

Synopsis for Young Readers

The Story of the Ballet

The King and Queen are celebrating the birth of their daughter, Princess Aurora. Six fairies come to the celebration: the Fairy of Grace, the Fairy of Beauty, the Fairy of Abundance, the Fairy of Song, the Fairy of Energy and the Lilac Fairy. They each give her a special gift.

The Lilac Fairy is about to give her special gift to baby Aurora - the gift of wisdom. But just then an evil fairy appears! Her name is Carabosse and she's very angry because she wasn't invited to the celebration. Carabosse puts a curse on Aurora: when she is sixteen years old, she will prick her finger on a poisoned spindle.

The King and Queen are afraid but the Lilac Fairy promises to protect the princess. She says that Aurora won't die but will sleep for a hundred years. Then a prince will wake her up with a kiss.

Act 1: It's now Aurora's 16th birthday and the King and Queen are having a big party. Four princes have come from all over the world to the party to win Aurora's love. She dances with them and they each give her a rose.

Carabosse is also at the party but no one recognizes her. She gives Aurora a bouquet of flowers with the poisoned spindle hidden inside. Aurora doesn't know the spindle is there. She pricks her finger and falls to the ground. Just as she promised, the Lilac Fairy appears and casts a spell, putting Aurora to sleep. Everyone in the castle goes to sleep too.

Act 2: A hundred years later Prince Désiré is hunting with his friends by a lake. His friends go on ahead of him and he's alone. The Lilac Fairy suddenly appears and she shows him a vision of Aurora. He immediately falls in love with Aurora and the Lilac Fairy takes him to find her.

When they reach the castle, the wicked Carabosse tries to block them from getting in! They finally get past Carabosse and they find Aurora sleeping in a beautiful bed. He wakes her up with a kiss.

Act 3: Princess Aurora and Prince Désiré decide to get married. They have a big wedding with lots of wonderful dancing. Puss 'n Boots, the White Cat, the Bluebird and the Bluebird Princess entertain the guests with their dancing.

Princess Aurora and Prince Désiré dance a pas de deux and become the new Queen and King. They live happily ever after.



Activity Guide to the Ballet!

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

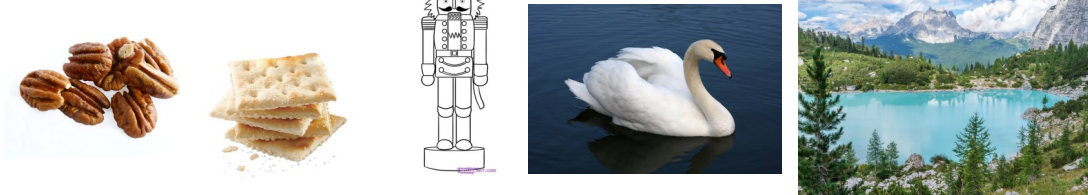
with the PBT Orchestra



The Music

A Russian composer named Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky wrote the music for *The Sleeping Beauty*. He also wrote the music for two other famous ballets. Can you guess the names of these ballets, using the pictures as clues?

1. The _____ 2. _____



Costumes!

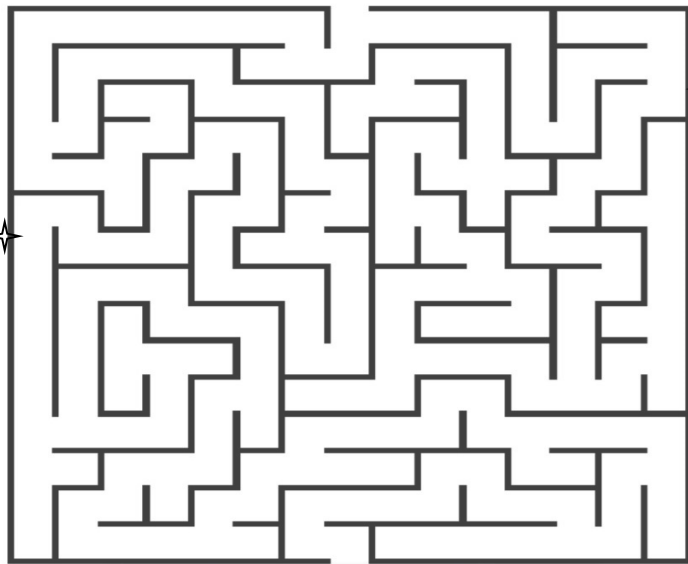
There are so many beautiful costumes in the ballet! As you're watching see if you can spot who's wearing:
(Hint: use the playbill to help with characters' names!)

- A long white wig: _____
- A purple tutu: _____
- Blue tights: _____
- A tail: _____
- A gold jacket and black bow tie: _____

- Snakes!: _____
- A pink tutu in Act 1, and a gold tutu at the end of the ballet: _____

Answers below!

Help the Prince and the Lilac Fairy find Aurora!



Catalabutte; Lilac Fairy; Bluebird; Carabosse; Aurora

Ballet Step of the Day!



Brisé (pronounced bree-ZAY; means “broken” in French). In this step the dancer jumps up and beats his legs and feet in mid-air (he “breaks” his feet apart). The Bluebird does **twenty-two** (!) of these in a row while traveling across the stage (this is called brisé volé). Watch how the choreography makes the dancer look like he’s a bird flying through the air! What other bird-like movements do you see in the Bluebird and Bluebird Princess dance (Act 3)? Describe them here: _____

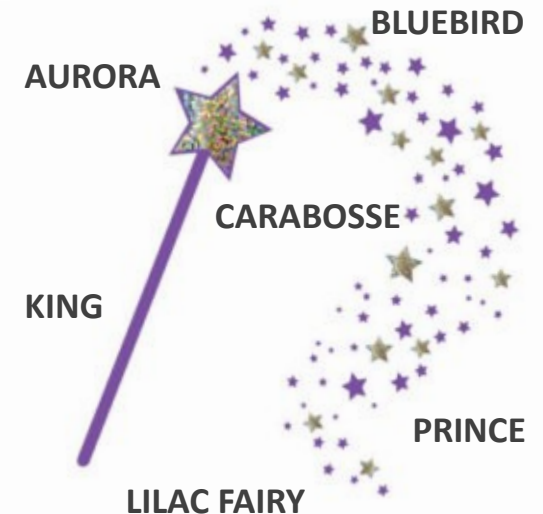


What is a spindle? A spindle is a rod used in making (or spinning) fabric by hand—one end is pointed and sharp. Carabosse hides a poisoned spindle in a bouquet of flowers and Aurora pricks her finger on it.



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

Can you find these characters' names in the Word Search?



Photos: Gabrielle Thurlow as Aurora, by Aimee DiAndrea; Yoshiaki Nakano as Bluebird, by Rich Sofranko.