



Nutcracker Movement Exploration



Your teacher has brought the following items to class:

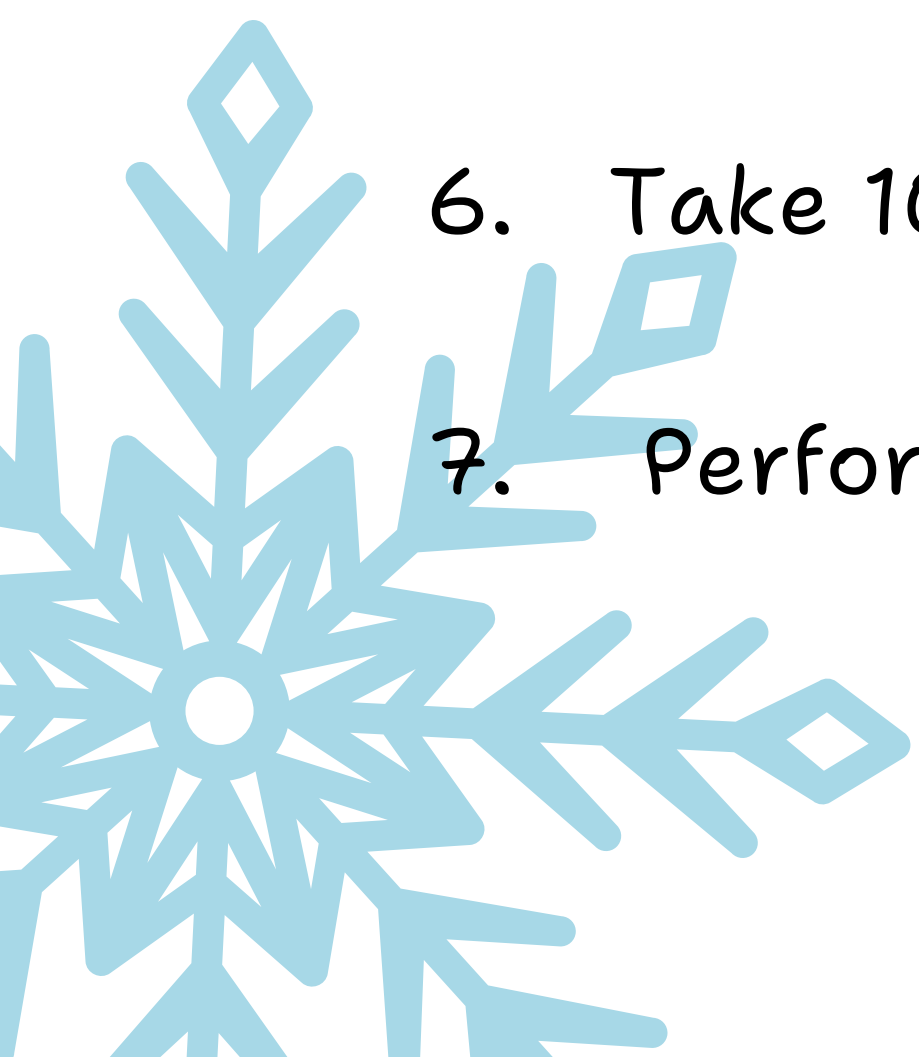
- Magic Wand Toy
- Mouse Plushy
- A Toy Nutcracker
- A Bowl of Fake Snow

1. Split up into groups of 3 or 4 classmates.
2. Spend 20 seconds with each item. Noticing its texture, shape, colour, and size.
3. Choose 5 of the following words to describe each item:

Big Small Hard Smooth Pointy Soft Fluffy

Shiny Name the Colour Round

4. Come up with 5 movements to go along with each set of words. Put it all together to create your own short Nutcracker choreography!
5. Choose 1 of the songs from the Nutcracker Album.
6. Take 10 minutes to practice your movements.
7. Perform your choreography for your class.





Nutcracker Movement Exploration



Movement Ideas for Inspiration

Magic Wand

- Wave your arm in big circles like casting a spell.
- Twirl your wrist like the wand is glowing.
- Reach high and low as if drawing sparkles.
- Tiptoe lightly like you're floating.
- Make a burst shape with your hands.

Mouse Plushy

- Scurry quickly with tiny steps.
- Crouch low and peek around.
- Twitch your nose (or pretend!).
- Move in curved pathways like a mouse.
- Freeze suddenly like you heard a sound.

Toy Nutcracker

- March with straight legs like a soldier.
- Open and close your arms like a nutcracker jaw.
- Stand tall like a statue.
- Turn sharply like a guard who heard something strange.
- Stomp rhythmically.

Fake Snow

- Float your arms like falling snowflakes.
- Spin softly like swirling snow.
- Brush your hands gently like clearing snow.
- Lower slowly as if you are melting.
- Jump lightly like snowflake flurries.





Exploration du mouvement de Casse-Noisette



Votre enseignant.e a apporté les objets suivants en salle de classe :

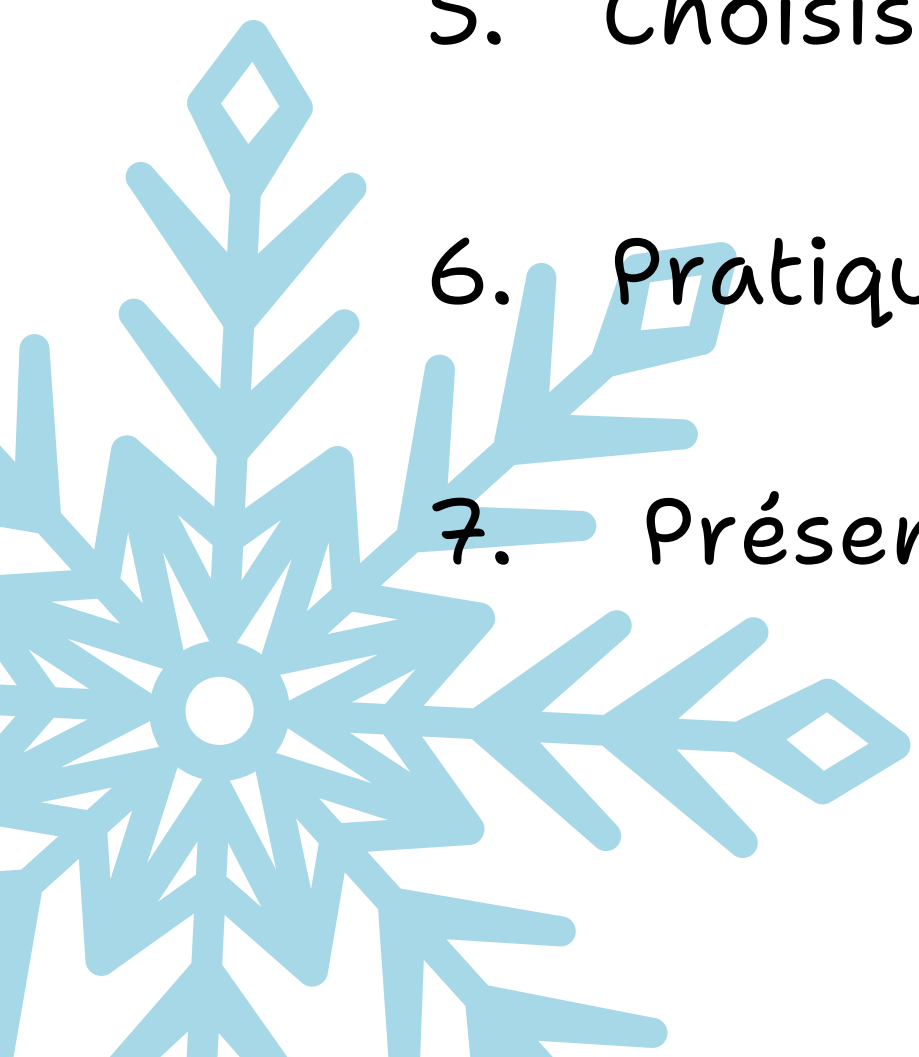
- Une baguette magique
- Une souris en peluche
- Un soldat Casse-Noisette
- Un bol de neige artificiel

