

# **Sheldon Education Program Handbook for Teachers**

## **WELCOME**

We look forward to welcoming you and your students to the Sheldon Concert Hall for one of our education programs. Whether you are joining us virtually or in person, we want to thank you for being with us and we hope that stage performance in the acoustically perfect Sheldon Concert Hall inspires and enriches your classroom.

## **ARRIVAL AND PARKING**

We encourage you to arrive at The Sheldon Concert Hall 15 to 30 minutes prior to the program. This will allow you to be seated in time for the performance and will allow a little extra time in case you encounter traffic on the way. Classes will be seated on a first come-first serve basis. To accommodate school schedules, we will start on time. The Sheldon is located at 3648 Washington Boulevard, just around the corner from the Fox Theatre. Parking is free for school buses and cars and will be available on Washington near The Sheldon. Please enter by the steps leading up to the concert hall front door. If you have a student who uses a wheelchair or needs easier access to the concert hall, please call The Sheldon (314-533-9900) to make arrangement to use our street level entrance and elevator. Easily accessible seating will be arranged in the concert hall.

## **CONCERT GUIDELINES**

Please teach your students on good concert manners before coming to The Sheldon Concert Hall. Good audiences love to listen to music and they love to show their appreciation with applause, usually at the end of an entire piece and occasionally after a good solo by one of the musicians. Encourage your students to take in and enjoy the great music being performed. Food and drink are not allowed in The Sheldon Concert Hall. Any device (cellphone, alarm watch or toy) that makes noise is a distraction for both the musicians on stage and your fellow audience members and should be put away prior to the performance. No photos or video are allowed during the performance. Restrooms are located on the same level as the concert hall close to the Art Galleries. Please encourage students to use restrooms at school or to use Sheldon restrooms before the concert begins. If a student does need to use the restroom during the performance, the best time to get up is between musical numbers. If a student needs a quieter environment during the concert, they are welcome to sit in the atrium with a chaperone at any point.

## **ART GALLERIES**

The Sheldon features seven art galleries in the Emerson Galleries building that adjoins the Concert Hall, including the Bellwether Gallery of St. Louis Artists, Gallery of Music, Gallery of Photography, Bernoudy Gallery of Architecture, the AT&T Gallery of Children's Art and on the lower level, The Nancy Spiritas Kranzberg Gallery and Ann Lee and Wilfred Konneker Gallery. You are invited to call The Sheldon and add a 20 or 30-minute visit to the galleries when you attend a Sheldon Education Program.

# Dance the Story: “The Nutcracker & the World’s Fair”

## Teacher’s Guide

*Hello! We are so excited to “Dance the Story” with you. In this program, we will tell the story of The Nutcracker. Have you ever read this story? Maybe you have even watched a movie or ballet about The Nutcracker- it’s a really popular story, and a holiday tradition for many families across the world. We are going to share our own story with you. Ballet 314 created a very special ballet and children’s book called “The Nutcracker & the 1904 World’s Fair,” written by Rachel Bodi & Robert Poe, and illustrated by local artist Pip Flory. It takes place right here, in St. Louis, MO over 100 years ago. In this program, we are going to share this story with you, and make some of the scenes come to life through dancing and music.*

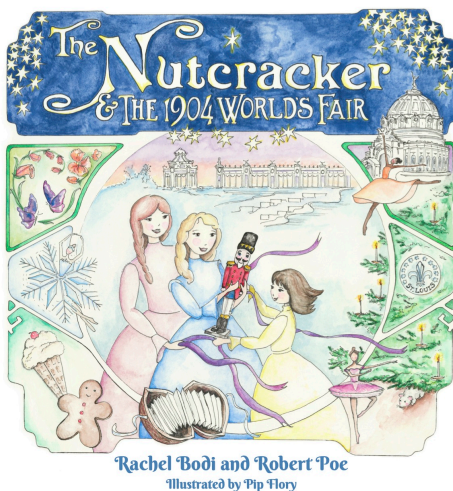
*We would love for you to follow along with the complementary attached pdfs of our illustrated children’s book OR by going on Amazon to download our interactive eBook version! The dancers bring the pages to life on the screen!*

If you joined us for our “Dance the Story: Sleeping Beauty” program, you will recall how dance and music tell stories much in the same way as an author or storyteller. Here’s a review of the elements of every story:

- **Characters:** Who or whom the story is about
- **Setting:** Where the story takes place
- **Plot:** What happens in the story, the action
  - Beginning (Exposition)
  - Middle (Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action)
  - End (Conclusion)

