

Synopsis for Young Readers



The Story of the Ballet

ACT I

In a meadow near the castle, Prince Siegfried celebrates his 21st birthday with his friend Benno, his tutor Wolfgang, and villagers. The Queen arrives, who is Siegfried's mother. She reminds him that his birthday ball is the next night. She tells him that at his age he should soon get married. She gives him a crossbow as a gift. Benno sees some swans flying overhead and he and the Prince organize a hunting party. They all leave to find the swans.

ACT II

Prince Siegfried is in the forest by the lake when he suddenly sees a magnificent swan in flight. He takes aim with the crossbow, but is surprised when it turns into a beautiful woman. At first she is frightened, but he promises that he will not hurt her. She tells him she is Princess Odette. An evil sorcerer, Von Rothbart, put a spell on her that turns her into a swan during the day - she becomes human again at night. She tells him the spell can only be broken if she finds true love. But if her beloved betrays her, she will remain a swan forever. Siegfried falls in love with Odette. At that moment, Von Rothbart appears. The Prince reaches for his crossbow, but Odette tells him not to shoot. If the sorcerer is killed before the spell is broken, she will also die. The sun begins to rise and the sorcerer disappears, and Odette turns back into a swan.

ACT III

At the palace that night the birthday ball is underway. The Queen brings six princesses to the ball and Prince Siegfried dances with each one. His mother wants him to marry one of them, but he refuses because he is in love with Odette. Suddenly, Von Rothbart arrives. He is in disguise and has brought his daughter, Odile. She looks just like Odette! Von Rothbart and Odile trick Siegfried into believing she is Odette. Siegfried dances with Odile. Because he thinks she is Odette, he swears his love to her. A vision of the real Odette appears, and Siegfried realizes he has been tricked. He races



ACT IV

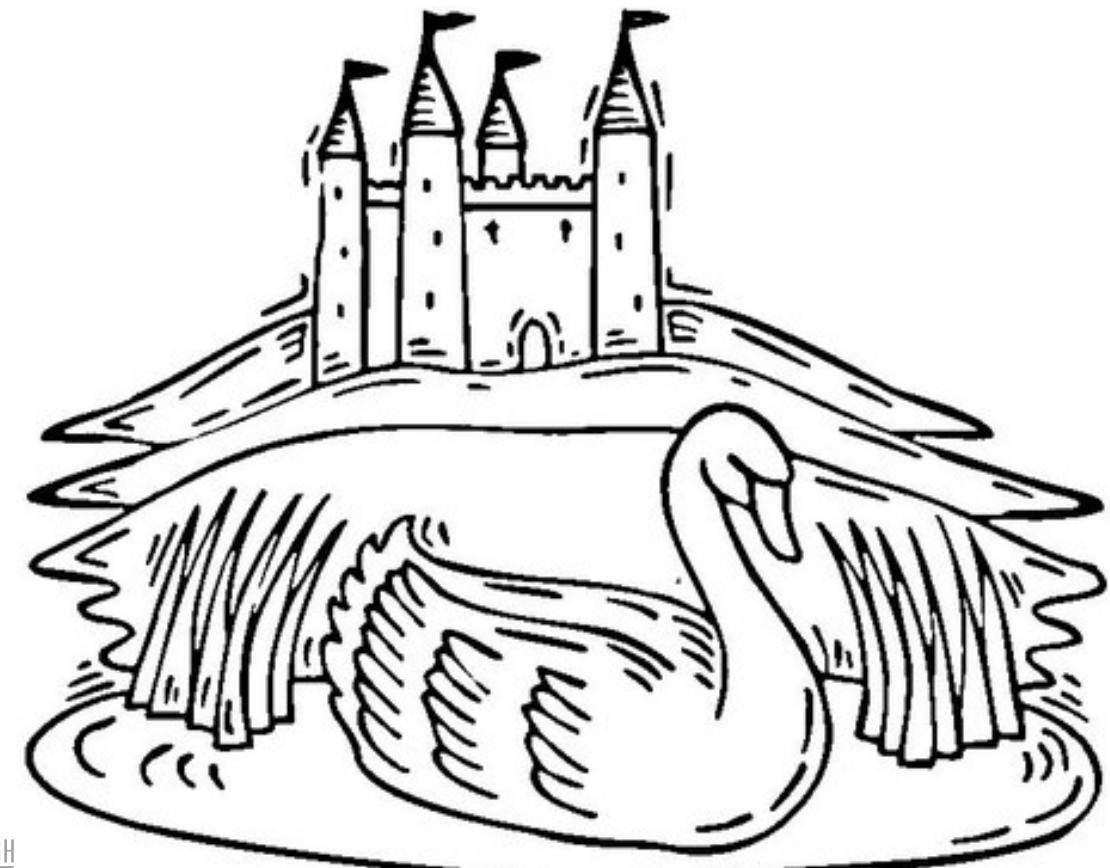
Later that night by the lake, the swan maidens wait for Odette to return. She appears and tells them that because Siegfried's betrayal, she will have to remain a swan forever. Siegfried finds Odette crying and begs her forgiveness. His heart belongs only to her and he promises never to leave her. There is a great storm and Von Rothbart appears. Together, Odette and Siegfried destroy Von Rothbart's power, and spend eternity together.



