# The Sutcracker

Armour Dance Theatre's The Nutcracker Educational Packet for Grades K-12



ARMOUR DANCE THEATRE

TRANSFORMING CHILDREN'S LIVES THROUGH THE ARTS | EST. 1949-



### Armour Dance Theatre's The Nutcracker Educational Packet for Grades K-12

Welcome to ADT's Nutcracker Educational Packet! This guide is designed to enrich your students' experience with The Nutcracker through dance, storytelling, and cultural exploration prior to attending our field trip performance. Whether you're working with kindergartners or high schoolers, this packet provides tools to engage learners through creative movement, history, and critical thinking.

### Florida CPalm School Standards covered in this packet:

K-5th Grade: Big Idea DA.K.C through Big Idea DA.K.H

6-8th Grade: Big Idea DA.68C through Big Idea DA.68.F

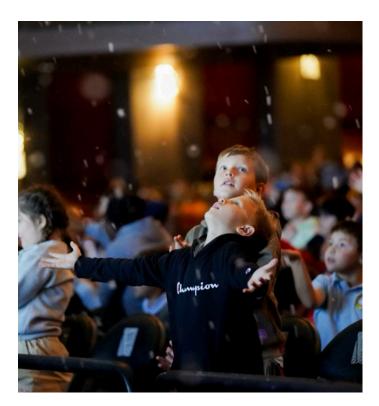
9th-12th Grade: Big Idea DA.912.C through Big Idea DA.912.H





### **About The Nutcracker: The Story**

(Read aloud by teacher and/or students)



The Nutcracker was first performed in 1892 at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia. The beautiful music was composed by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky. The original cast included ballet students from the Kirov School. Now, 131 years later, our cast of 200 is ready to perform for you this season. The Nutcracker tells the story of a young girl named Clara who receives a Nutcracker doll and embarks on a fantastical journey through the Land of Sweets. The time is Christmas Eve. The party is a family affair for close friends and relatives, but most of all, it is a party for the children. Clara and Fritz, the two children of the house, have been joined by their friends and cousins. The children come forward, take partners, and dance. They parade around the ballroom before their parents, showing off their new gifts.

Suddenly a mysterious guest arrives. He is Dr. Drosselmeyer, Clara's godfather and a wonderful toy maker. The children are not quite sure what to make of this Drosselmeyer, a fascinating yet frightening character. He entertains the children with human-sized mechanical dolls that actually dance and gives Clara a wonderful nutcracker shaped like a wooden soldier. She is so delighted she dances around the room with it, but her jealous brother stomps on it until it breaks. Using a magical bandage, Dr. Drosselmeyer fixes it and Clara falls asleep with the nutcracker in her arms. She dreams of mysterious things such as a magical Christmas spirit that makes the tree grow. Suddenly, mice and toy soldiers are fighting everywhere. There is a fierce battle between a giant Nutcracker and a terrifying King Rat who finally falls down dead when Clara joins the fight and hits him with her shoe. The mice vanish, and as if by magic, the Nutcracker turns into a handsome young prince. The prince invites Clara to go with him to an enchanted Land of Snow.









### **ACT II**





Floating on clouds, twenty-four little angels set the mood for Clara and her Prince to enter the enchanting Kingdom of Sweets. The Sugar Plum Princess dances among them before Clara and her prince arrive at a splendid throne room in a Candyland fantasy. The Sugar Plum Fairy listens carefully as the Nutcracker Prince describes his battle with the King Rat. Dancers from Spain, China, Arabia and around the world come forward to entertain Clara and the prince. The Sugar Plum Fairy and her partner dance together. Everyone comes together for the finale. In the end, they fade away as a dream, leaving Dr. Drosselmeyer, Clara, her Nutcracker Doll and wonderful memories of her most magical Christmas ever.

### **Meet the Main Characters**



Clara & The Nutcracker Prince



Drosselmeyer



**Mouse King** 



Sugar Plum Fairy & Her Cavallier



Arabian, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, and other character dances from Kingdom of Sweets.







### **OVER TO THE SHOW**

Your Guide to Attending a Dance Performance for the First Time

Presented by Armour Dance Theatre

### 👏 Welcome, Young Audience Members!

You're about to experience something exciting—a live dance performance! This guide will help you know what to expect, how to act, and how to get the most out of your theater visit.

### m What Is a Theater?

A theater is a special place where people perform on stage—dancers, actors, and musicians—all to tell a story or express emotion through movement, music, and light.

### Theatre Etiquette: How to Be a Great Audience Member Being respectful in the theater helps everyone enjoy the show. Here's what to remember:

- 1. Arrive early.
- 2. Use the bathroom before the show
- 3. Stay quiet during the show to show respect to the performers
- 4. Clap to show appreciation
- 5. Turn off phones and devices







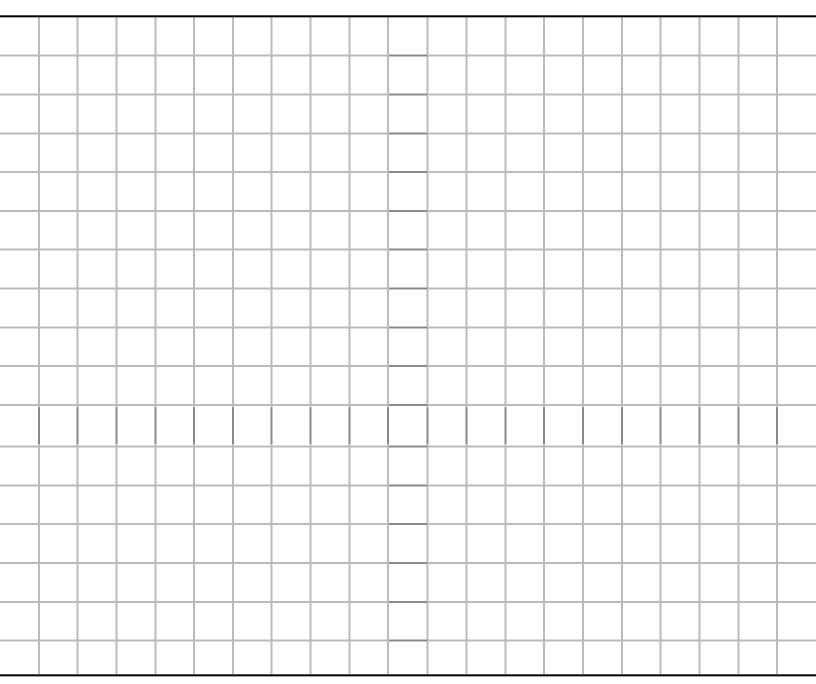
### What to Expect



- The lights will dim before the show starts. That's your signal to quiet down and get ready.
- There will be music, costumes, and dancers moving in creative ways.
- Some parts might be funny, sad, exciting, or even magical.
- After the performance, the dancers will bow. That's your cue to clap and cheer to thank them!

### Pre-Show Activity (Grades K-5)

Color dancer below and draw what you think the stage might look like!









### Pre-Show Activity (Grades 6–12)



**Journal Prompt:** What are you most curious or excited about when it comes to seeing a live dance performance?

Write 3–5 sentences in the space below.

		_
		_
_		
		_







### **Post Performance Activities**





### Discuss the Dance Styles in the Nutcracker

- Ballet basics and classical movement
- Cultural dance influences (Russian, Spanish, Chinese, Arabian)
- Discussion: How dance tells a story without words?

### **Post Performance: Reflection Questions**

- What was your favorite dance and why?
- How did the music and movement help tell the story?
- What emotions did you feel during each scene?

### **Movement Activities**

**K-2nd Grade:** Movement game: Mimic characters from the Nutcracker. IE "Move Like a Mouse!", or "Float like an Angel".

**3rd–5th Grade:** Create Your Own Dance Land: Create your land through a drawing or a by creating movement.

6th-8th Grade: Movement Challenge: Create your own "character dance".

9th-12th Grade: Choreography Lab: Interpret a scene through modern or hip-hop.

