

Synopsis for Young Readers

It is Christmas Eve, and Godfather Drosselmeyer and his Nephew unload presents from their cart. They are going to a party at the Stahlbaum's home. The Nephew wears a mask because he was cursed by the Rat King long ago. The mask frightens many of the guests as they arrive.

Marie is in her bedroom, where her parents present her with two special gifts, a scarf and a pair of ballet shoes.

Inside, the party is underway. Drosselmeyer performs magic tricks for the children. He introduces Marie to his Nephew, and Marie isn't scared of the mask. She recognizes the goodness inside him. He gives her a Nutcracker as a gift, but her brother grabs it from her and breaks it. Drosselmeyer fixes it with his magic. The party ends, the guests depart, and the family goes to bed.

At midnight, Marie goes downstairs to find her Nutcracker. But mice and human-sized rats come out and scare her. Suddenly, everything is growing, even her Nutcracker, who comes to life.

The mice and rats return, but the Nutcracker fights them to save Marie. He leads the toy soldiers and storybook characters in a battle! During the battle, Marie helps the Nutcracker defeat the Rat King by throwing her shoe at him.

Because of her concern for the Nutcracker, the spell is broken. He is transformed into a handsome Prince. He invites Marie on a journey through the glittering snowy forest to the Land of Enchantment.

When they arrive, the Sugar Plum Fairy greets them. The Prince tells the tale of the battle and how Marie saved his life. The grand festival begins, with dancers from many lands entertaining Marie and the Prince. Marie's visit ends with a beautiful duet danced by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier.

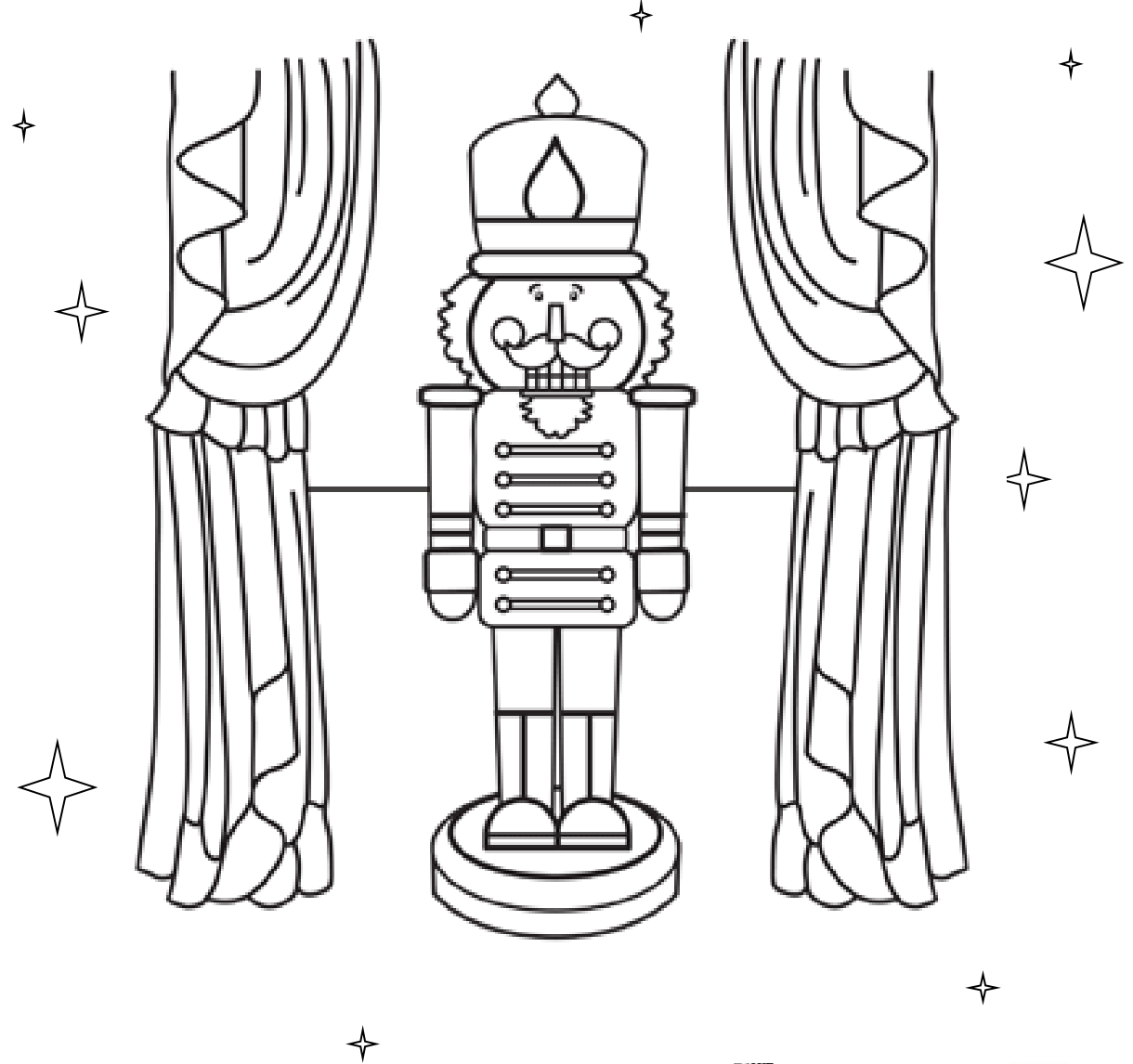
Suddenly, Christmas Day dawns on the street outside the Stahlbaum home. Drosselmeyer and his Nephew make their way to their cart. They stop to remember the night's amazing events.