1. Divisez-vous en groupes de 3 ou 4 camarades.
2. Passez 20 secondes avec chaque objet. Remarquez bien sa couleur, sa texture, sa forme et sa taille.
3. Choisissez 5 des mots suivants pour décrire chaque objet :

Grand Petit Dur Lisse Pointu Doux Poilu

Scintillant Nommer la Couleur Rond

4. Créez 5 mouvements correspondant à chaque série de mots. Assemblez le tout pour créer votre propre chorégraphie du Casse-Noisette !
5. Choisissez 1 chanson tirée de l'album Casse-Noisette
6. Pratiquez vos mouvements pendant 10 minutes.
7. Présentez votre chorégraphie à votre classe.





Exploration de mouvements du Casse-Noisette



Idées de mouvements pour vous inspirer:

Baguette magique

- Bouger les bras en cercle comme si tu jettes un sort.
- Faire tourner les poignets pour créer de la magie.
- Tendre les bras de haut en bas pour dessiner des étincelles.
- Danser sur la pointe des pieds, comme si tu flottais.
- Faire un grand saut comme une explosion de brillants.

Souris en peluche

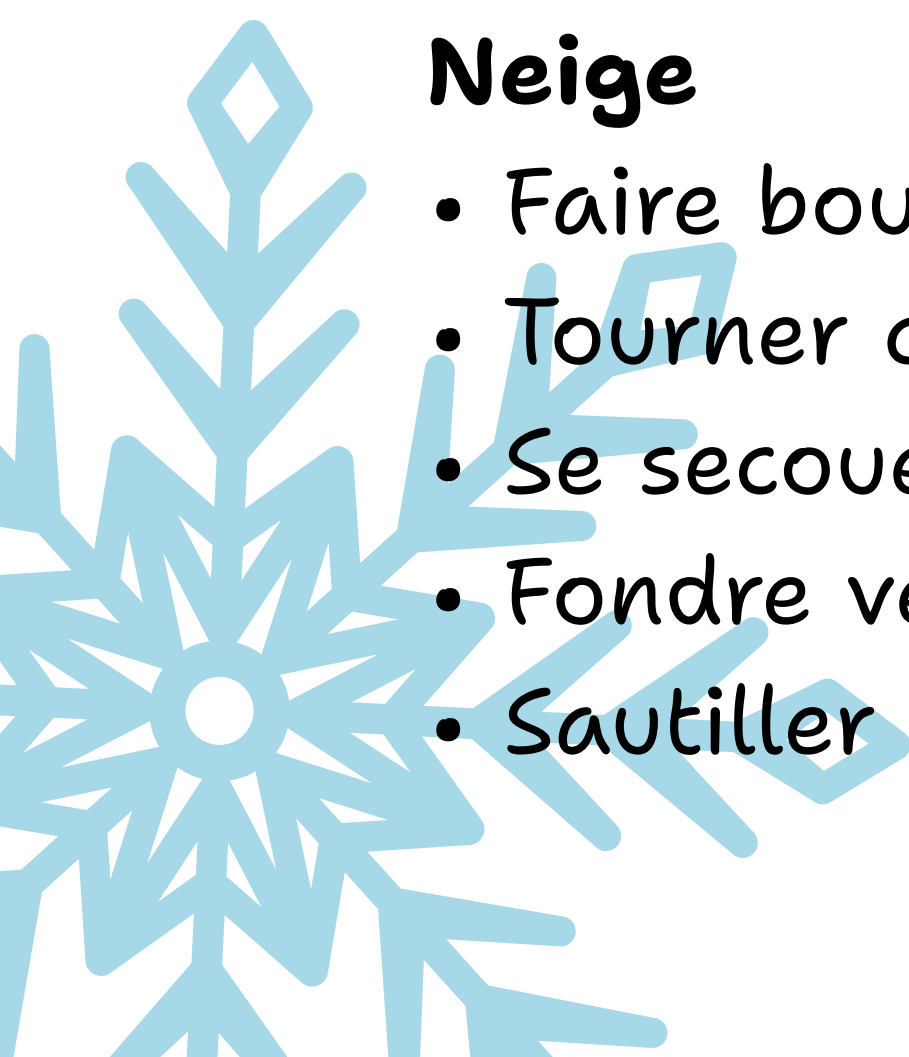
- Courir avec de petits pas rapides.
- Se faufiller près du sol.
- Faire bouger le bout du nez. Renifler.
- Courir d'un côté à l'autre.
- Se cacher rapidement pour s'enfuir d'un chat !

Casse-Noisette

- Marcher les jambes droites, comme un soldat.
- Ouvrir et fermer la mâchoire. Scrounche !
- Se tenir très droit et rigide comme une statue.
- Tourner brusquement pour changer de direction.
- Marcher au rythme de la musique.

Neige

- Faire bouger les doigts comme des flocons qui tombent.
- Tourner comme la neige qui virvole.
- Se secouer pour enlever la neige.
- Fondre vers le sol.
- Sautiller comme la neige en rafale.



A Christmas Story of the Sugar Plum Fairy

Once upon a time, there was a tiny, beautiful fairy who lived in a dried up sugar plum. Of all the fairies who lived around her, she was the cutest, tiniest one. Her name was Marianna and her jobs were many ways of doing good. She sprinkled fairy dust around and did much good, as a fairy should. One of her jobs was to dance and entertain the other fairies on holidays. She also taught the child fairies about all the many different fairy ways. She also sprinkled fairy dust on small children, so they could sleep at night. This made them very drowsy, and they would forget to be afraid then, because they felt so cozy and sleepy. Marianna would plump up their pillows and sing fairy lullabies to them, and they would peacefully fall asleep. Sometimes, Marianna would teach the children how to count sheep,

because this was a way for them to get to sleep whenever she couldn't come to them. Whenever a child lost a tooth, Marianna left a coin for each lost one. If it was Christmas time, Marianna would leave the children a sugar plumb and a toy and some fairy candy, which was very, very good to taste indeed! The children would put their stockings beside their beds and, the very next morning, they would find the goodies she left inside of them, as well as the presents from Santa Clause.

Marianna was a good deed fairy, and how greatly she enjoyed doing these good deeds. In the early spring, Marianna came and she planted many sugar plum seeds. That's why some of the fairies called her the Sugar Plum Fairy of good deeds. Why, Marianna even went into farmers fields and pulled up all their weeds.

On Christmas eve, Marianna danced beautifully for the fairies annual ballerina ball. She dressed in a beautiful, sparkling gown, that made her look more lovely than all the ladies and other fairies who were present. She wore the most beautiful, sparkling tiara on her head. It was covered with lovely, brilliant, gleaming diamonds and with shimmering fairy dust.