### **Behind the Scenes at Armour Dance Theatre**

(Raffle or First 5 schools to book their reservation incentives)

- Costume sneak peek by visiting a school We would visit the school with costumes?
- Access to "Behind the Scene Rehearsal" Video ( Anna's video)
- Zoom Interview or Q & A with a Nutcracker dance teacher

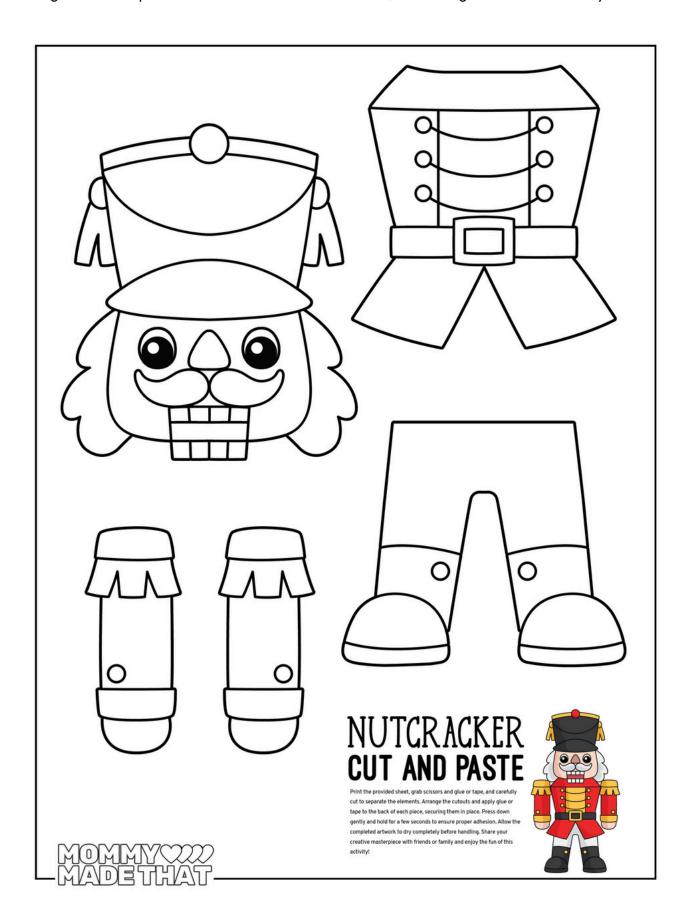


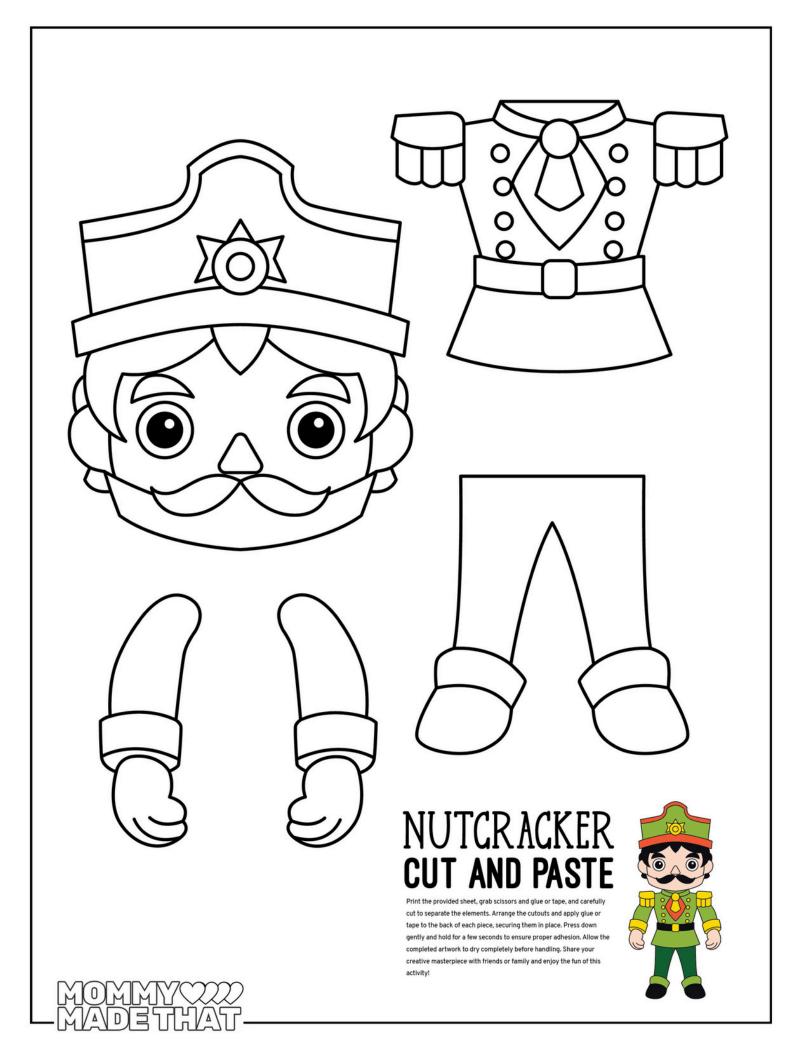


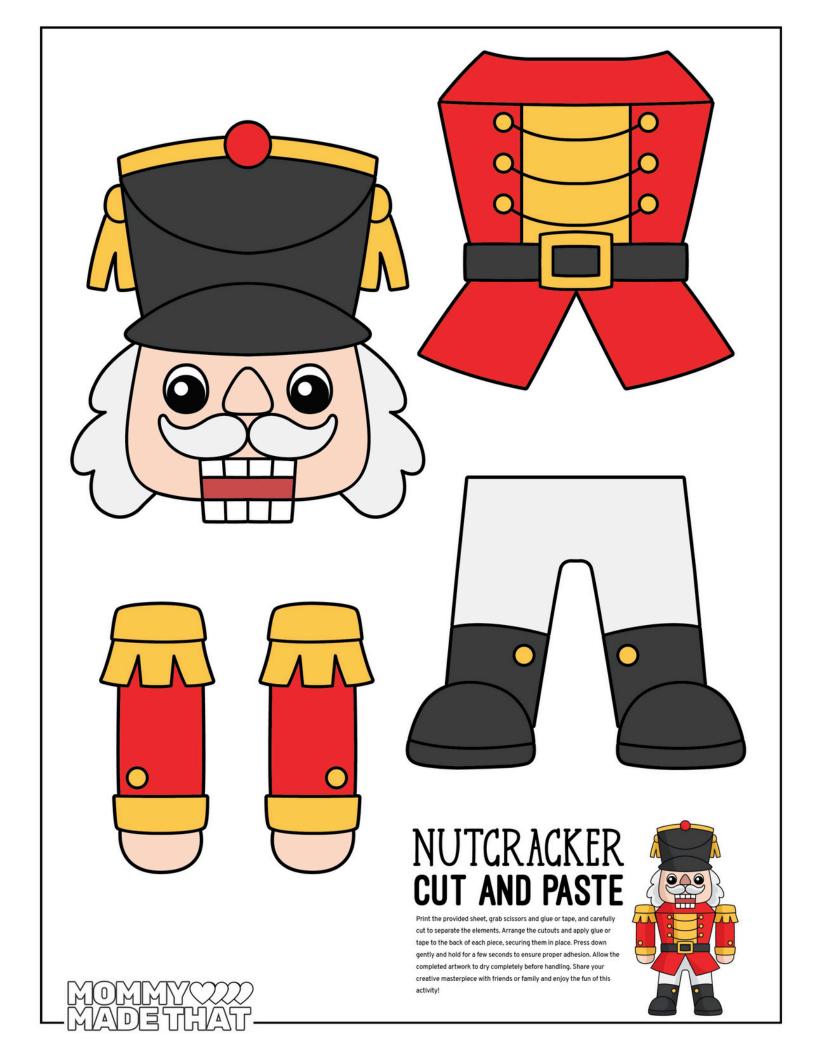
### **Worksheets for In-Classroom Activities**

K/1st Grade: Shaping a Nutcracker Craft

-Using cut out shapes the kids can create a nutcracker, and design/ color it how they choose.









### 2nd Grade: Nutcracker Story Sequencing

Have students read or listen to the Nutcracker story, then have a worksheet with blanks where kids can order pictures or sentences in accordance with the story.

NAME	ROOM

### **Nutcracker Sequencing**

**DIRECTIONS:** Read each sentence carefully. The story of the Nutcracker is TOTALLY WRONG! Can you help put the story in the correct order? Place numbers 1-8 next to each sentence to put the story back in the correct order.