### Brief Synopsis: (Setting, Plot, Characters)

On a cold and snowy Christmas Eve in St. Louis, sisters Clara, Louisa, and Marie are reminded of the time that they spent at the 1904 World’s Fair. They daydream about the sights, sweets, and sounds of the fair, and of the Toymaker who made lifelike dolls and nutcrackers. Clara falls asleep dreaming of the Fair, and her dream takes her to many magical places with her sisters. The Toymaker visits her, and so do mischievous mice and dancing dolls. The Toymaker has magic to share with the three sisters, first transforming their house into a snowy forest. He then turns the Sugarplum Doll into the Sugarplum Fairy. The sisters dance through the familiar sights of the fair, with the life-sized treats dancing around them! The sisters watch as the Toymaker and Sugarplum dance a pas de deux. The sights and sweets from the World’s Fair dance in a final parade to celebrate the sisters’ visit. Clara then wakes up, remembering her magical dream. Could there be a surprise waiting for her on Christmas morning?



# Artist Biographies:

## **Steve Neale, Pianist**

Steve Neale is an award-winning composer, conductor and pianist. With a degree in Film Scoring from the Berklee College of Music, Steve has written and produced music for film, video games, and live theater around the country. Steve directs the renowned choir at St. Margaret of Scotland parish, is adjunct faculty in the Leigh Gerdine Conservatory of Music at Webster University. He sings in the a cappella celtic group, The Wee Heavies and has music directed and done sound design for many local and national theater companies.

## ***Rachel Bodi, Sugarplum Doll/Narrator***

Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Rachel Bodi began her professional career in 2008, and has enjoyed performing in St. Louis for the past 10 years. Prior to founding Ballet 314 in 2019 alongside Robert Poe, she enjoyed careers with Missouri Ballet Theatre (2011-2017), Common Thread Contemporary Ballet (2018), Nashville Ballet 2 (2008-2011) and as a guest artist with Texture Contemporary Ballet (2011, 2012).

Since founding Ballet 314, Rachel has also co-choreographed many original works both alone and in tandem with Co-Director Robert Poe, most notably premiering Ballet 314's adaptation of the classic *The Nutcracker & the World's Fair*; also co-authoring this story as a children's book and interactive ebook (2020). Other original works include *llama llama and friends*, *Assemble*, and our upcoming *Dance the Story* programming collaboration with Sheldon Concert Hall. Each of these children's educational programs highlight literacy through the arts. Rachel has enjoyed a dance teaching career since moving to St. Louis, and leads classes at dance studios throughout the St. Louis region.

## ***Ashley Stettes, Clara***

Ashley is a graduate of Southeast Missouri State University with a BFA in Dance Performance and a Minor in Fine Arts Entrepreneurship. Born and raised in St. Louis, Ashley returned to the area after college and is excited to be in her third season with Ballet 314! She has also formerly performed with Common Thread Contemporary Ballet and Leverage Dance Theater. In addition to her time spent with Ballet 314, Ashley is also the Assistant Director of Devine Performing Arts and an instructor with Vitality In Motion, a company that brings dance-inspired fitness classes to seniors throughout the St. Louis Region. Ashley is so excited to once again be performing as Clara in *The Nutcracker & The World's Fair!*

### ***Marcela Gomez-Lugo, Snowflake***

Marcela Gómez Lugo, dancer, teacher, writer, and translator, was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She began her pre-professional training as a ballet dancer at the age of fourteen at Andanza School of Dance. Marcela continued to refine her dance training by attending summer intensives such as American Ballet Theatre, Bossov Ballet Theatre and Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. In 2019, she graduated, with the highest academic honors, from Mercyhurst University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance: minors in Dance Pedagogy and Psychology. After moving to St Louis, MO, Marcela danced professionally with The Big Muddy Dance Company Trainee Program (2019-2020) and obtained a certification in Progressing Ballet Technique (PBT) Currently, Marcela is a company member with Ballet314 where she performs classical and contemporary works such as The Nutcracker, Sleeping Beauty, Ragtime: The American Experience, among others. She choreographs for local festivals, dance competitions, as well as teaches and coaches for several dance studios/programs in the St Louis area. Additionally, she is pursuing a certification in The Cuban Ballet Methodology. Marcela's passion for the performing arts, education, and linguistics led her to design dance curriculum's as well as translate various literary texts and entire websites. In 2021, she published her first poetry book "Leaves/Hojas" with Editorial Isla Negra.