She looked so beautiful that every one stared at her in awe.

Marianna was so tiny and dainty and she was such an adept, elegant dancer that she captivated the entire audience with her dancing. She kept perfect balance and in perfect rhythm with the music. There was so much charm and beauty about her that it made the evening quite happy and perfect for everyone there. When the evening was over, Marianna quietly left and went to do her Christmas evening chores of helping the children get to sleep and leaving them presents and goodies. If there were any children awake when she stopped by, Marianna would tell them a fairy tale and she would also dance for them. Tonight, she stopped by a house that had just been moved into by a new family. There were four children living there with their parents. They were very poor. Marianna could see this by looking into their windows. Their furniture was very old and shabby looking and when she went into their kitchen, Marianna could see that the cupboards were almost completely bare. This family only had one half a loaf of old, dry bread.

A Christmas Story of the Sugar Plum Fairy

" Oh, no!" Thought the sweet Marianna. " This will never do! I must get them some food and some decent furnishings!" So, this is what Marianna set off to do. She flew as fast as her tiny fairy wings would take her to seek help for the new family. The very first person Marianna contacted was William, the gentle giant. She knocked on his door at 8:00 in the evening exactly.

William slowly got up and answered the door to her. His face lit up when he saw Marianna, because he was so happy to see her again. "Why don't you come in for tea?" William asked Marianna. Marianna told him about the poor family as they drank tea at Williams coffee table. " They need food and furniture and clothing too. Of course, I have toys and goodies for them as well," Marianna continued to tell him how poor the family was. " Why, I have plenty of food stored up in my pantry...and I know someone who has a furniture store. I'll ask them if they have any nice, repossessed furniture they could donate. I am sure they do, because they were talking about getting rid of some overstocked furniture the other day!" So, William dialed the people who owned the furniture store and what do you know? They had some beautiful furniture to donate. They had a refrigerator, couches, love seats, beds, tables, coffee tables, mirrors, curtains, dressers, carpeting and bookcases.They also had soft feather pillows,feather coverlets and blankets and lovely, soft comforters, all with such beautiful colors.There was also a cute wooden rocking chair.

Marianna was so tickled and happy when he told her about the furniture that she did a little jig on William's coffee table. " Can we get the food and take it over first?" She asked William eagerly. "Sure, we can!" He answered her. Then, William went to his pantry and began to get out all kinds of good food. There was soup, canned meat, canned stew, vegetables, fruit, potatoes, dried fruit, candy canes, chocolate, potatoe chips, cranberry sauce, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, and all kinds of good food. Then, he got a huge turkey out of his freezer, and some other items out of his refrigerator, including juice and milk. Marianna jumped up and down and she said, " Thank you, William! This is so good! I didn't expect anything this good!" Bless your heart! You are so nice!" Marianna was so happy, she flew in circles around the room.

As she flew around the room, fairy dust circled around with her. Whenever Marianna was really happy, glowing fairy dust came from her and it lit up the place where she was. William got all the food into a huge bag. Together, they went to the new families home. Everyone in the family was fast asleep in bed. William and Marianna sneaked quietly into the house. The door was not locked. They put all the food into a pantry in the kitchen. Then, they went to the furniture store. The owner of the furniture store was waiting for their arrival. William put all the furniture into one of the store's trucks and they delivered the furniture to the house and put it all into place. They put the refrigerator into the kitchen, and they put the milk, meat and juices into the refrigerator.

A Christmas Story of the Sugar Plum Fairy

"Oh, we FORGOT!" Marianna exclaimed. "Forgot what? " William asked her, with a puzzled look on his face. " Marianna said, "We forgot a Christmas tree!" So, off the two friends went to find a tree. It was snowy and quite cold outside, and the air was crisp and fresh. It made Marianna feel more energetic than usual, which is very energetic indeed. She flew up and all around in swirling circles and sang Christmas carols as she went along with William. It was a beautiful night! The stars were shining brilliantly and you could hear the soft, faint sound of carols in the distance, blending in with Marianna's soft fairy voice, as she sang. They went along for quite awhile, and soon they saw a wooded area that was full of evergreen trees. They went into the woods and before they had gone very far, they saw a lovely tree that was just the perfect size and shape. There was an axe close by and William took it and chopped down the tree. Then off they went to deliver it to the new people's home.

On the way, they passed a store and William went into it and bought some pretty, colored lights for the tree and a few ornaments to decorate it with. They even found a lovely angel to put on the top of the Christmas tree.

They were not long in finding their way back to the home of the new family. They decorated the Christmas tree. Marianna went upstairs to the children's room. The children were already asleep and they looked like angels. They looked so peaceful sleeping. Marianna put new comforters and blankets on them and she laid soft, downy pillows, with satin pillow cases under their little heads. She put the goodies and toys into stockings and left them beside their beds.

As Marianna quietly left the children's room, it all looked and felt very peaceful. When Marianna got downstairs, she found out that William had decorated the whole house with pine bows, holly, mistletoe, and red velvet ribbons. It all looked so beautiful! It looked like a home now and it looked very Christmasy!

Suddenly, they heard a noise and they realized that one of the children was coming downstairs, so they both hid. Sure enough, there came a little child down the stairs, rubbing her little eyes from sleepiness. When the little girl got downstairs and saw the tree, she squealed in delight! Then, running upstairs, she went into her bedroom and found the stocking and the goodies and saw her bed all covered with new bed clothes! The little girl got into the stocking and started eating the goodies. She also found a dolly, a book, and some small playthings.

Marianna came into her room. Seeing Mariana was a surprise to the little girl.

" Who are you?" the little girl asked Marianna her eyes widened in wonder.

" I am Marianna, the Sugar Plum fairy. I came to bring you Christmas cheer. I brought you all these presents, with the help of others tonight. You should go back to sleep now, because Santa still needs to come." So, the little girl got into her bed and Marianna covered her up and sang to her, until she fell fast asleep.

A Christmas Story of the Sugar Plum Fairy

As Marianna and William left, they looked back at the house. You could see the Christmas tree, all lit up and there was smoke coming out of the chimney now, because William also had brought wood and he had put it into the pot bellied stove and started a fire. However, no fire was kindled in the fireplace because Santa would be coming down the chimney. Now, the family would be warm and fed this Christmas and the children would have toys and goodies to eat.

In the distant sky, they both heard jingle bells and, as they looked up, they saw Santa's sleigh landing on the roof top of the new families house. It was a magical sight! The snow covered house had sparkling icicles hanging from the eaves, and Santa and his reindeer and elves were landing upon it's roof.

They watched as Santa went down the chimney with his large bag of toys. They both felt more joy than they could contain. They looked at each other, smiling wide and then at the families quaint little red brick, snow covered house. "This family will have a PERFECT Christmas!" said Marianna to William.

They waited until Santa had left the toys and had left the home and then they both parted their ways, to each go to his and her own home for Christmas. As she flew home, Marianna realized that this truly was her happiest Christmas holiday so far, and William was so happy he danced his way home! They both realized that there is certainly great joy in giving to others, especially those in need.

That's what Christmas is all about and you can live Christmas all year round!

THE END

Reading Comprehension Questions:

- What are three different jobs or good deeds that Marianna did as a fairy?

- Why did Marianna decide she needed to help the new family she found on Christmas Eve?

