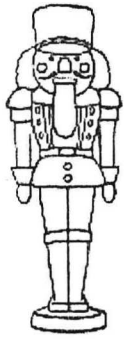


What is a ballet? A ballet is a story told on stage
through dance, music, scenery and costumes.

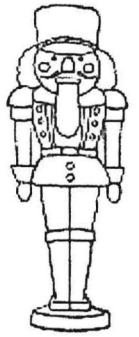
A ballet has no words. Instead, a ballet uses
music and movement

to tell the story.





The Nutcracker



Act I

The Nutcracker story takes place on Christmas

Eve. At the beginning of the story, a sister and brother,

named Marie and Fritz are

excited to see their Christmas tree and are waiting for their guests

to arrive. One guest, Godfather Drosselmeir

brought some very interesting toys. His gift to Marie was a

nutcracker. Fritz was jealous of

Marie's new gift, so he broke it.

When Marie wandered downstairs later that evening, the Christmas

tree began to grow. Marie seemed as small

as the nutcracker. Suddenly, she was

surrounded by giant mice. The toys

and the nutcracker came to Marie's rescue.

The mouse king captured the Nutcracker's sword, so Marie threw

her shoe to protect the Nutcracker. The mice

disappeared, and the Nutcracker turned into a handsome

prince. He took her to his kingdom, the Land of

Sweets.



How do you think the ballet will sound when the Nutcracker is battling the mice?

Answers will vary.

How do you think the ballet will sound when the Nutcracker Prince takes Marie to the Land of Sweets?

Answers will vary.

Tempo is how fast or slow the heartbeat of the song moves.

What do you think the tempo will be when the Nutcracker is battling the mice?

Answers will vary.

What do you think the tempo will be when the Nutcracker Prince takes Marie to the Land of Sweets?

Answers will vary.

When music has greater volume, it is forte.

When music has less volume, it is piano.

The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy sounds piano.

The Candy Cane dance sounds forte.

The Dance of the Reed Pipes sounds piano.

The Final Waltz sounds

forte.



At last Marie and the Nutcracker Prince stepped back into the

sleigh and everyone from the Land of

Sweets waved goodbye until

they were out of sight. Suddenly Marie was in her own bed

again. She knew someday she would once again return to the

Land of Sweets. There,

wonderful things await for all those who have eyes to see them.



The End