### ***Robert Poe, Toymaker***

A native of South Carolina, Robert Poe has enjoyed a professional dancing career since 2004. For 17 years he has performed with classical and contemporary dance companies across the Southeast and Midwest. Since coming to St. Louis in 2011, he has been a founding member of The Big Muddy Dance Company, performed with the St. Louis Ballet and danced with Opera Theater St. Louis on several occasions.

In February of 2019, Robert co-founded and co-directs Ballet 314; a Ballet company focused on celebrating local talent in St. Louis. Through this organization he has re-written the classic Nutcracker story to highlight St. Louis history, co-authored a children's book entitled "The Nutcracker and the 1904 World's Fair" based off of that same production, and choreographed his first full length ballet, "Ragtime the American Experience" inspired by the novel by E. L. Doctorow. Robert also teaches varying dance styles for multiple studios, Universities and companies in the St. Louis area.

## Fun Facts About The 1904 Worlds Fair:

- The World's Fair was held as a centennial celebration of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. Also known as the Louisiana Purchase Exhibition, nearly 20 million people from throughout the world gathered in St. Louis between April 30-December 1, 1904.
- Among the many people who visited, some noteworthy guests include President Theodore Roosevelt and First Lady Alice, Thomas Edison, and John Phillip Sousa, whose band performed on the first day of the fair.
- In addition to the 12 "Palaces" which included: The Palace of Fine Arts, Agriculture, and Transportation, visitors to the fair could also visit The Pike. The Pike was home to over 50 concessions-style sights and more fantastical displays.
- Some whimsical and famous foods were served and gained popularity, including: cotton candy (known as "fairy floss"), ice cream in waffle cones, hamburgers, iced tea, and many other treats that are common today.
- To the right, you can see a photograph of one of the souvenirs available for fair-goers; a hinged walnut shell with tiny pages depicting the sights of the fair. This is referred to as The World's Fair "In a Nutshell."



Pictured Below: The Grand Basin



Pictured Below: The Pike



## Vocabulary:

**Apotheosis:** Another word for the climax of the story- the highest point in the action.

**Author:** Person who writes a story

**Characters:** Who/whom a story is about

**Choreographer:** Person who makes up the steps (choreography) for a ballet.

**Climax:** The pivotal moment in a story

**Composer:** Person who writes music

**Conclusion:** The ending or resolution of a story

**Crescendo:** A gradual increase in volume in a section of music

**Falling Action:** The actions of the story after the climax that lead to the story's conclusion

**Fiction:** A story that is written about setting, characters, and plot that are not real/imaginary.

**Finale:** The end of a ballet or musical performance

**Flashback:** In a story, going to a scene that takes place before the present time

**Generosity:** Viewed as a virtue; being giving to others, often expecting nothing in return

**Historical Fiction:** A story that takes place in a real time in history. Characters and plot are made up

**Illustrator:** The person who draws or creates the images or pictures in a story.

**Moral (of a story):** The lesson that a reader can learn from a story.

**Non-Fiction:** A story that is written about a true, real-life setting, characters, and plot.

**Waltz:** a dance or song that is played in 3/4 time; in dance, the steps have a 1, 2, 3 rhythm

**March:** In music, the rhythm of a march is an even measure 2/4 or 4/4 time, with an accented 1st beat to mimic the action of marching.

**Pantomime:** Gestures that tell a story with no words

**Pitch:** The high or low frequency of a sound

**Plot:** What happens in a story, the action

**Rhythm:** The beat of the music

**Rising Action:** The events leading to the climax of a story

**Score:** The written form of a musical composition

**Setting:** The time/place where a story takes place

**Staccato:** Musical term used to indicate playing short, detached notes

Suspense:

**Tempo:** The speed of the music

**Timbre:** The sound quality of a musical instrument

**Theme:** A central topic/idea/phrase that can appear as a part of a story, musical work, or dance.

**Tradition:** a special belief or custom that is passed through generations of people

## Quiz: Beginner

Talking points and comprehension for beginning students.

- 1.) Did you have a favorite character in this version of “The Nutcracker?”
  
- 2.) There were a lot of characters mentioned in this story, but we met a few on stage. How many characters can you remember?
  
- 3.) Clara showed *generosity* when she shared her money with the child who dropped their ice cream cone. Can you think of another way that you could be generous or kind to a friend or even a stranger?
  
- 4.) If you were going to make up your very own fiction story, who would star in your story?
  
