

*The Sleeping Beauty* Writing Prompts

1. Write a short story through the perspective of one of the characters in Act 3 (Puss n' Boots, White Cat, Bluebirds). Why did they attend the wedding? How do they know the Prince and Aurora? How did they get there and what did they find on their journey?
2. The Fairy characters in the Prologue give Aurora the gifts of wisdom, abundance, beauty, grace, song and energy, to help ensure that she is a good person and has a good life. Choose one of these and explain more fully what that "gift" gives Aurora. What other attributes would YOU want to give her? Explain why.
3. Create a modern-day *Sleeping Beauty* story. What is the setting - place / town / landscape? Who are your main characters and what are they like? What would the curse be? What are your costumes like? What is the music? How would the circumstances be different in today's world?
4. The character of Aurora changes through the ballet, from that of an innocent, giddy young girl to a mature woman in love. Watch her choreography and see how it changes and expands during the course of the performance. Note how the ballerina in the role of Aurora creates this transformation through Petipa's choreographic devices, and her own technique and dramatic skills. Does she successfully portray this process?
5. A ballet historian, Jennifer Homans, suggests that Tchaikovsky's music pushes dancers to move with "a fullness and subtlety that few other composers" inspire—that his music works on the "human body and spirit" in a profound way. Watch the ballet with this idea in mind. Do you see this notion carried through in PBT's dancers and in the performance as a whole? What movements / dancers in particular strike you as perhaps illustrating the qualities Homans describes? Does live music make a difference in how a dancer moves?
6. *The Sleeping Beauty* ballet retells one of our most beloved fairy tales through the medium of dance. How does dance contribute to or enhance such a familiar story? Does it detract at all? Without words to tell a story, what do we lose and what do we gain?
7. The Princess celebrates her 16th birthday in Act 1 of the ballet. This was a special birthday because turning 16 meant you had "come of age." What does "coming of age" mean? When does a person "come of age" in the U.S.? What makes "coming of age" special in the U.S.?
8. Three out of the four acts (or parts) of *The Sleeping Beauty* involve celebrations. First is a baptism, then a birthday, and finally, a wedding. What is a celebration? What celebrations does your family hold? What is a celebration your family does not hold? Do you know why? Write about and explain your favorite family celebration.