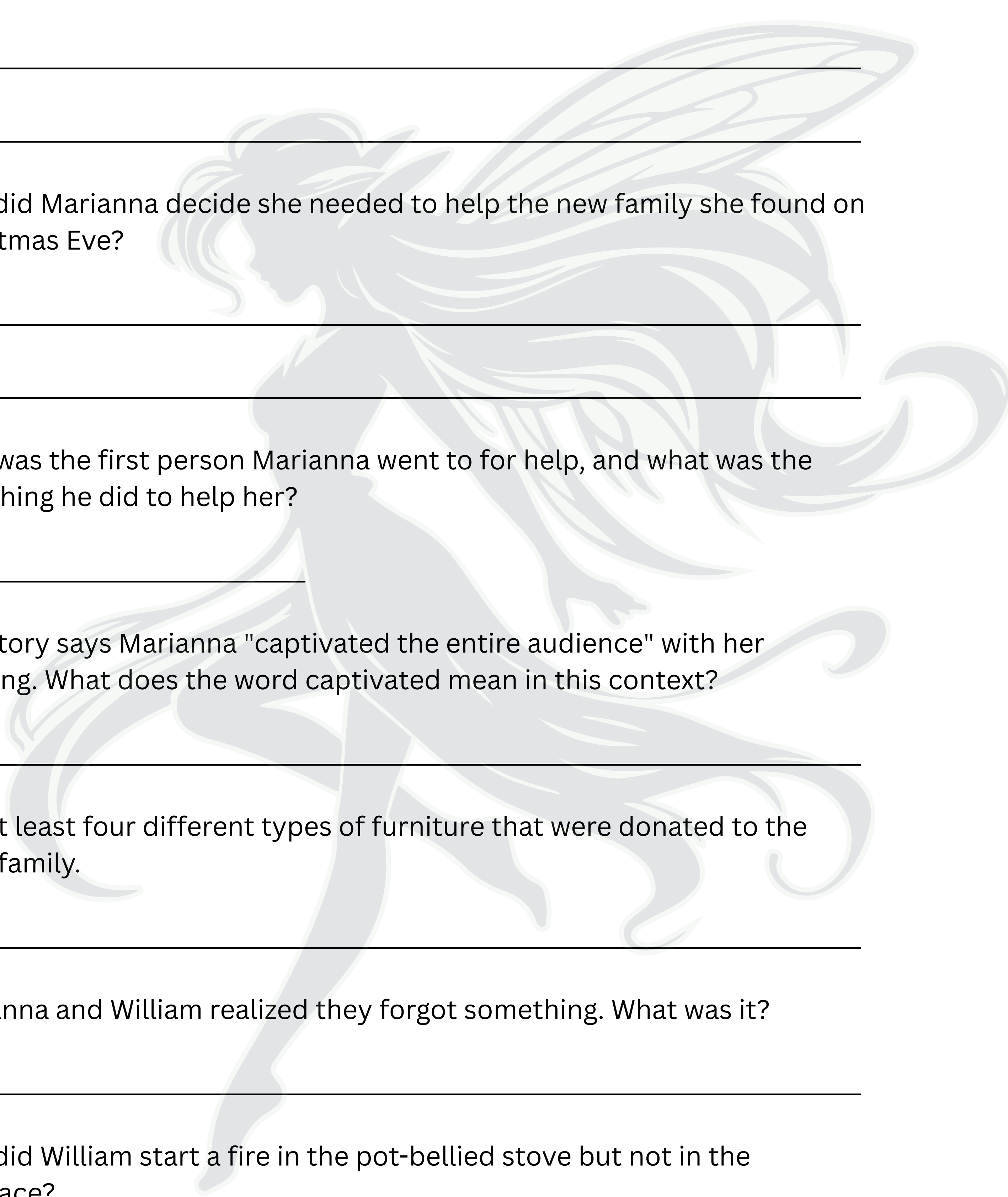
- Who was the first person Marianna went to for help, and what was the first thing he did to help her?

- The story says Marianna "captivated the entire audience" with her dancing. What does the word captivated mean in this context?

- List at least four different types of furniture that were donated to the poor family.

- Marianna and William realized they forgot something. What was it?

- Why did William start a fire in the pot-bellied stove but not in the fireplace?



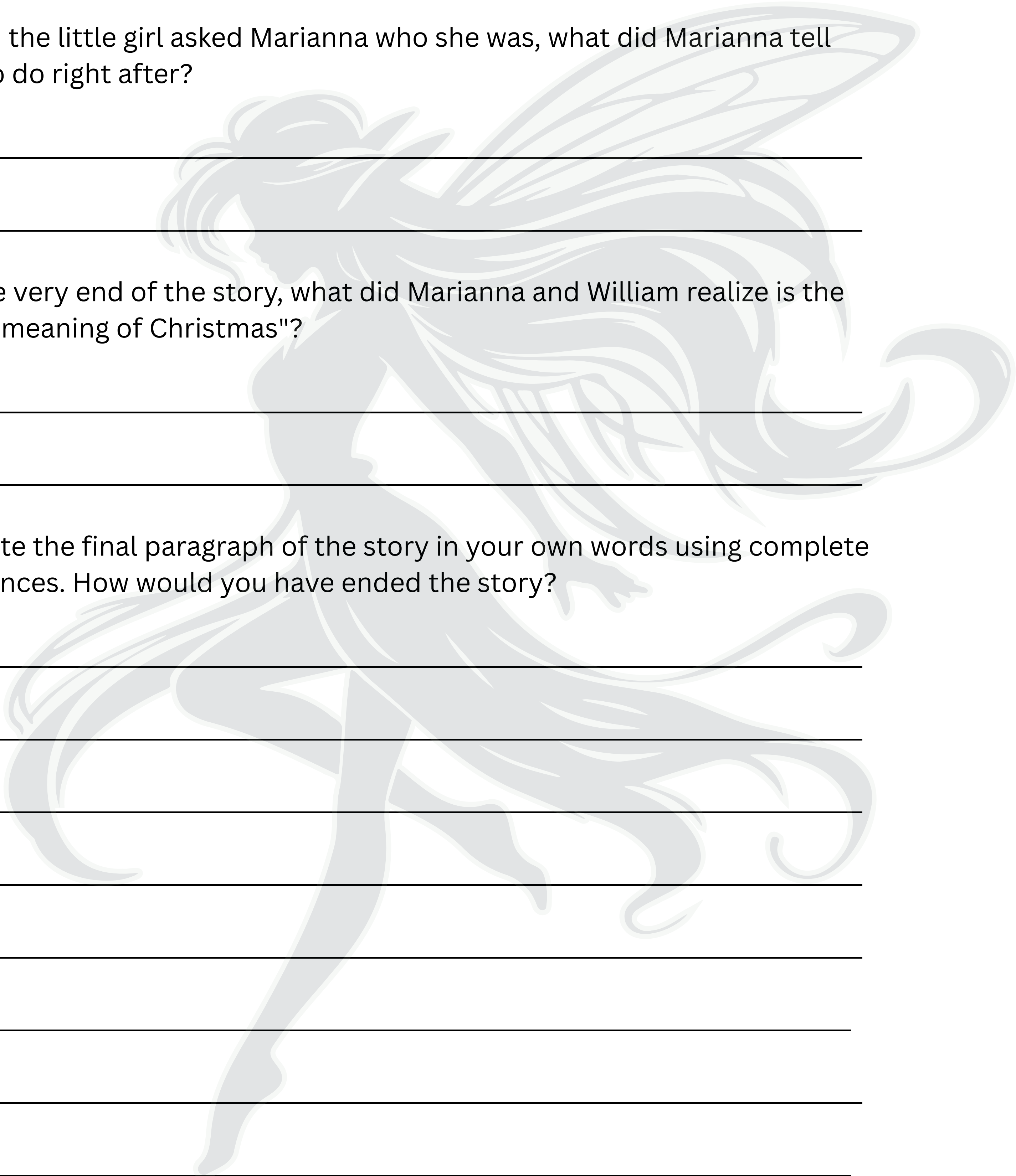
Reading Comprehension Questions:

- What did the little girl who woke up find in her stocking?