- 5.) Do you remember the name of the big event that Clara and her family visited?
  
- 6.) Can you remember any of the sweet treats that they got to try? Or any of the other things they saw at The Pike? Teachers may have students draw what they would have picked at the World’s Fair on the attached worksheet.
  
- 7.) **Suggested Activity:**  
Take turns talking about family traditions for your students during the holidays. Does your family celebrate a holiday during the winter time? Are there any *traditions* that you do every year?

## Quiz: Intermediate

Fill-in the answer:

- 1.) The World's Fair took place in St. Louis in 190\_\_\_\_.
- 2.) The person who creates the pictures for a storybook is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3.) The \_\_\_\_\_ of this story is St. Louis on Christmas Eve.
- 4.) A \_\_\_\_\_ is a popular way of dancing that goes with music in 3/4 time.
- 5.) One of the \_\_\_\_\_ in this story is the Toymaker.

True or False:

Circle **True** if the statement is correct, and **False** if the statement is incorrect.

- 1.) The Nutcracker & the World's Fair is considered non-fiction. True / False
- 2.) Every story has a plot. True / False
- 3.) The author is the person who composes music. True / False
- 4.) Dancers and musicians practice many times before they perform. True / False
- 5.) If a story is fiction, the characters and/or setting are imaginary. True / False
- 6.) If a story is nonfiction, the characters or setting are imaginary. True / False
- 7.) Tchaikovsky is the author of this story. True / False
- 8.) The moral of this story is to act with generosity. True / False

Short Answer:

Have you ever seen or read the story of The Nutcracker before today? Can you list some ways that "The Nutcracker & the World's Fair" differs from other versions of this book/ballet?



## Quiz: Advanced

### Fill-In the Blanks:

1.) There are several different categories that a story can fall under. Can you name the 3 we discussed in this program?

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

2.) You already know every story has characters, a setting, and a plot. Please name the 5 elements of the plot below:

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

3.) This element of a story is another word for the ending. \_\_\_\_\_

4.) If you are reading about a character remembering something that happened before the present time, this is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

5.) A \_\_\_\_\_ is any central message or idea in a story, musical composition, or ballet.

6.) The \_\_\_\_\_ was the area at the World's Fair where people could see different vendors and unique sights.

### Circle the Answer:

1.) A **march** or **waltz** is typically an even, 2/4 or 4/4 time (**1,2** **1,2**)

3.) A **march** or **waltz** is typically in an uneven, 3/4 time (**1**, 2-3 **1**, 2-3)

4.) A **composer** or **choreographer** is the person who creates a ballet.

5.) This version of "The Nutcracker & the World's Fair" is an example of **non-fiction** or **historical fiction**.

6.) The 1904 World's Fair took place in what is today **Forest Park** or **Central Park**.

7.) The **moral** or **climax** of this story is to act with generosity.

8.) The apotheosis is a special word for the **climax** or **exposition** of a story.

# Answer Guide: Beginner

Talking points and comprehension for beginning students.

1.) Did you have a favorite character in this version of “The Nutcracker?”

*They can pick any character!*

2.) There were a lot of characters mentioned in this story, but we met a few on stage. How many characters can you remember?

*4 dancers on stage; Toymaker, Clara, Louisa, Marie, Sugarplum, Snowflake, and more!*

3.) Clara showed *generosity* when she shared her money with the child who dropped their ice cream cone. Can you think of another way that you could be generous or kind to a friend or even a stranger?

*Example: Sharing some toys with a friend, bringing an extra snack for a classmate, etc.*

4.) If you were going to make up your very own fiction story, who would star in your story?

*Example: A favorite character, a pet, themselves, etc.*

5.) Do you remember the name of the big event that Clara and her family visited?

*The 1904 World’s Fair*

6.) Can you remember any of the sweet treats that they got to try? Or any of the other things they saw at The Pike? Teachers may have students draw what they would have picked at the World’s Fair on the attached worksheet.

*Cotton Candy, Gingerbread Cookies, Coffee, Ice Cream in a Waffle Cone*

7.) **Suggested Activity:**

Take turns talking about family traditions for your students during the holidays. Does your family celebrate a holiday during the winter time? Are there any *traditions* that you do every year?

## Answer Guide: Intermediate

Fill-in the answer:

- 1.) The World's Fair took place in St. Louis in 1904.
- 2.) The person who creates the pictures for a storybook is the **illustrator**.
- 3.) The **setting** of this story is St. Louis on Christmas Eve.
- 4.) A **waltz** is a popular way of dancing that goes with music in 3/4 time.
- 5.) One of the **characters** in this story is the Toymaker.