Clara travels to the land of sweets.
Clara gets a Nutcracker for Christmas.
The Mouse King shrinks Clara.
The Nutcracker transforms back into Prince Eric.
Clara wakes upwas it only just a dream?
The Nutcracker comes to life to fight the Mouse King.
Many people in the Land of Sweets perform dances for The Nutcracker and Clara.
Clara's brother breaks the Nutcracker.

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NAME

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### 3rd Grade: Character Trait Chart

Students can list character traits of characters in the story after watching the performance or reading the story and provide evidence.

Magically, the nutcracker has come alive! That night, Clara creeps down to get her nutcracker and when she does, she shrinks! soldier and breaks it.

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The Nutcracker

# THANK YOU!

Thank you for your purchase!

your order has made you smile as much as it's made me All my items are handmade with love and I hope that

Your support of my little shop is greatly appreciated.

Smile.

I hope to see you again soon!

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## THANK YOU!

Andie

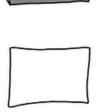
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# Read and Sequence Activity

This reading activity is to be cut out, then read and sequenced into the correct order. children can complete the task in their school book or make a paper booklet to create their own mini book!

## 6 Page Paper Booklet

Start with a of the story can be cut out and Here is a suggestion for making to make longer books! You will a mini book so that each part many of these linked together Stuck in order. You can make need two of these for this Read and Sequence activity.





Piece of



open up again.







A finished

Flatten along the crease. Fold in half the other

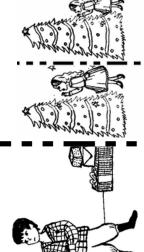
Fold in the front flap to the front, and the back flap cut the top fold from one edge to the widdle

to the back.

booklet

It's Christmas Eve and Clara and her brother are excited. Their Uncle Drosselmeyer is a toy maker and he is visiting.

Uncle Drosselmeyer fixes



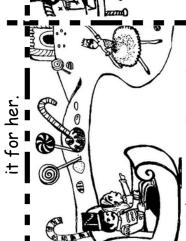
Uncle gives Clara a wooden That night, Clara creeps nutcracker. Her brother wants it because it is a soldier and breaks it.



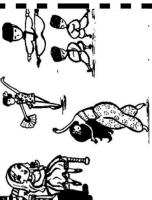
Magically, the nutcracker has come alive!



The nutcracker fights the Rat King with Clara's help.



The nutcracker takes Clara to the Land of Sweets, where the Sugar Plum Fairy is waiting.



There they see performers Clara wakes up under that and dancers from all over Christmas tree any the world!

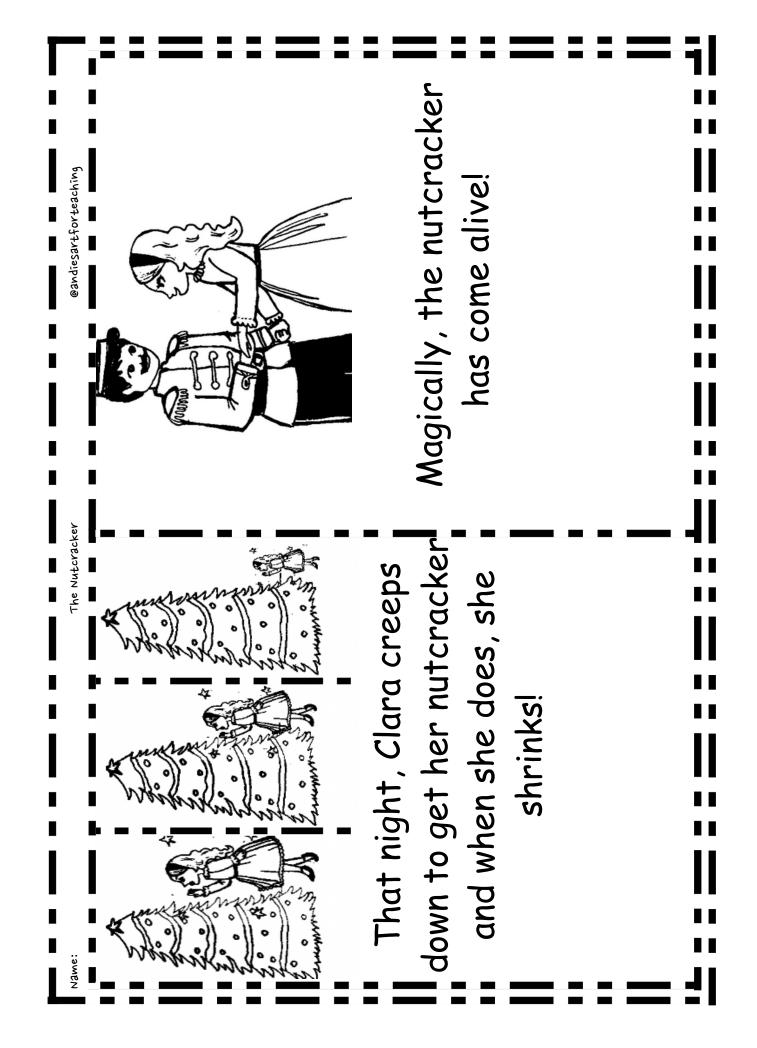
wonders if it is just g dream, but she finds little golden crown

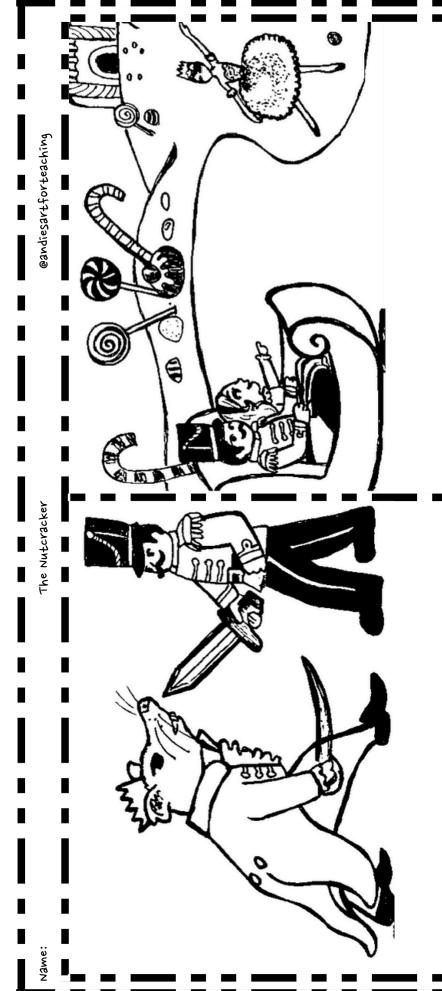
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The Nutcracker  2.	ø
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It's Christmas Eve and Clara and her brother are excited. Their Uncle Drosselmeyer is a toy maker and he is visiting.

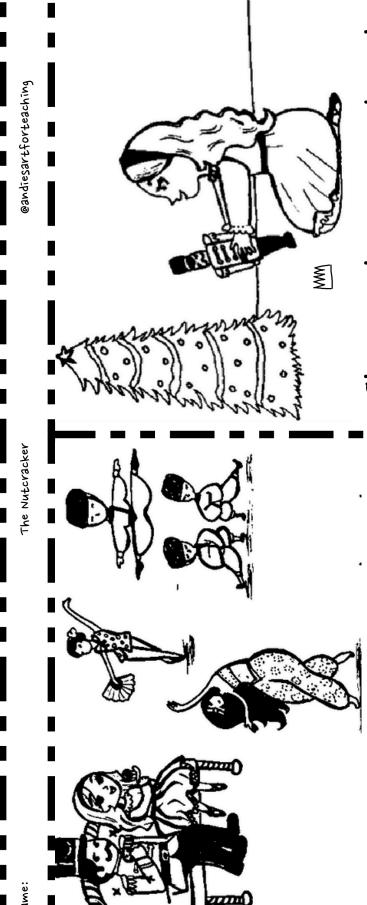
Uncle gives Clara a wooden nutcracker. Her brother wants it because it is a soldier and breaks it. Uncle brosselmeyer fixes it for her.





The nutcracker fights the Rat King withClara's help.

The nutcracker takes Clarato to the Landof Sweets, where the Sugar Plum Fairy is waiting.