- When the little girl asked Marianna who she was, what did Marianna tell her to do right after?

- At the very end of the story, what did Marianna and William realize is the "true meaning of Christmas"?

- Rewrite the final paragraph of the story in your own words using complete sentences. How would you have ended the story?



L'Histoire de Casse Noisette

par Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffmann (1776 - 1822)

Crédit Photo: Grands Ballets Canadiens



C'est le soir de Noël, chez Franz et Marie. Ils attendent la visite de leur oncle Drosselmeyer. Il est horloger et leur apporte souvent de bien étranges jouets qu'il fabrique lui même. Il raconte aussi de fabuleuses histoires.

Le voilà qui arrive avec trois nouveaux incroyables petits automates et il sort de sa poche une sorte de poupée en bois, droite comme un petit soldat, avec une grande bouche qui sert de casse-noisette. Les enfants regardent ces nouveautés et Marie prend le casse-noisette pour voir de près comment il fonctionne. Franz veut, à son tour, s'en emparer. Il tire dessus, Marie ne le lache pas et, ce qui devait arriver arriva, le casse-noisette se casse !

Marie commence à pleurer, mais oncle Drosselmeyer s'empare vite du jouet et avec son mouchoir lui fabrique un pansement qui lui remet la mâchoire en place. Marie le remercie, mais la maman de Marie en a assez de tout ce bruit et envoie les enfants vite au lit.

- Allez hop, Franz ! Hop, Marie ! Allez vite vous coucher. Vous êtes trop énervés ce soir !

Marie part sagement dans son lit et laisse sa nouvelle poupée blessée dans un petit lit de poupée au pied du sapin. L'oncle Drosselmeyer vient lui souhaiter bonne nuit et lui raconte une bien curieuse histoire.

- Tu sais, Marie, ce casse-noisette n'est pas une poupée ordinaire, c'est un jeune homme qui se cache à l'intérieur. Voilà sa véritable histoire :

L'Histoire de Casse-Noisette

par Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffmann (1776 - 1822)

Il y a longtemps un roi et une reine eurent une fille, la princesse Pirlipat, qui était devenue très laide à cause d'un mauvais sort lancé par le roi des souris. Les souris du château avaient cependant promis que si un jour un homme voulait délivrer la princesse de sa laideur il le pourrait. Il lui faudrait pour cela casser avec les dents une noix très dure et en donner son fruit à manger à la princesse.

Bien des jeunes hommes étaient venus tenter de délivrer la princesse de ce mauvais coup du sort, mais, jusqu'à présent, ils s'y étaient tous cassé les dents !

Or, un jour, mon neveu, qui avait eu vent de cette histoire, se présenta au château. On lui apporta la fameuse noix très dure et, d'un coup de dent, d'un seul coup de sa mâchoire, il l'ouvrit et en offrit le fruit à la princesse. Elle croqua cette noix et, comme par enchantement, se transforma en une magnifique jeune fille.

Mon neveu, ébloui par tant de beauté, recula de trois pas pour saluer la princesse, comme il se doit. Faisant cela il marcha sur la queue d'une souris venue assister à la scène. Le roi des souris, furieux de cet incident, lui jeta un sort à son tour, et le transforma en casse-noisette en bois !

Bien sûr, la princesse ne voulut pas d'un casse-noisette comme mari, alors on le chassa du château.

Voilà la triste histoire de mon neveu le casse-noisette.
Allez Marie, dors bien et fais de beaux rêves !

L'oncle Drosselmeyer éteignit la lumière, sortit et ferma doucement la porte; Marie commençait à peine à s'endormir. Elle n'arrivait pas à s'endormir. Elle décida ainsi d'aller chercher son casse-noisette.

Elle se dirigeait vers le salon lorsqu'elle constata qu'il se passait des choses un peu bizarres. Elle ne savait pas exactement ce que c'était... si c'était elle qui rapetissait ou si tout se mettait à grandir autour d'elle.

Soudain, toute une armée de souris, qui semblait descendre du sapin de Noël, vint encercler Casse-Noisette. Le petit bonhomme se leva, appela à l'aide les soldats de bois de Franz et tous les autres jouets qui l'entouraient. Une bataille féroce s'éclata entre les souris et les soldats.

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Le roi des souris arriva et fonça directement sur Casse-Noisette. Voyant cela, Marie attrapa son chausson, visa rapidement le roi et lança violemment sa pantoufle sur lui. Il tomba à terre, assommé. Les souris l'emportèrent et se retirèrent toutes du champ de bataille. Casse-Noisette vint vers Marie pour la remercier.

- Tu m'as sauvé la vie ! Je ne sais pas comment te remercier !

En disant cela, il prenait vie et, peu à peu, se transformait en un magnifique jeune homme. Marie n'en croyait pas ses yeux.

- Viens avec moi, lui dit-il. Je vais t'offrir une belle promenade dans mon royaume.

Et, comme par magie, les voilà emportés dans un tourbillon de flocons de neige.

Dans leur valse folle ils voyagèrent dans les airs et se retrouvèrent devant la fée Dragée qui leur dit de sa douce voix :

- Ah ! Vous voilà enfin ! Je vous attendais pour le goûter. Venez vite au royaume des gourmandises, au fabuleux pays des friandises !

Le paysage était féérique : les chemins étaient en caramel, les fontaines prodiguaient des jets de grenadine, il y avait des maisons en nougat, des escaliers en biscuit, jusqu'au palais de la fée tout en choux à la crème, se dressant comme une immense pièce montée.

- Comme je suis contente de vous voir, continua la fée Dragée. Votre voyage s'est bien passé ?

- Oui, répondit Casse-Noisette, mais auparavant nous avons dû affronter l'armée des souris et, sans Marie, je crois bien que je n'aurais pas survécu !

Marie sourit, fière d'avoir pu aider ce vaillant et beau garçon qui lui tenait la main.

- Allez, installez-vous, poursuivit la fée Dragée. Vous allez goûter en assistant au plus beau spectacle que je puisse vous offrir.

La belle fée invitait Marie et Casse-noisette à s'asseoir à une table magnifique où se dressait un gigantesque goûter. Elle leur offrit de délicieux et succulents gâteaux accompagnés de boissons fraîches et chaudes, dans une vaisselle étincelante.

L'Histoire de Casse-Noisette

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Puis d'un coup de baguette magique, elle appella les artistes qui apparaissaient devant les yeux ébahis de Marie.

Le premier numéro était celui du Prince Chocolat qui exécuta une danse espagnole endiablée, frappant des pieds pour souligner le rythme énergique.

Vint ensuite le café d'Arabie qui semblait flotter au-dessus du sol comme un doux arôme qui faisait frémir les narines des enfants. Ce fut alors le moment du thé de Chine. Il bouillonnait en tournant comme un manège, saluant les enfants avec joie.