True or False:

Circle **True** if the statement is correct, and **False** if the statement is incorrect.

- 1.) The Nutcracker & the World's Fair is considered non-fiction. True / **False**
- 2.) Every story has a plot. **True** / False
- 3.) The author is the person who composes music. True / **False**
- 4.) Dancers and musicians practice many times before they perform. **True** / False
- 5.) If a story is fiction, the characters and/or setting are imaginary. **True** / False
- 6.) If a story is nonfiction, the characters or setting are imaginary. True / **False**
- 7.) Tchaikovsky is the author of this story. True / **False**
- 8.) The moral of this story is to act with generosity. **True** / False

Short Answer:

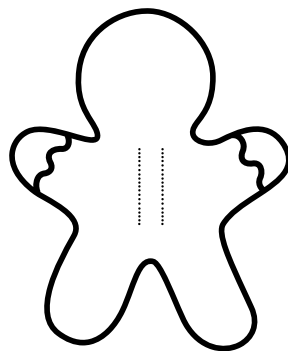
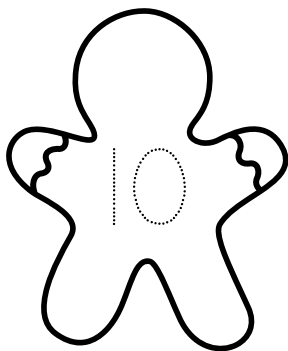
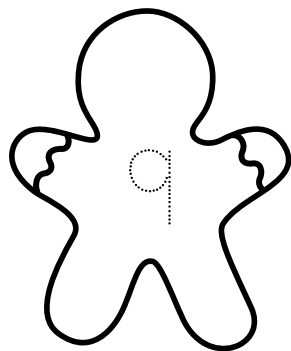
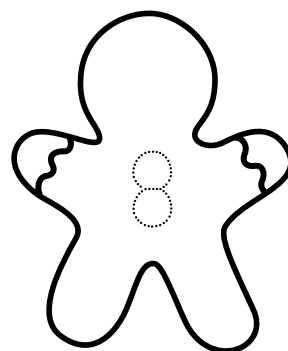
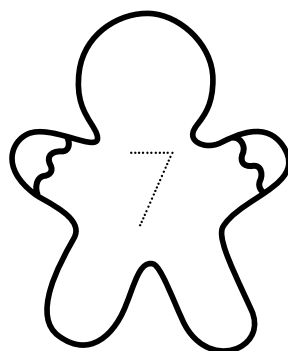
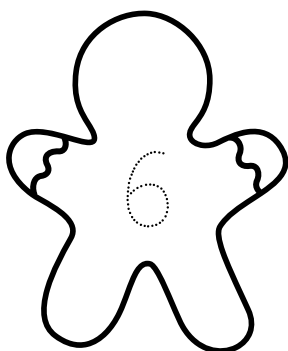
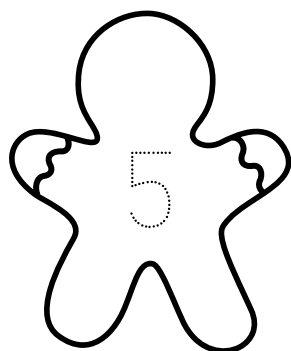
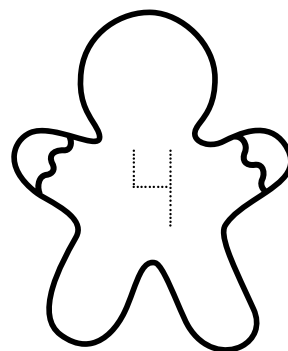
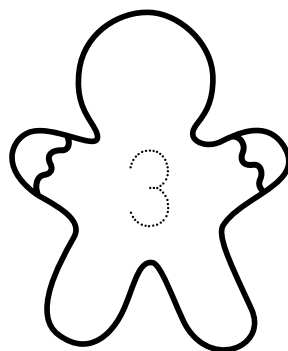
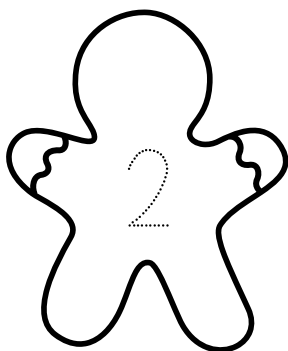
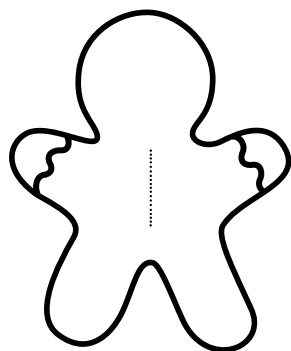
Have you ever seen or read the story of The Nutcracker before today? Can you list some ways that "The Nutcracker & the World's Fair" differs from other versions of this book/ballet?