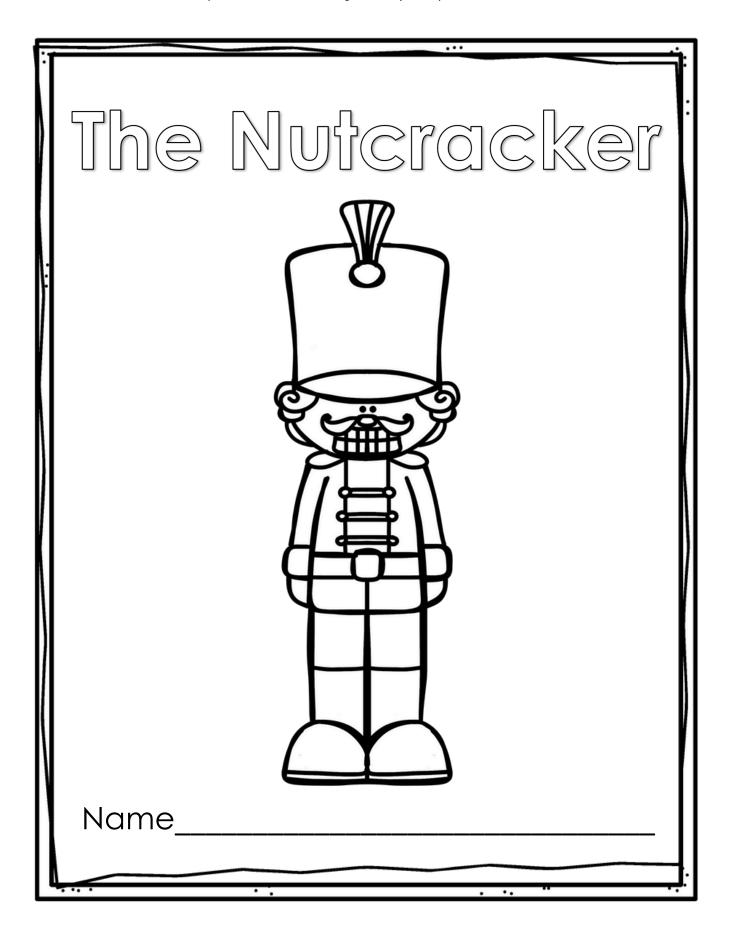


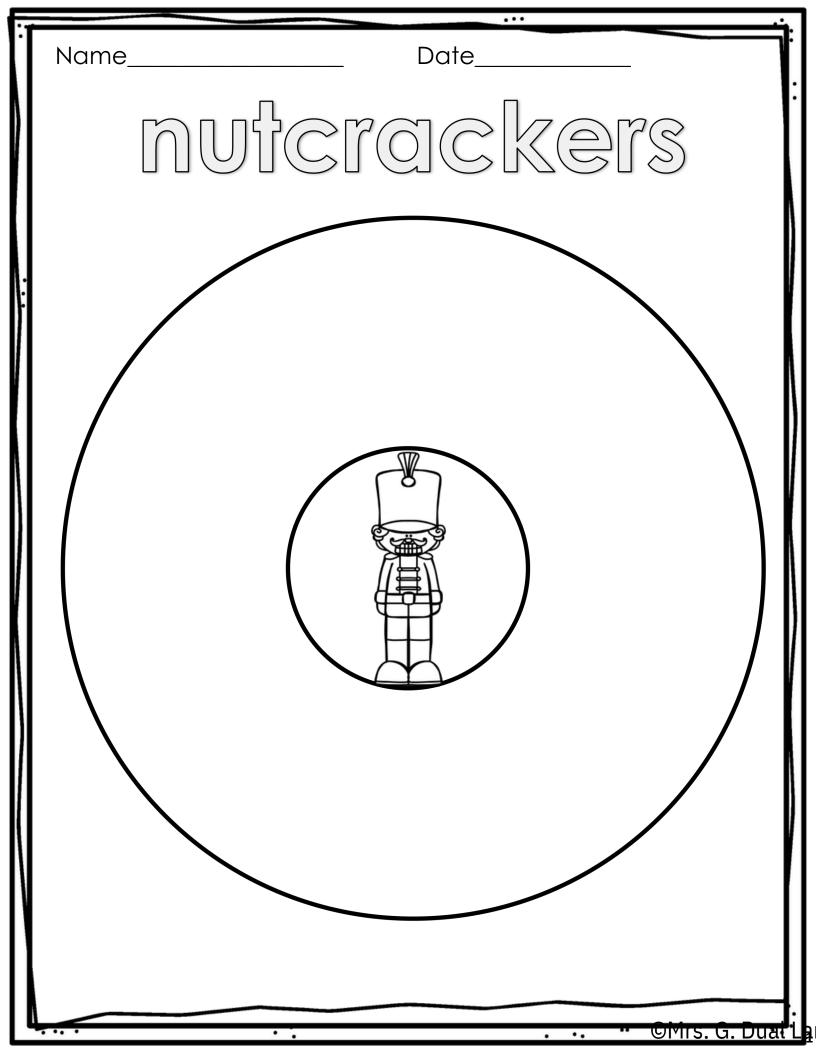
There they see performers Phristmas tree and wonders and dancers from all over the world!

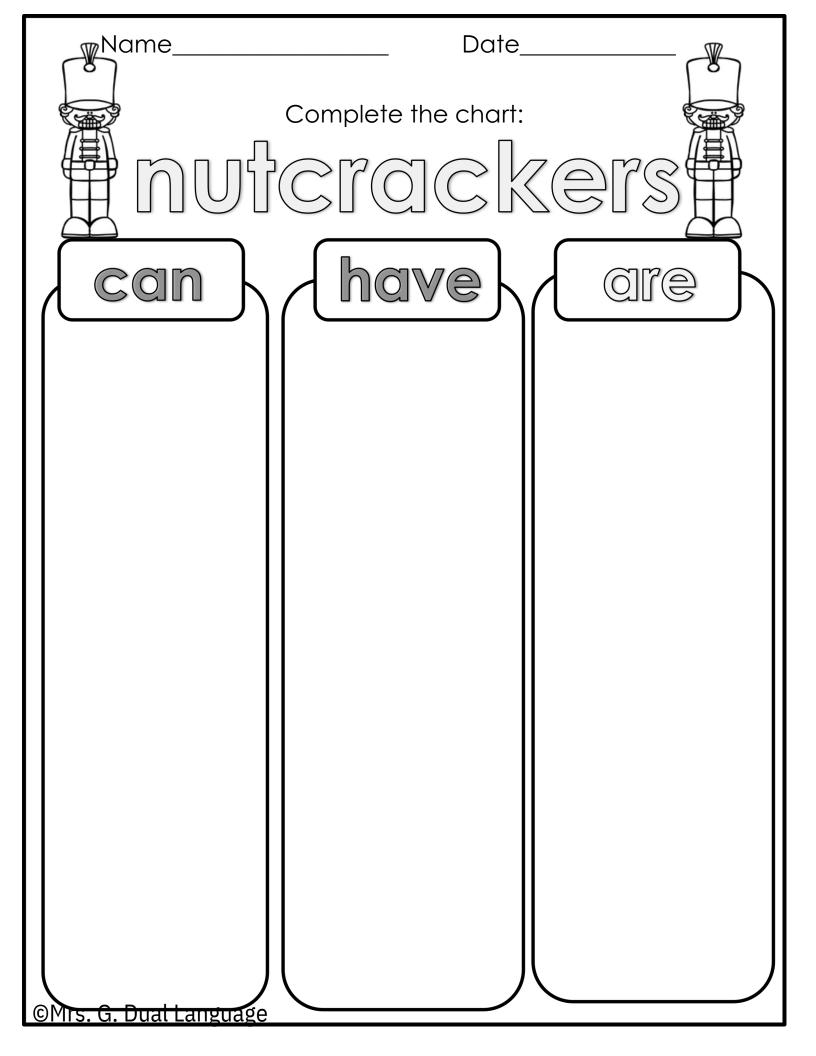
Clara wakes up under the if it is just a dream, but she finds a little golden crown.