Thank you for coming to the ballet! We are glad you're here!

Swan Lake

— WITH THE PBT ORCHESTRA —



PITTSBURGH
BALLET
THEATRE
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
TERRENCE S. ORR

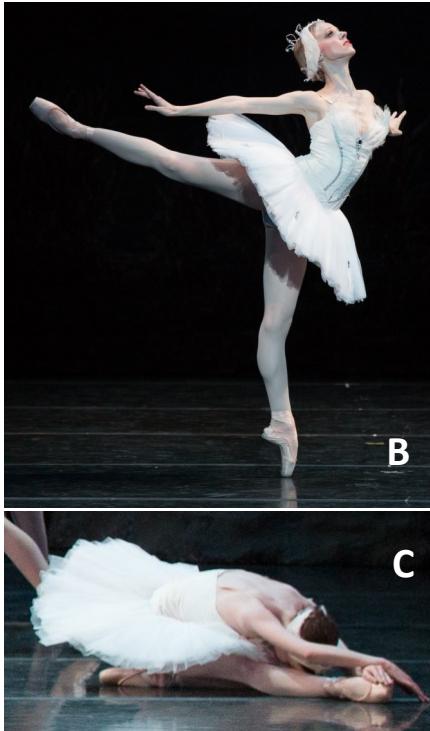
Activity Guide to the Ballet

Swan Movements!

How does *Swan Lake*'s choreography make the dancers look like swans? Match the picture to the description.

- The arched style of this arabesque makes the dancer look like she's flying or gliding.
- The dancers' arms move up and down like beating wings.
- The way the dancer holds her arm is like a swan's gracefully curved neck.
- The dancer looks like she's floating on the lake, with her wings folded and head hidden.

Artists, left to right: A - Julia Erickson; B - Amanda Cochrane; C - PBT Corps de Ballet Dancer; D - JoAnna Schmidt. Photos: Rosalie O'Connor.



A

B

C

D

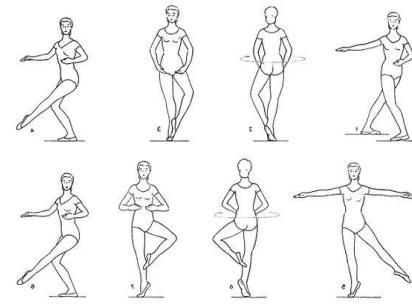
The Music

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky was a famous Russian composer. He wrote the music for *Swan Lake*. One of the most beautiful parts of the ballet is the tune for Odette and the Swans. You will hear it a lot in the ballet. Listen for it at the end of Act 1 when Siegfried first sees the flock of swans. How does this music make you feel? Write down some words that describe the music:

Ballet Term of the Day!

Fouetté (definition: whipped)

This is the name of a turn that the Black Swan (Odile) does in Act 3 of the ballet. The dancer turns really fast by whipping one leg around her body, while with the other leg she rises up and down on pointe. The Black Swan is supposed to do 32 fouettés in a row! See if you can count them when Odile does her turns.



Ballet Scavenger Hunt

1. Odile isn't the only swan with a black tutu! How many others can you find in the ballet? Where do you see them?
2. Which character in Act 1 does a *sissone*—a jump where the dancer's legs split apart in the air (to the front and back), like scissors? (Hint: He's wearing purple tights!)
3. The Queen wants Siegfried to marry a princess. How many does she bring to the ball for Siegfried to dance with?
4. Who appears after the Prince is tricked into swearing his love to Odile?

Answers below.

Swan Lake Word Search

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

Ballet, fouetté, lake, love, magic, Odette, Odile, Rothbart, Siegfried, Swan

Do the Numbers!

It takes 5 days to make just one tutu for a swan. How many days did it take the PBT Costume Shop to make tutus for the 24 swans?

$$\underline{\quad} \times \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad} \text{ (total # of days)}$$