Marie awakens in her bedroom. Was it all a dream? She finds her beautiful scarf, which changed colors during her magical journey. Can it be? She rushes to the mirror. Looking back at her, ever faithful, is her Nutcracker Prince!

Produced by PBT Education Department, 2019

The NUTCRACKER

Activity Guide to the Ballet!



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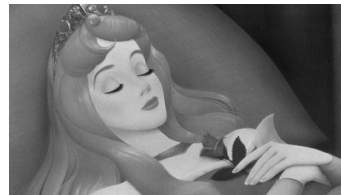
**PITTSBURGH
BALLET
THEATRE**
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
TERRENCE S. ORR



The Music

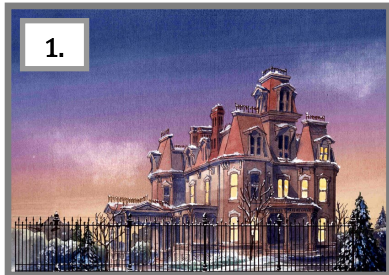
Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky wrote the music for *The Nutcracker*. Mr. Tchaikovsky also wrote the music for some other famous ballets. Can you guess what they are, using these pictures as clues?

1. _____ 2. The _____



Pittsburgh Connections

Match the picture with the description!



1.



2.



3.



4.

Artwork for both backdrops by designer Zack Brown.

_____ This is one of the most beautiful vistas in Western Pennsylvania. You will see backdrop this during the Journey through the Snowy Forest.

_____ It is said that meeting under this is a Pittsburgh tradition. You'll find it on the arch between the stage and the audience!

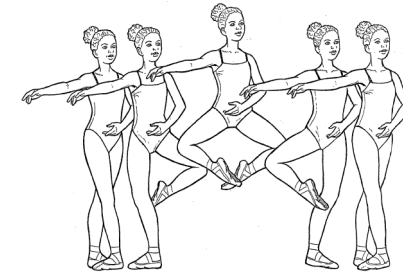
_____ This Christmas book is used throughout the ballet. Be sure to pay close attention to the battle scene— the storybook is part of something magical!

_____ This backdrop shows where Marie and her family live. It is a painting of a real mansion that used to be in Shadyside.

Ballet Term of the Day!

Pas de chat or “step of the cat” — a ballet leap from one foot to the other where feet are drawn up and the knees are bent so that the legs form a diamond.

Don't miss the mice during the battle scene as they *pas de chat* across the stage!



Listen for the celesta, an instrument that creates a delicate, tinkling sound.

Where do you hear it? (answer below)

Do the Numbers!

The Ringmaster wears stilts that add 32 inches to his height! If you were the ringmaster how tall would you be in inches? Remember there are 12 inches in a foot.

$$\boxed{\text{in.}} + \boxed{32 \text{ in.}} = \boxed{\text{in.}}$$

Your height

Ballet Scavenger Hunt

Watch the ballet closely to find the answers to these questions.

- Which character wears BLUE pointe shoes?
- What is the time on the Nutcracker clock when we first see the mice come out?
- A “shoulder lift” is when the male dancer lifts the female dancer up to sit on his shoulder. Four couples do this in the ballet. Can you name one of the couples?

Word Search

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

DROSSELMAYER, ENCHANTMENT, FRITZ, MARIE, NUTCRACKER, RAT KING, STAHLBAUM, SUGARPLUM FAIRY

The celesta is heard in Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, Act 2
Ballet Scavenger: 1. Clara, the doll 2. Midnight or 12 AM 3. Snow Queen & King, Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier, Marie and the Prince, Chinese Dance