S'élancèrent alors les courageux et intrépides petits bonbons russes à la menthe, qui avaient préparé d'incroyables cascades et culbutes, puis un groupe de quelques danseuses en massepain qui apportèrent une touche légère et gracieuse à cette folle débandade.

Marie et Casse-Noisette applaudissaient de tout cœur.

Madame Gingembre vint prendre place sur scène avec de nombreux enfants, aussi mignons les uns que les autres. Ils se lancèrent dans une époustouflante série de galipettes entrecoupées d'éclats de rire.

Dans le calme qui suivit leur départ, une cascade de fleurs en sucre se défile dans la pièce. Elles ouvraient leurs pétales dorés en vagues successives, traversaient la pièce avec grâce et élaboraient d'élégantes compositions avant de se rejoindre toutes ensemble dans un magnifique bouquet final.

Après cette valse de fleurs, la fée Dragée refit son apparition, escortée d'un tout jeune homme. L'élégance et la grâce de leurs silhouettes donnaient à leur danse l'allure d'un tendre tête-à-tête.

- Voilà comment je voudrais être quand je serai grande, se dit Marie en son for intérieur. Et je voudrais que toutes les fêtes soient aussi joyeuses et belles que celle-ci.

Marie descendit de son trône, embrassa la fée Dragée et remercia tous les danseurs. Puis elle prit la main de son prince et tous deux s'éloignèrent vers le futur.

L'Histoire de Casse-Noisette

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Lorsque Marie ouvrit les yeux, elle était dans son lit. Casse-Noisette, son petit bonhomme en bois, était là, à ses côtés, le mouchoir autour de la tête. Marie ne savait plus trop quoi penser. Elle le regarda, dénoua le mouchoir et constata que la mâchoire s'était, comme par miracle, réparée. Elle ne savait vraiment plus quoi penser.

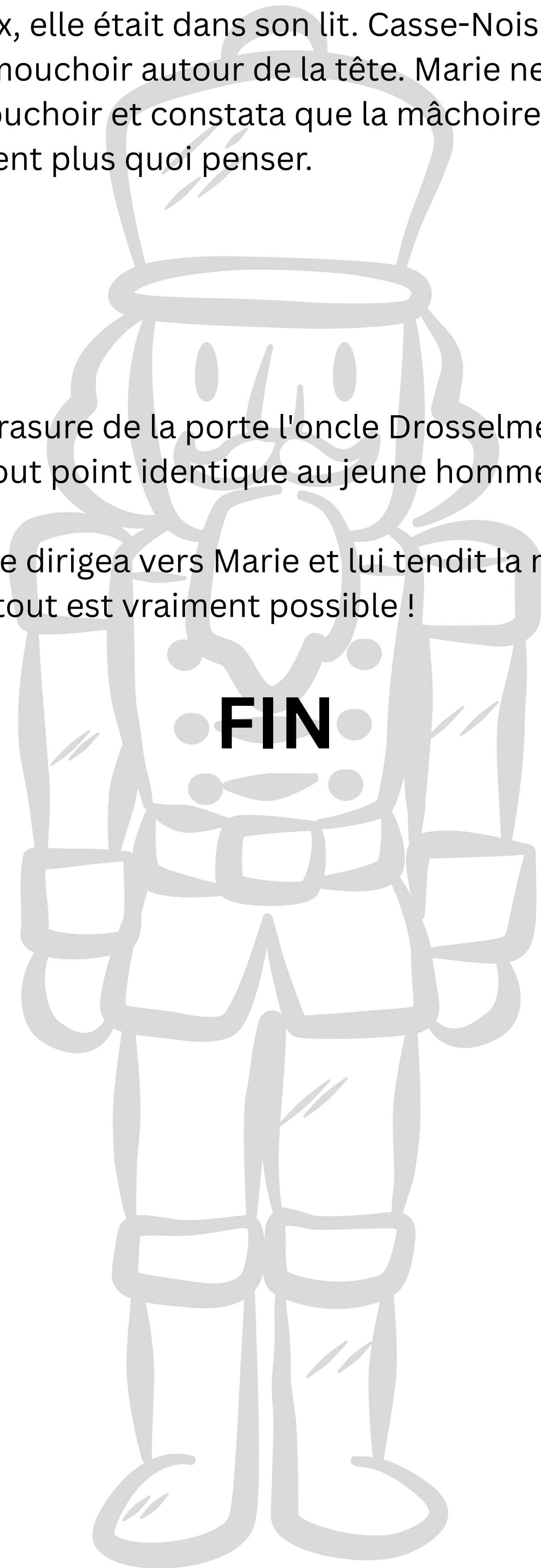
On frappa alors à la porte.

- Entrez !, claironna Marie.

Apparurent alors dans l'embrasure de la porte l'oncle Drosselmeyer et son neveu ! Son neveu en chair et en os, en tout point identique au jeune homme du rêve de Marie.

D'un pas lent et solennel, il se dirigea vers Marie et lui tendit la main pour qu'elle sorte de son lit. Décidément, à Noël, tout est vraiment possible !

FIN



L'Histoire de Casse-Noisette

par Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffmann (1776 - 1822)

- Quel est le travail de l'oncle Drosselmeyer ?

- Au début de l'histoire, comment le Casse-Noisette se brise-t-il ?

- Dans l'histoire racontée par l'oncle, pourquoi le roi des souris punit-il le neveu ?

- Quand Marie voit l'armée de souris, que fait le Casse-Noisette pour se défendre ?

- Quel objet Marie lance-t-elle pour arrêter le roi des souris ?

- En quoi le Casse-Noisette se transforme-t-il après avoir gagné la bataille ?

- Donne trois exemples de nourriture ou de friandises que l'on trouve au « Royaume des gourmandises ».

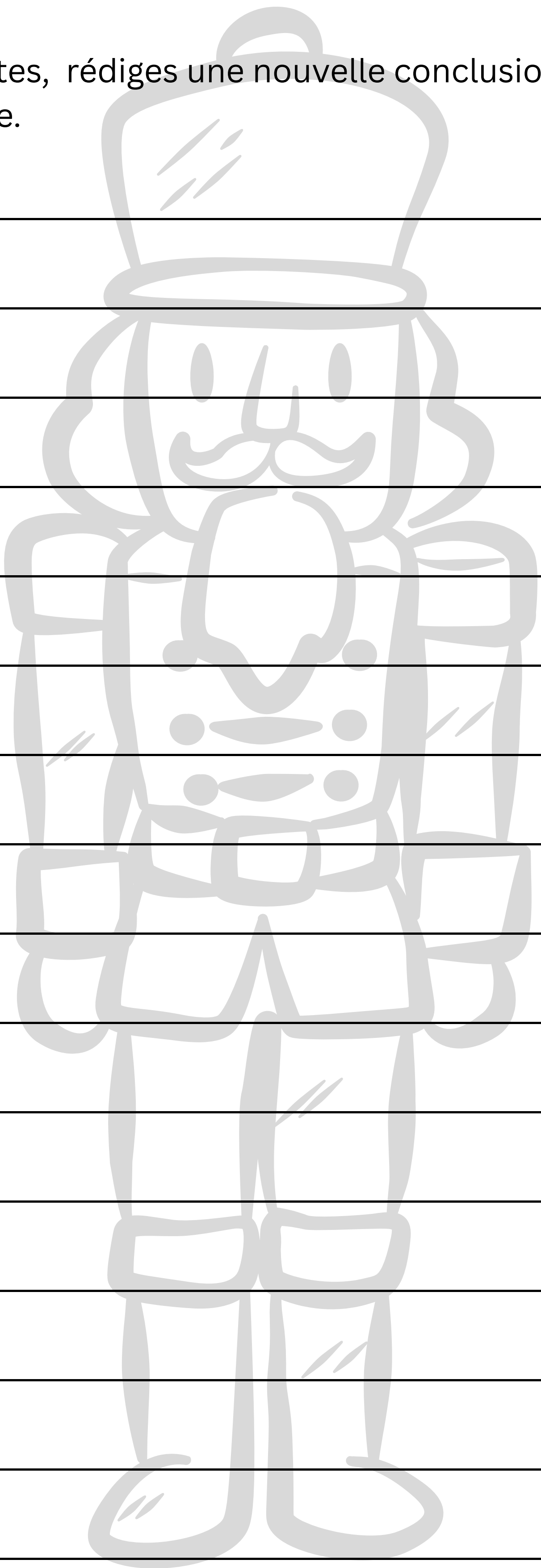
- Quel est le premier personnage à danser pour Marie au pays de la fée Dragée ?

