the vampire. The carriage sweeps away to the castle.

Act III: The Bedroom of Count Dracula. Flora and the other brides wait for Dracula's return. He enters with Svetlana. The brides examine her and take her away to dress her in a bridal gown. When she reemerges, Dracula puts her in a trance—she tries to flee but she can't. Suddenly, Frederick, the priest and the innkeeper storm into the room. The brides swarm over the men, who battle and attack Dracula. Finally, Frederick pulls open the curtain and daylight spills into the room. Desperate to escape the light, Dracula flies up into the chandelier—and to his death.

DRACULA

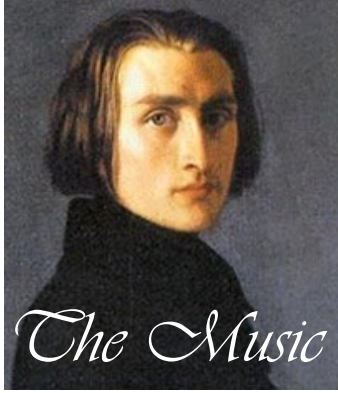


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Activity Guide to the Ballet!

Color Dracula's cape. Can you guess how much it weighs? (Answer is on the back page!)

Dracula's cape weighs about 30 pounds! Imagine dancing with that much weight on your back!



Franz Liszt composed the music used in *Dracula*. He was from Hungary and lived in the 1800s. He is still considered one of the greatest pianists to have ever lived—and he had so many fans (who adored him!) that he’s known as the first “rock star.” Who is YOUR favorite rock star, singer or musician?

Write his/her name here: _____

Listen to the music in the ballet. How does it make you feel? Why do you think Liszt’s music was chosen for the ballet?

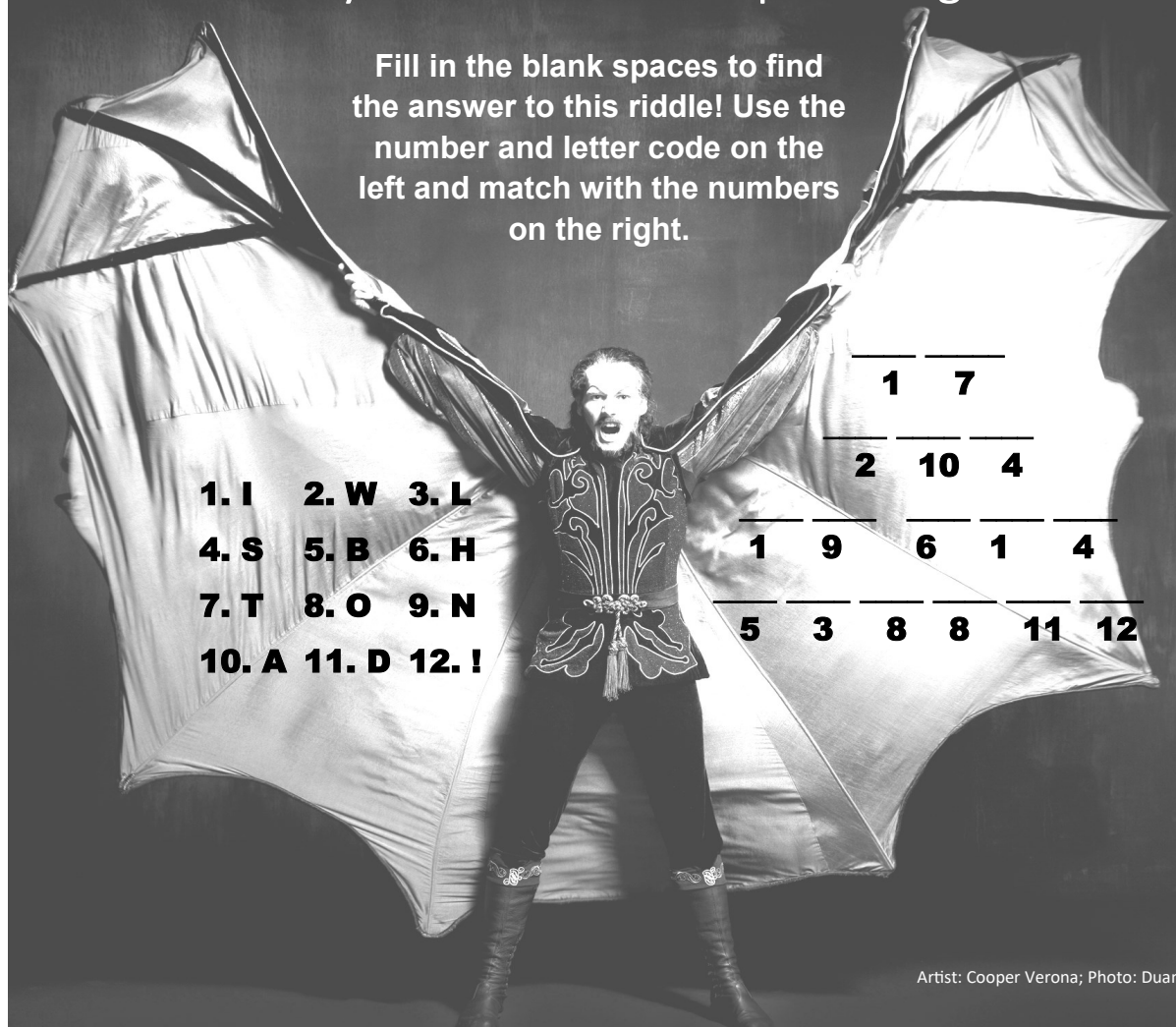
Ballet Term of the Day!