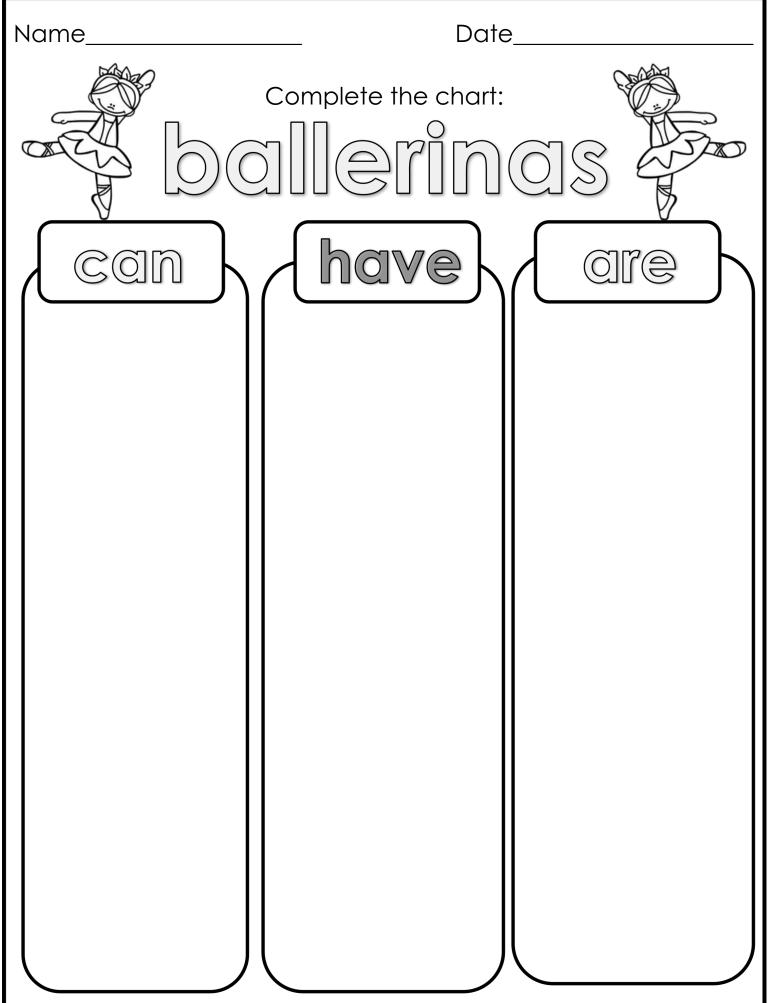
### 3rd Grade: Character Trait Chart

Students can list character traits of characters in the story after watching the performance or reading the story and provide evidence.







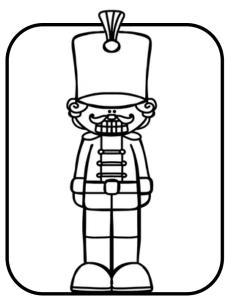


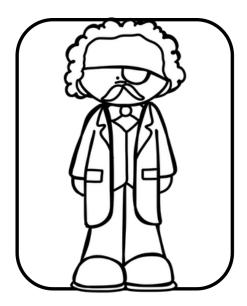
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### **CHARACTERS**

Write thenameofthecharacters:

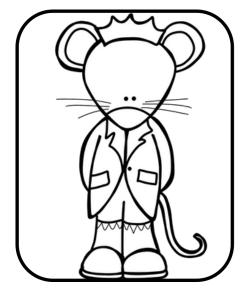


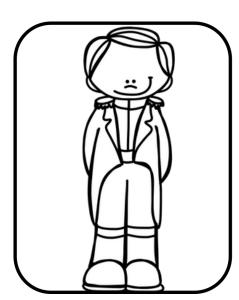






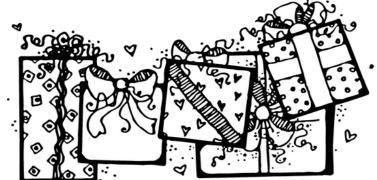






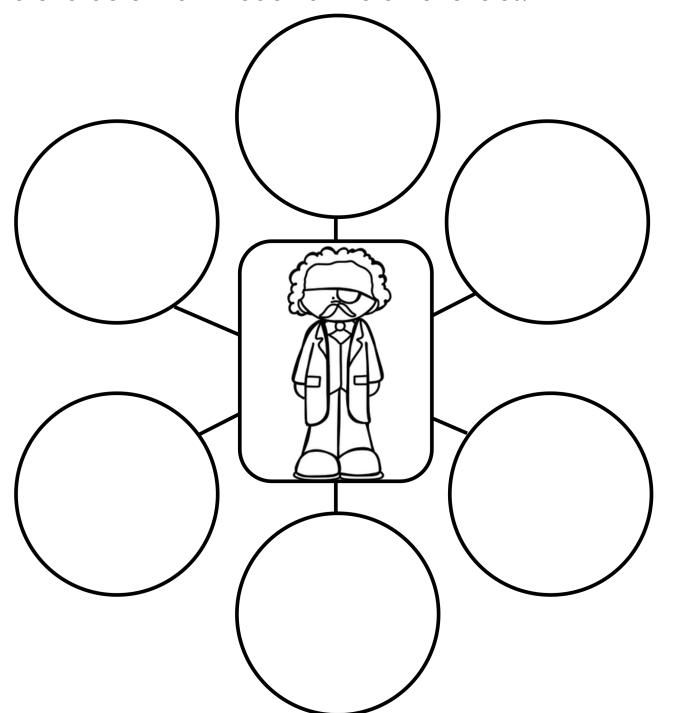
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Name	Date	
	CHARACTERS	
Title of	the story	
•List the	main characters.	
•Which Why? importal	character do you think is the nt?	most
• Which	character is your favorite? Why?	



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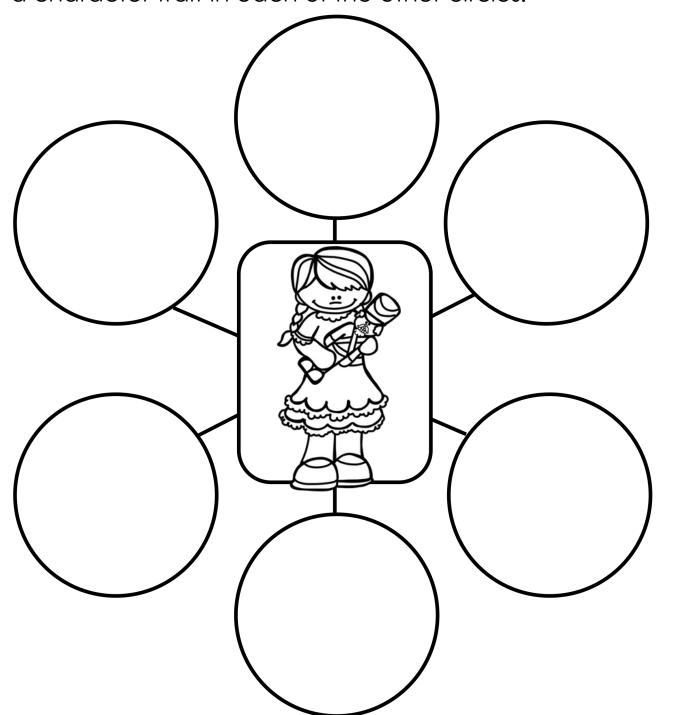
Write the name of the character at the top and a character trait in each of the other circles.



Write a sentence using one of the character traits.

Name	Date
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Write the name of the character at the top and a character trait in each of the other circles.



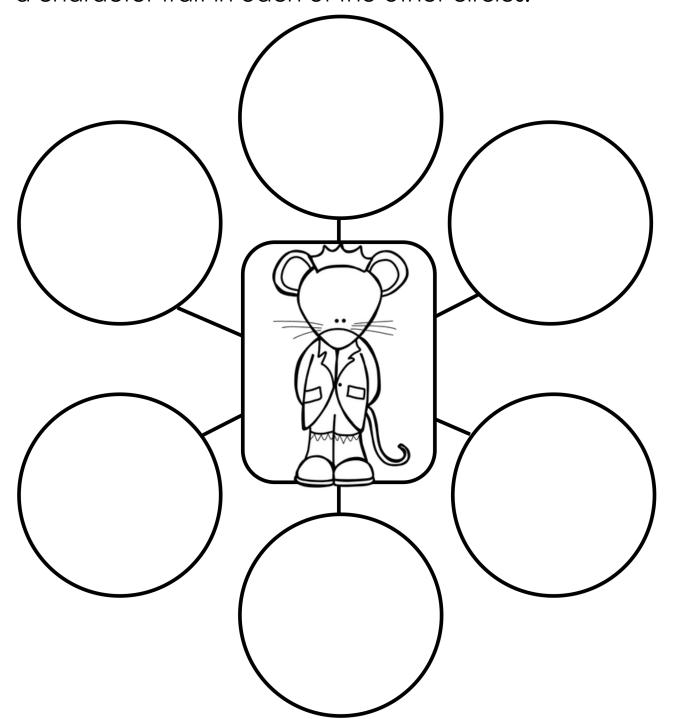
Write a sentence using one of the character traits.