- Au moment du réveil de Marie, quel indice lui montre que ce n'était peut-être pas un rêve ?

L'Histoire du Casse-Noisette

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- Avec des phrases complètes, rédige une nouvelle conclusion de l’histoire de Casse-Noisette en un paragraphe.





***The Nutcracker
Dances
Around the World***

The Nutcracker Dances Around the World

i. In Act II, Scene 1, The Nutcracker Ballet features balletic interpretations of cultural dances from around the world! This exercise will expose your students to different cultures, music, and dance forms!

Watch one of the following videos (in-class or as homework) per day leading up to seeing the Nutcracker Production (Online or In-Person)

1. Russian Folk Dance:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K21yj2lEgrA&list=RDK21yj2lEgrA&start_radio=1

2. Chinese Traditional Dance :

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dTGEM4WnXQ&list=RD1dTGEM4WnXQ&start_radio=1

Option 2: Chinese Traditional/Contemporary
Little Pear Garden Dance Company

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47j20XiOTIA>

3. Spanish Flamenco Dance :

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5F9Opr74Ew&list=RDG5F9Opr74Ew&start_radio=1

4. Bharatanatyam (Classical Indian Dance) (Arabian Dance Inspiration 1)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWhA3ldZcyY&list=RDJWhA3ldZcyY&start_radio=1

5. Kathak (Classical Indian Dance) Arabian Dance Inspiration 2)

Aroha Fine Arts Dance Company
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cje5KgBDVM>

6. Baladi/Belly Dance (Arabian Dance Inspiration 3)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTTc2Uroz9E&list=RDJTTc2Uroz9E&start_radio=1

1.

The Nutcracker Dances Around the World

In Act II, Scene 1, The Nutcracker Ballet features balletic interpretations of cultural dances from around the world! This exercise will expose your students to different cultures, music, and dance forms!

In your dance journal, answer the following questions about the dance video you watched in class today:

1. What movement qualities did you see in this video?

Fast Slow Controlled Released Big Small Linear
Angular Circular Stationary Travelling.

Do any other words come to mind?

2. What kinds of emotions did you feel while watching this dance?

Happy Sad Angry Confused Intrigued
Afraid Romance Inspired

Do any other emotions come to mind?

3. In your own words, what kind of story do you think the dance was trying to tell?

4. How would you describe the music that went along with the dance?

5. How would you change the dance to make it more to your liking?

6. Do you have any other comments or questions to share about this dance?



Le Casse-Noisette
danse
autour du monde !

Le Casse-Noisette danse autour du monde

L'acte II, scène I du Ballet de Casse-Noisette présente des interprétations ballétiques des danses du monde. Cet exercice vous permettra d'explorer cette belle variété de formes de danse, de musique et de diversité culturelle !

En guise de préparation au visionnement de la pleine production de Casse-Noisette (en présentiel, ou en salle de classe), visionnez une des vidéos suivantes par jour, et demandez aux élèves de répondre aux questions dans un journal de danse :

1. Danse folklorique de la Russie :

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K21yj2lEgrA&list=RDK21yj2lEgrA&start_radio=1

2. Danse traditionnelle de la Chine :

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dTGEM4WnXQ&list=RD1dTGEM4WnXQ&start_radio=1

Option 2 : Danse traditionnelle/contemporaine de la Chine par la compagnie Little Pear Garden Dance Company

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47j20XiOTIA>

3. Danse flamenco de l'Espagne :

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5F9Opr74Ew&list=RDG5F9Opr74Ew&start_radio=1

4. Bharatanatyam (Danse classique de l'Inde)

Source d'Inspiration 1 de la danse arabe du Casse-Noisette)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWhA3ldZcyY&list=RDJWhA3ldZcyY&start_radio=1

5. Kathak (Danse classique de l'Inde) - Aroha Fine Arts

Source d'inspiration 2 de la danse arabe du Casse-Noisette

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cje5KgBDVM>

6. Danse baladie du Liban :

Source d'inspiration 3 de la danse arabe du Casse-Noisette Inspiration 3)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTTc2Uroz9E&list=RDJTTc2Uroz9E&start_radio=1

Le Casse-Noisette danse autour du monde !

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Dans ton journal de danse, réponds aux questions suivantes après avoir visionné la vidéo de danse du jour en salle de classe :

1. Quelles qualités de mouvement as-tu observées dans cette danse ?

Rapide Lent Contrôlé Relâché Grand Petit Linéaire

Angulaire Circulaire Stationnaire En déplacement

Est-ce que d'autres mots descriptifs te viennent en tête ?

2. Quelles émotions as-tu ressenties en regardant cette danse ?

Joie Tristesse Colère Confusion Curiosité

Peure Amour Inspiration

As-tu ressenti autre chose ?

3. D'après toi, quelle est l'histoire de cette danse ?

4. Comment décrirais-tu la musique qui accompagne cette danse ?

5. Quels changements peux-tu proposer pour améliorer cette danse ?

6. As-tu d'autres questions ou commentaires à partager au sujet de cette danse ?

The Nutcracker
by Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffmann (1776 - 1822)
Reimagined by the Royal Winnipeg Ballet

Photo Credit: Royal Winnipeg Ballet



Overture

'Tis the night before Christmas and all through Clara's house, everything and everyone is stirring -- even the mice! The people inside are getting ready for the big Christmas party -- cooking and wrapping and dressing and fussing. Outside, the children are playing hockey and regaling in the fresh, fluffy snow.

ACT I

Scene I - Clara's Bedroom

Twelve-year old Clara is oblivious to all the noise and confusion. She's dreaming in front of the mirror in her bedroom, practicing her ballet steps. She wants to be perfect when she dances for her glamorous Aunt Josephine, a singer who has travelled all the way from Montreal on the train.

Mama interrupts. "Where is the bow that I made for your hair?" she demands. "And where is Dieter?" Clara's younger brother leaps out of a large armoire, brandishing a toy sword. Grandmother Marguerite finds her way to the bedroom and manages to calm everyone down.

Things aren't turning out the way Mama has planned; not even the Christmas tree has been delivered. "But Mr. Drosselmeier promised to bring a tree!" She runs off to check on things downstairs while Grandmother shows the children some favourite photographs of Christmas past.