Grand Jeté: a jump in which the dancer springs up with one foot straight out in front of her body and the other straight out to the back. Watch the character Flora, she does some amazing grand jetés!



Why did Dracula take up dancing?

Fill in the blank spaces to find the answer to this riddle! Use the number and letter code on the left and match with the numbers on the right.



- 1. I 2. W 3. L
- 4. S 5. B 6. H
- 7. T 8. O 9. N
- 10. A 11. D 12. !

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

Artist: Cooper Verona; Photo: Duane Rieder

Ballet Scavenger Hunt

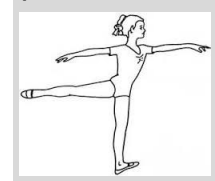
Watch the ballet closely to find the answers!

- ◇ What props do the villagers dance with in Act 2?
- ◇ Which character eats bugs? (!) Hint: He uses mime (gestures) to show us that he’s picking something up off the floor and dangling it toward his mouth!
- ◇ What explodes in Act 3?
- ◇ What are the creatures that pull Dracula’s creepy carriage?

(answers below right)

Do the Numbers!

Dracula has 18 brides. When they dance together in Act 2 each bride performs 3 arabesques. How many arabesques in total?



_____ (# of ballerinas) x _____
 _____ (# of arabesques) = _____

Answer: 54

Dracula’s Word Search

A	M	R	F	R	E	N	F	I	E	L	D	A	D	C
I	Q	J	R	L	L	B	L	A	V	P	R	T	S	N
E	L	M	P	I	O	A	V	F	L	K	A	H	B	D
L	I	S	V	E	T	L	A	N	A	L	C	Y	A	X
P	R	N	Z	O	V	L	M	N	F	U	U	H	U	M
D	S	A	N	Q	R	E	P	F	T	J	L	E	C	Z
D	T	Z	Z	K	V	T	I	M	T	J	A	B	N	V
K	E	F	C	X	E	K	R	Y	N	L	Y	Z	T	Z
Q	V	U	Z	L	K	E	E	Z	A	L	S	W	A	J
R	E	N	J	P	V	Q	P	U	V	F	Q	Q	J	U
J	N	F	E	F	R	E	D	E	R	I	C	K	S	X
G	S	Z	H	T	S	F	Y	X	R	I	J	B	T	D
C	O	L	T	R	A	N	S	Y	L	V	A	N	I	A
I	N	K	J	Z	J	H	D	E	Y	N	Y	T	N	R
Q	O	B	T	Y	W	G	F	L	O	R	A	G	G	N

Ballet, Dracula, Flora, Frederick, Innkeeper, Renfield, Stevenson, Svetlana, Transylvania, Vampire

Scavenger Hunt: sticks and ribbons; Renfield; the chandelier; horse skeletons.