*Setting is in STL, characters reflect that time, Clara visits the sights from the fair in her dream*

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

## GINGERBREAD COOKIE COUNTING

Clara met life-sized gingerbread cookies in her dream! Help decorate the gingerbread cookies: trace each number, then color them in.

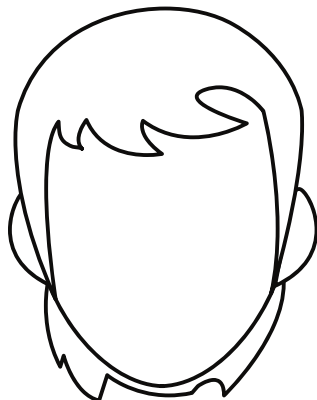


# FEELING FACES

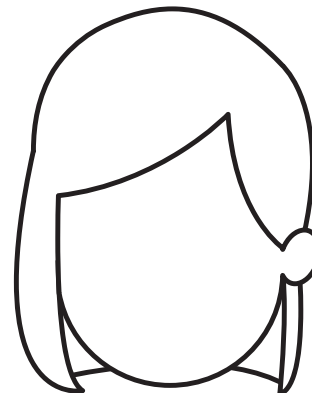
Dancers and performers use their faces to help tell stories! Draw the expressions on each of the faces to match the feelings:



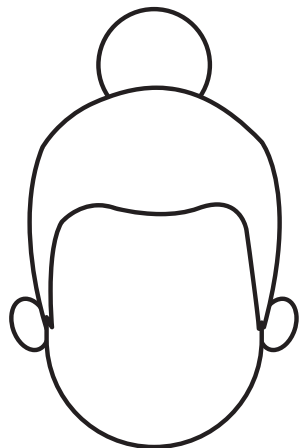
**HAPPY**



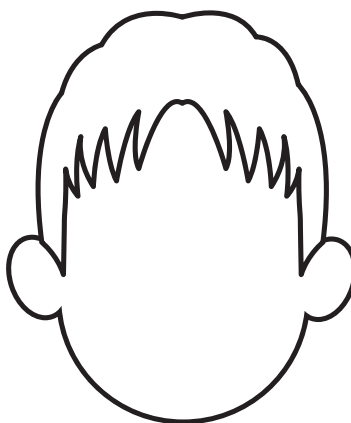
**ANGRY**



**SAD**



**SILLY**



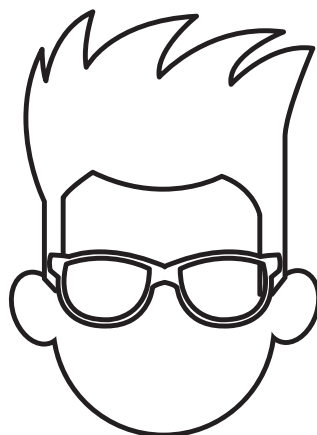
**SCARED**



**WORRIED**



**CONFUSED**



**TIRED**



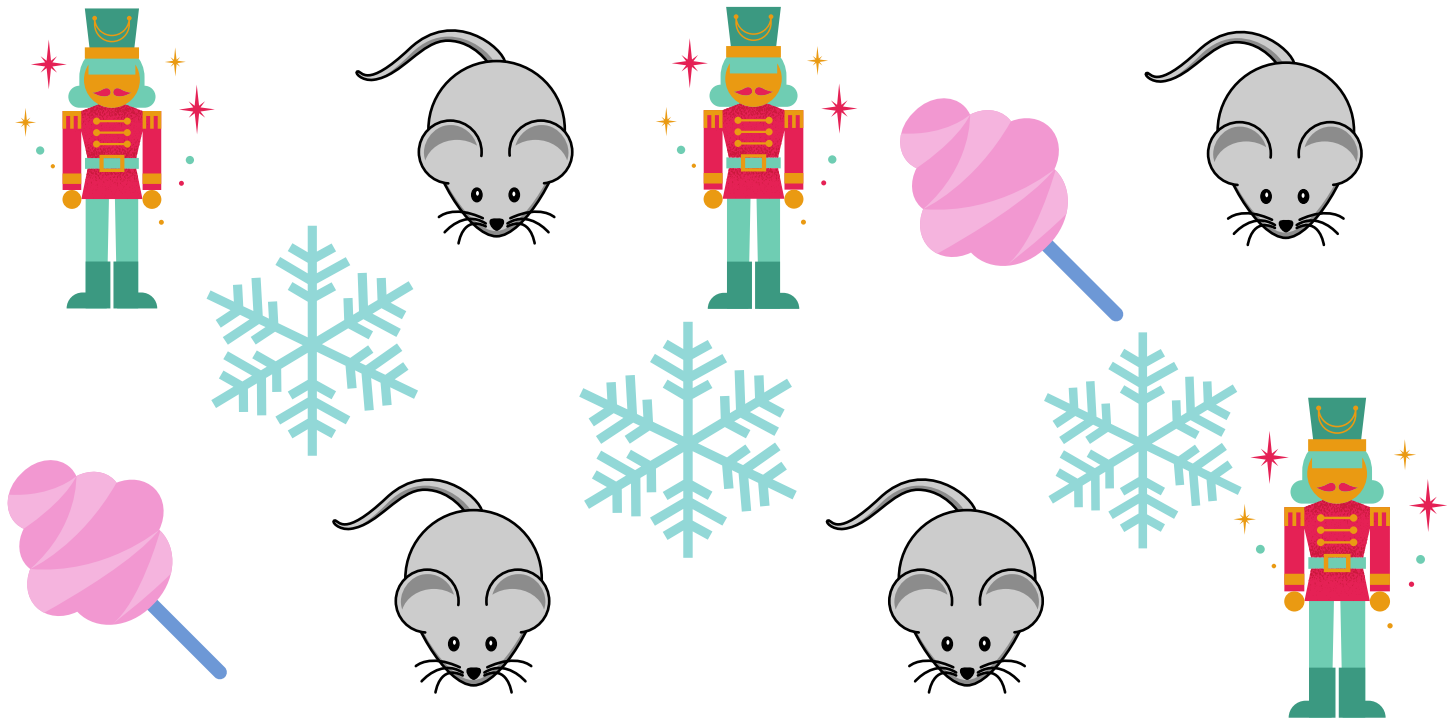
**EXCITED**





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# COUNT AND GRAPH

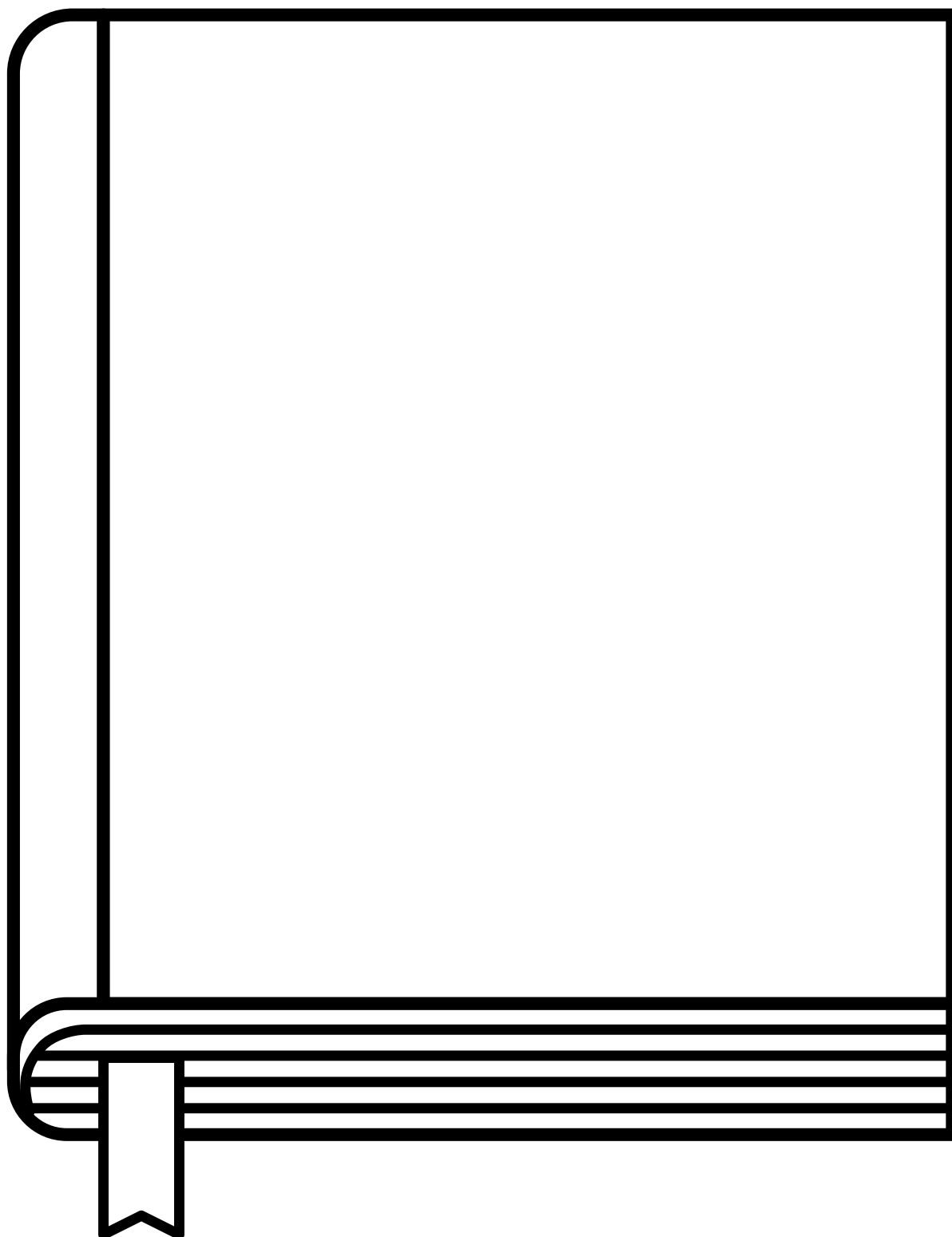
Count the number of each shape and color it in on the graph.