Name Write the name of the cha	
a character trait in each o	
Write a sentence using one	e of the character traits.

Name		
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Date\_\_\_\_\_

Write the name of the character at the top and a character trait in each of the other circles.

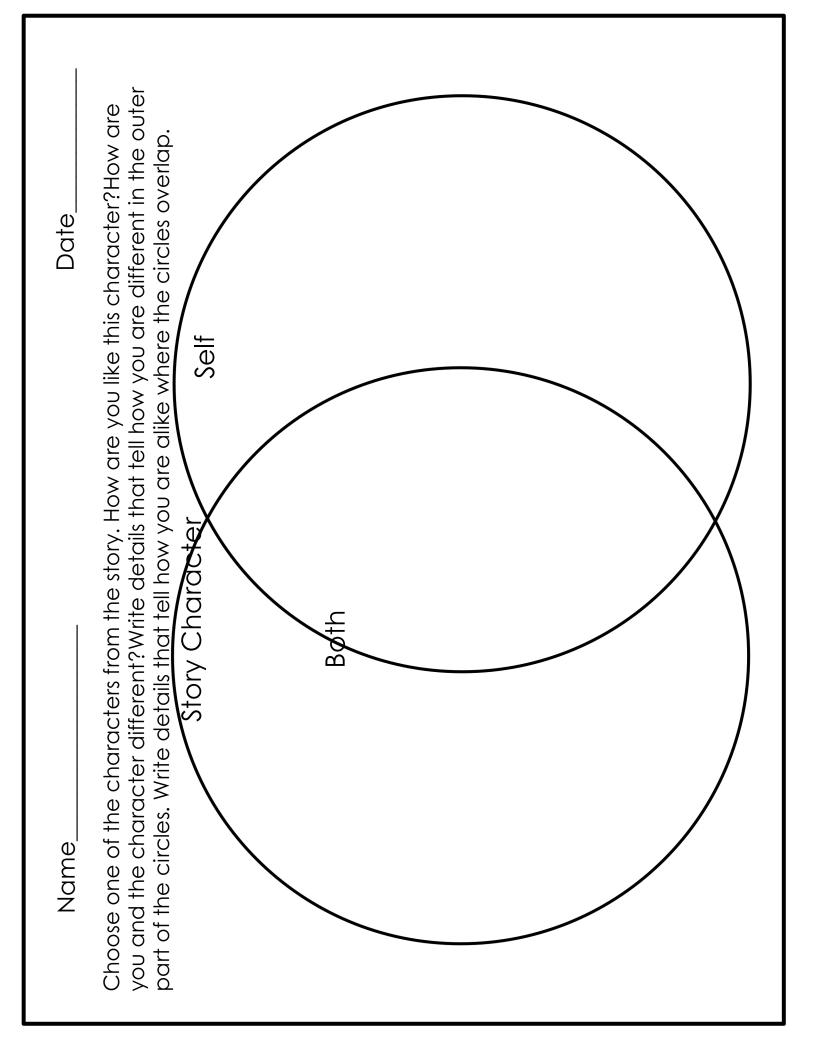


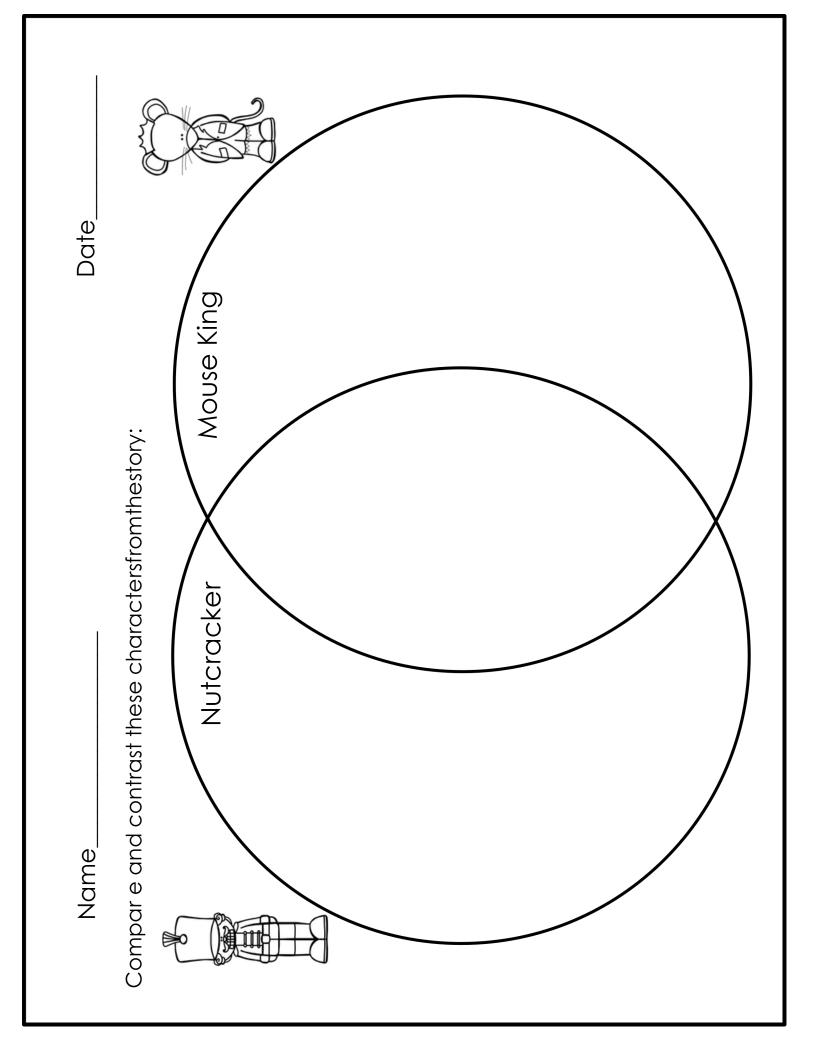
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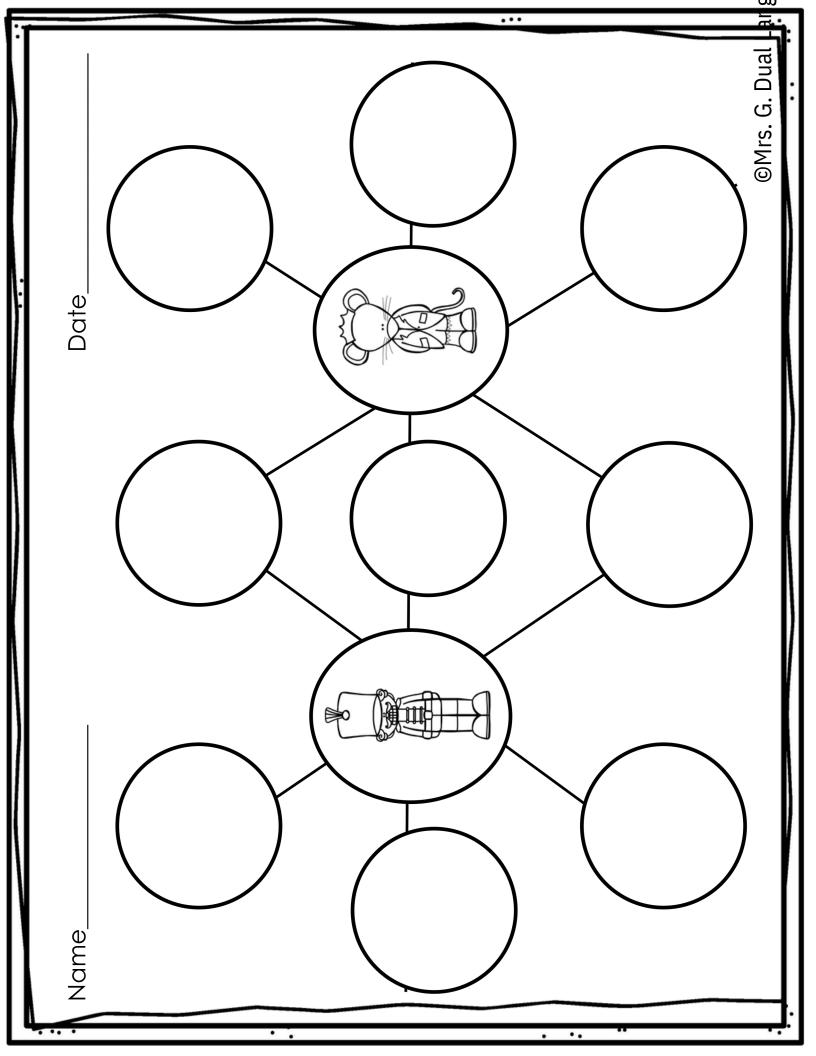
Write the name of the a character trait in each	character at the top and the of the other circles.
Write a sentance using	one of the character traits.

