

## Quick Learning Activities for *The Nutcracker*

These short activities that can be used at the beginning or end of class, without much teacher facilitation, and should take just 5-10 minutes.

- Show the Nutcracker **Act I** synopsis on a whiteboard.
  - Who are the main characters?
  - Make a list of the “magic” tricks you find.
  - Make a list of Pittsburgh references.
- The Rat King cursed Drosselmeyer’s nephew and turned him into a Nutcracker. Write a description of a nightmare in which the Rat King curses **you**. How does the Rat King curse you? What do you do about it?
- All snowflakes have 6 “arms” or points. On each costume for the 20 Snowflake characters, 6 snowflake points are sewn on at the waist. Each point takes 2 hours to make. How long did it take to make all the points for 20 costumes?
- The Master of Ceremonies in Act 2 wears stilts that are 32 inches tall. How tall would the stilts make you? Figure in inches, feet, and centimeters.
- Ballet mime / charades! Pick a word out of a hat that is important in the ballet and try to get the rest of the class to figure out what the word is through one movement Possible words include: snow, party, magic, battle, music, mouse, love.