# DESIGN A BOOK COVER

Design your very own cover for "The Nutcracker & the World's Fair."



Title \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

# A BOOK REVIEW

## Summary

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Who are the characters  
in the story?

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What is your favorite  
part of the book?

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Did you like the book?  
Why or why not?

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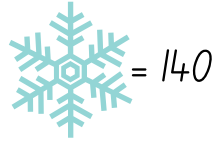
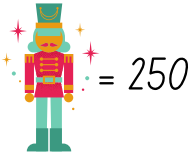
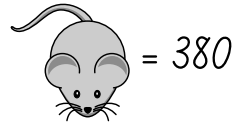
I rate this book \_  
out of 5





Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: /6

# NUTCRACKER ADDITION



1



+



+



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\_\_\_\_\_

2



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\_\_\_\_\_

3



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\_\_\_\_\_

4



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\_\_\_\_\_

5



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\_\_\_\_\_

6



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\_\_\_\_\_

# MUSIC OSTINATO

OSTINATO IS A MELODIC PATTERN THAT REPEATS

## BODY PERCUSSION OSTINATO

Use the key below to create your own repeating pattern in the boxes below.



CLAP hands



SNAP fingers



STOMP feet

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

## MUSIC BEAT OSTINATO

Use the key below to create your own repeating pattern in the boxes below.



4 beats



2 beats



1 beat



Half beat



Quarter beat



Rest 1 beat


## Answer Guide: Advanced

### Fill-In the Blanks:

1.) There are several different categories that a story can fall under. Can you name the 3 we discussed in this program?

**Fiction, Nonfiction, Historical Fiction**

2.) You already know every story has characters, a setting, and a plot. Please name the 5 elements of the plot below:

**Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Conclusion**

3.) This element of a story is another word for the ending. **Conclusion**

4.) If you are reading about a character remembering something that happened before the present time, this is called a **flashback**.

5.) A **theme** is any central message or idea in a story, musical composition, or ballet.

6.) The **Pike** was the area at the World's Fair where people could see different vendors and unique sights.

### Circle the Answer:

1.) A **march** or waltz is typically an even, 2/4 or 4/4 time (**1,2** 1,2)

3.) A march or **waltz** is typically in an uneven, 3/4 time (**1**, 2-3 **1**, 2-3)

4.) A composer or **choreographer** is the person who creates a ballet.

5.) This version of "The Nutcracker & the World's Fair" is an example of non-fiction or **historical fiction**.

6.) The 1904 World's Fair took place in what is today **Forest Park** or Central Park.

7.) The **moral** or climax of this story is to act with generosity.

8.) The apotheosis is a special word for the **climax** or exposition of a story.