Name Draw a picture of a characte	Date er in the center . Write the
name at the top and a charcother circles	acter trait in each of the
Write a sentence using one o	of the character traits.

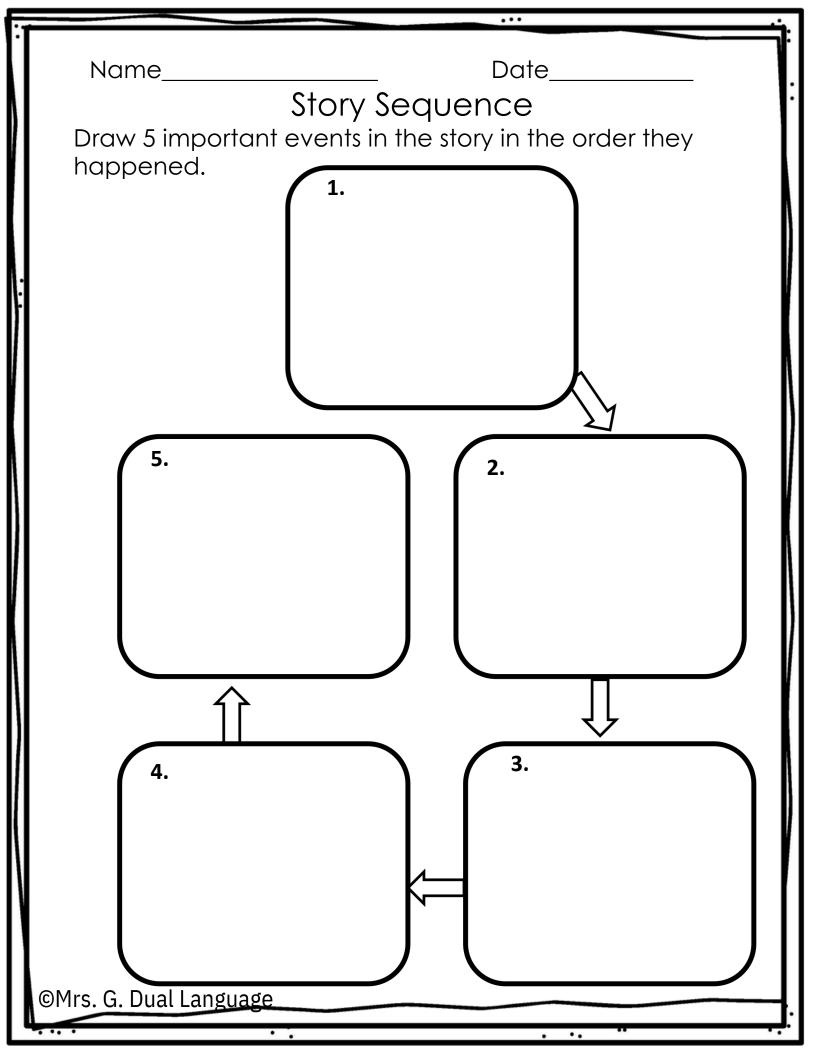
	Name	Date_		
	Character Analysis			
	CHARACTER	FEELS	WHEN/WHY	
• • • •				
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Name	Story Mo	Date	
	The Nu	fcracker	
CHARACTER		SETTINGS	
BEGINNING		MIDDLE	
		END	



Name	Date
	Story Sequence
	eventsinthestoryintheorder they
happened.	
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Managa	Darks
Name	Date Story Sequence
Draw a picture o	andwritea sentenceabout events
in the story in the	e order they happened. F_ir_st
	Then
4	N_ext
	L_a_s_t
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Name_	Date
<b>\ A /</b>	Story Sequence
vvr	ite the number to sequence the story:
	Marie travels to the Land of Sweets.
$\bigcirc$	Marie gets a nutcracker for Christmas.
	The King of Mice jumps out.
	The tree and the toys grow bigger.
	Marie wakes up was it a dream?
$\bigcirc$	The nutcracker becomes a prince.
	The people in the Land of Sweets perform special dances.
	Marie's brother brakes the nutcracker.
	The Sugar Plum Fairy greets Marie and
	the prince.
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		ŀ
Name Date		
Describe the setting at the beginning of the	story.	ľ
		١
		I
Draw a picture of the setting and label the your drawing .	objects in	N
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Namo	Dato	
	Date  Atting in the second part of the story	
Describe the se	etting in the second part of the story.	
Draw a pictur	e of the setting and label the objects in	
your drawing		
		١
		,
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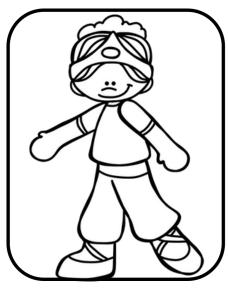
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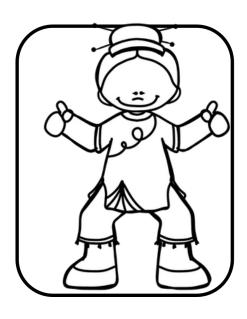
Name	Date

# SPECIAL DANCES

Write the name of the dances:













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Name_	Date
	Sequence of the Special Dances
Write the dance:	ne number to show the sequence of the s:
	An Arabian lady did the dance of coffee.
	All the flowers of the kingdom danced the Waltz of the Flowers.
	Chinese dancers jumped out of a giant teapot.
	The dancing candy canes from Russia performed.
	Dancers from Spain did the dance of hot chocolate.
	Mother Ginger and her little  puppets did g playful dance.
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Date
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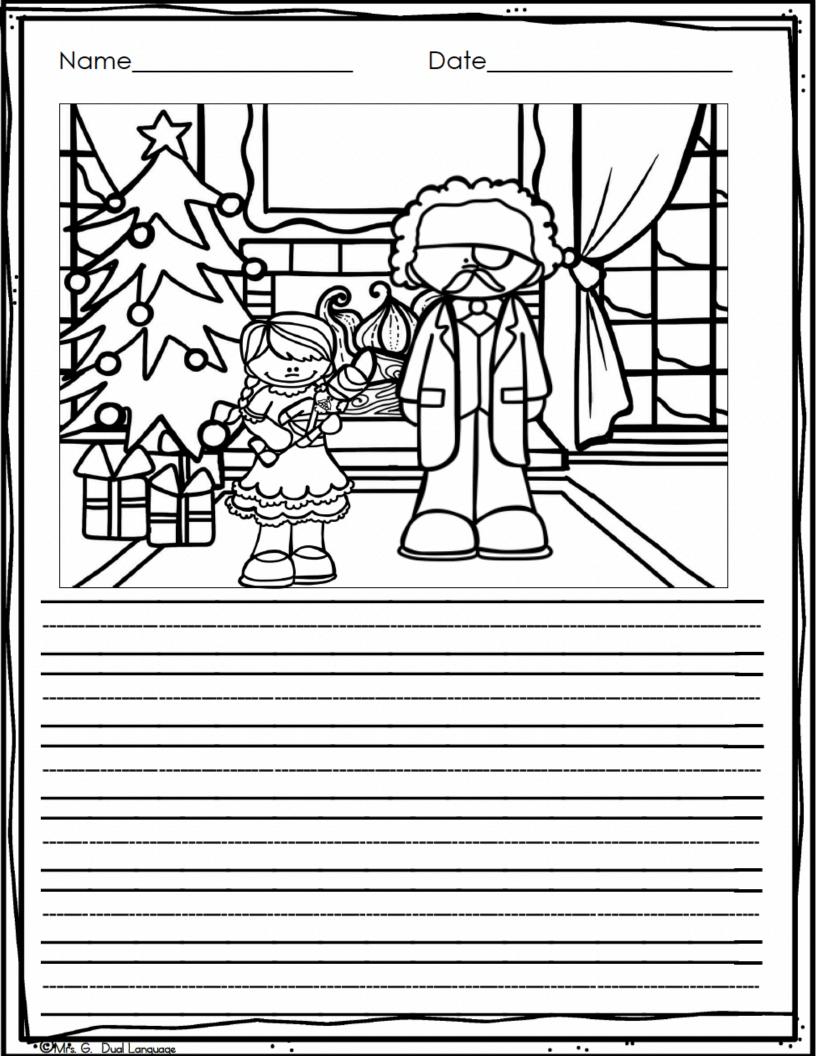
# Reality or Fantasy?