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Scene II

The Christmas Party

Mama, Papa and the butler are looking at the empty space in the big living room where the tree should be. What kind of a Christmas party is this going to be? Among the guests filling the room is Aunt Josephine. Resplendent in furs, she makes a grand entrance with her fiancé, Edouard, dashing in his military uniform. At last! Mr. Drosselmeier carries in a tree. Clara suddenly feels shy when he introduces her to his Grandnephew, Julien. In no time at all, the tree is decorated and Clara has the honour of putting the star on the very top. Suddenly, the first-ever electric Christmas lights illuminate the tree! Mr. Drosselmeier hands out his presents; all enchanting. Dieter's army of toy soldiers has now been augmented by Mounted Police. Mr. Drosselmeier's masterpiece goes to Clara – a beautifully hand-crafted Nutcracker. During Christmas dinner, Clara slips away to admire her Nutcracker and imagines that he comes alive to dance with her. The doorbell rings and a bear scurries in, admires the tree and dances happily with the Christmas toys. The party breaks up in a flurry of dancing and silliness and romance. "Good night everyone! Merry Christmas!"

Scene III - Bedtime

Clara falls asleep but is soon awakened by the terrifying Mouse King who is about to steal her beloved Nutcracker. The clock strikes midnight.

Scene IV - The Living Room

Moonlight shimmers through the window and the room starts to change into something strange and new. Clara finds Mr. Drosselmeier who tries to convince her that she has nothing to fear. Suddenly before her very eyes, the room and the Christmas tree begin to grow. Clara is attacked by scurrying mice while trying to save her Nutcracker. The Nutcracker comes alive and chases the mice away. Dieter's squadron of toy soldiers and Mounted Police are now a living regiment and battle fiercely against the menacing mice with cheeseball cannons, swords and every ounce of cleverness they can muster. The battle takes a turn for the worse when Fritz is wounded and the Nutcracker is struck by the Mouse King while attempting to help Dieter.

Scene V - A Magical Forest

Finally, Clara defeats the Mouse King and begs Mr. Drosselmeier to help her wounded Nutcracker. It's only after Clara professes her love for Nutcracker that Mr. Drosselmeier can bring him to life again. The Nutcracker was Julien all along and he is now a handsome prince. They walk hand in hand into a magical pine forest, dancing under a sky filled with stars and the Northern Lights. Snow begins to fall. As the Snow falls, twelve polar bear cubs and one big bear playfully wander into the forest. The polar bears are happy to find Clara and the Nutcracker Prince, and bid them farewell as the Nutcracker prince and Clara depart to the Sugar Plum fairy's kingdom.

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ACT II

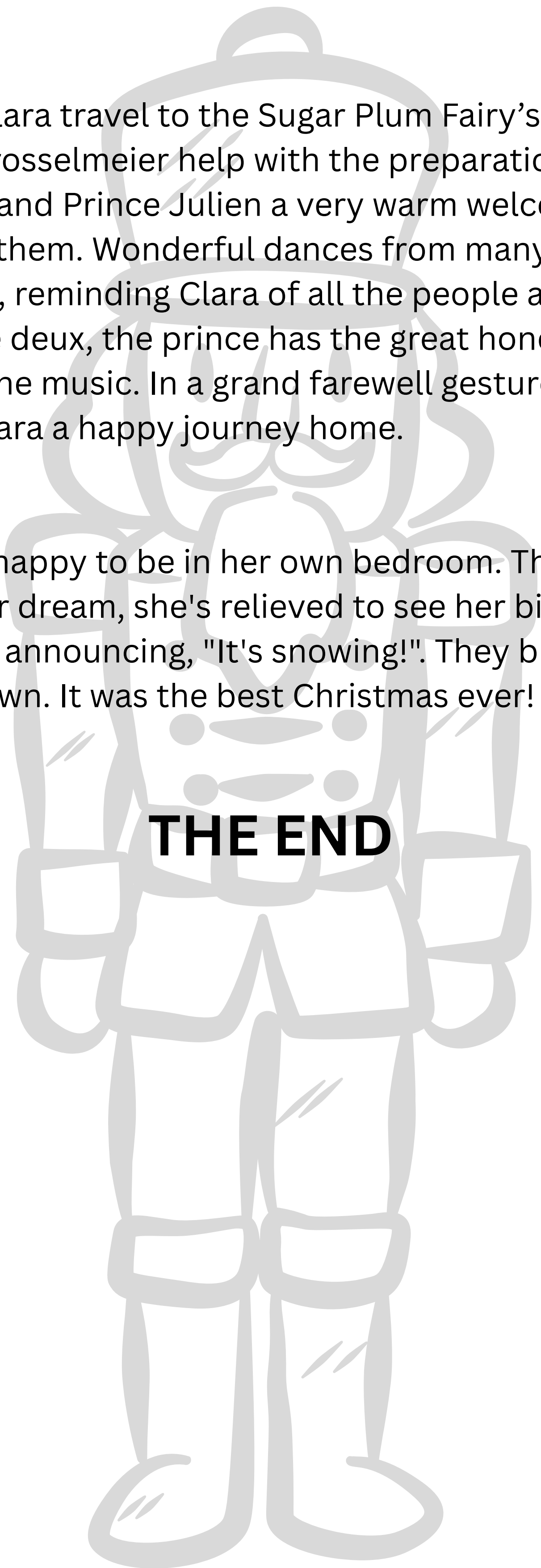
Scene 1 - The Kingdom

The Nutcracker Prince and Clara travel to the Sugar Plum Fairy's kingdom, where adorable little angels along with Mr. Drosselmeier help with the preparations for their arrival. The Sugar Plum Fairy gives Clara and Prince Julien a very warm welcome and an elaborate ceremony ensues to honour them. Wonderful dances from many different lands and many more delights are performed, reminding Clara of all the people arriving every day to their country. In a beautiful pas de deux, the prince has the great honour of dancing with Clara. She simply floats in time to the music. In a grand farewell gesture, all the inhabitants of the magical land gather to bid Clara a happy journey home.

Scene II - Early Morning

When Clara wakes up, she is happy to be in her own bedroom. The Nutcracker stands proudly next to her. Remembering her dream, she's relieved to see her big brother Fritz striding into the room, alive and well, and announcing, "It's snowing!". They bundle up, go outside and watch the snow fluttering down. It was the best Christmas ever!

THE END



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SCENE REENACTEMENT EXERCISE

1. Make your Costume

Make one of each of the crafts provided by your teacher

- **Mouse Ears**
- **Sugar Plum Tiara**
- **Nutcracker Mask**

2. Read the Nutcracker Story in class

3. Choose a Scene

in groups of three ask your classmates: “What was your favorite part of the Nutcracker Story?” As a group, choose which scene you’d like to work on.

4. Create Your Movements

Now it’s time to bring the scene to life! Using simple gestures, miming, or your own dance movements, come up with a maximum of 10 movements to tell the part of the story with your bodies. The only rule is.... No Words!

5. Pick your Song

As a group, choose which song from the Nutcracker Album provided by your teacher you’d like to perform to.

5. Practice Makes Perfect

Take 15 minutes in Class to practice your dance movements with your classmates.

6. Present Your Work

Each classmate can choose their favorite costume piece to wear. Groups take turns presenting their own unique Nutcracker dance to the class!