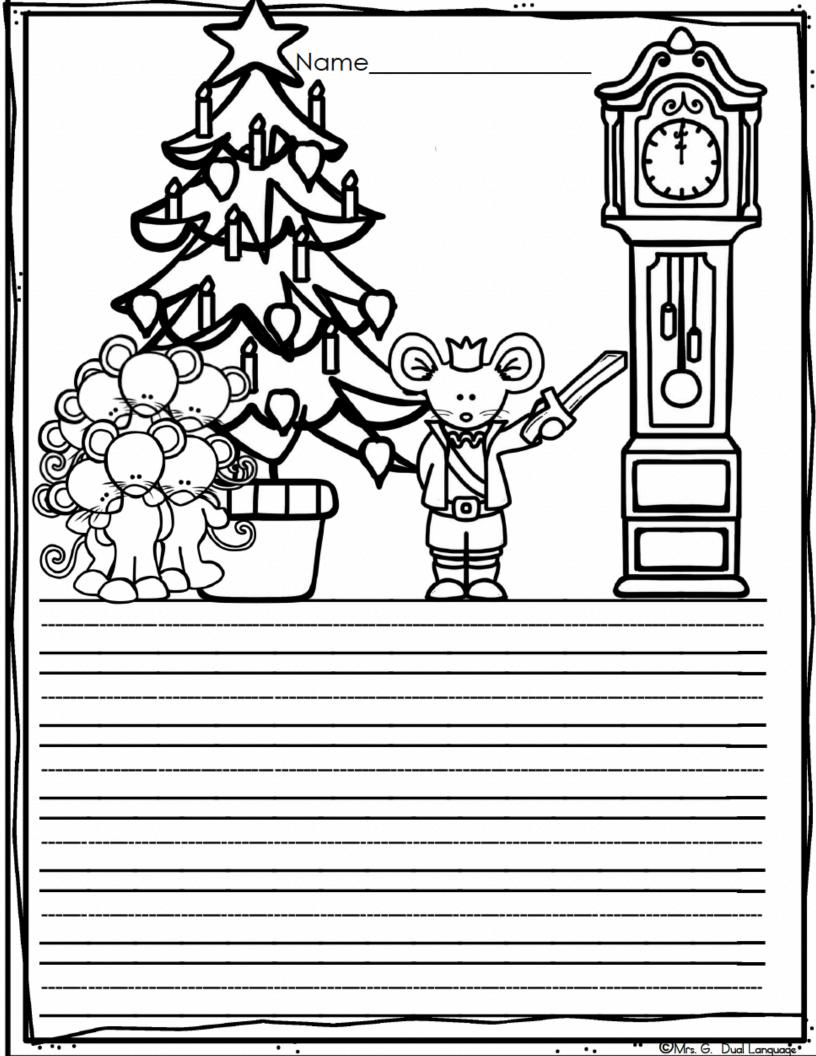
Some events in the story can really happen. These things are called reality. Some events in the story could not really happen. These things are called fantasy. Read each sentence. Write realityor fantasyto show whether or not the event could really happen.

- 1.There were many presents under thetree. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.The King of Mice had seven heads.
- 3. Godfather gave Mariea present.
- 4.Fritz grabbed the nutcracker from Marie. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.The Christmas tree grew bigger and bigger.\_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Marietiptoed downstairs.
- 7.The prince led Marieout the window.
- 8.The clock began striking midnight.
- 9.The flowers danced a waltz.
- 10. The sled rose into the sky.

Name	Date	
Draw a picture to	illustrate your favorite p	part of the story.
(		
Describe what's hap	pening in the picture.	
Describe what's hap	pening in the picture.	
Describe what's hap	pening in the picture.	
Describe what's hap	pening in the picture.	
Describe what's hap	pening in the picture.	
Describe what's hap	pening in the picture.	

NameDate	
Marie loved the Nutcracker. It was "the present [she] loved best of all." Write about a time you received a present you especially loved. Tell what made it so special. Describe your reaction and feelings.	
 _	
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Date\_\_\_\_\_ Name\_\_\_\_\_ **MAKING WORDS** How many words can you make using the letters in the word nutcracker?

Name	Date
TTGITTO	

### **WORD SEARCH**

**FRITZ** MARIE **SOLDIERS FAIRIES** TOYS **TREE** PRINCE GODFATHER MOUSE **SNOW** SLED **SWEETS** NUTCRACKER CLOCK **PALACE SUGAR** WALTZ **FLOWERS PRESENTS BALLET** 

MFLONWSEWGRAIES

PGMOUSECLOCKMPF

AWALTSLEDDSFSAL

LURSCULCWFTRNLO

ASIPRGENSAEIOAW

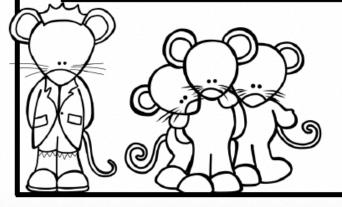
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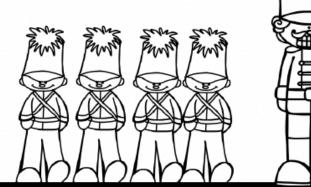
NMRICRTROHWZTER

OWALKCLPRESENTS

BALLETOYSRWALTZ

AFAIRIESOLDIERS





Name	Date
1101110	

# **Compound Words**

A compound word is two smaller words combined to make one word. EXAMPLE: nut + cracker= nutcracker Read the two words by each number. Write them on the line as one word, a compound word.



Name_	Dc	ate
•	es are describing words. Vecon the line, next to the r	Write the number of the noun it describes in this story.
	1. dazzling	mice
	2. tiny	nutcracker
	3. tall and thin	toys
	4. amazing	puppets
	5. wooden	tree
	6. dark	places
	7. huge	throne
	8. golden	candles
	9. handsome	living room
	10.special	sled
	11.hot	prince
	12.giant	godfather
	13.little	dances
	14. wonderful	teapot
	15.royal	chocolate
	44	

Name	Date_				
Irregular Past Tense Verbs					
Write the past	Write the past tense form of each verb				
0 0	Present Tense •sit	Past Tense			
20	•tell				
	•come				
	•hang				
<b>20</b> 2	•wear				
	∙run				
	•wind				
U _ U	•begin				
	•say				
X OH	•fall				

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Name	Date

# Irregular Past Tense Verbs

Write the past tense form of each verb

Present Tense Past Tense

• give

• know

•have \_\_\_\_\_

•take \_\_\_\_\_

•grow \_\_\_\_\_

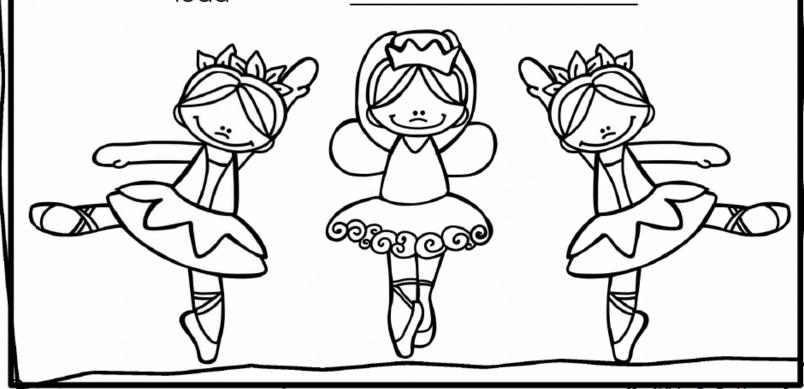
•see \_\_\_\_\_

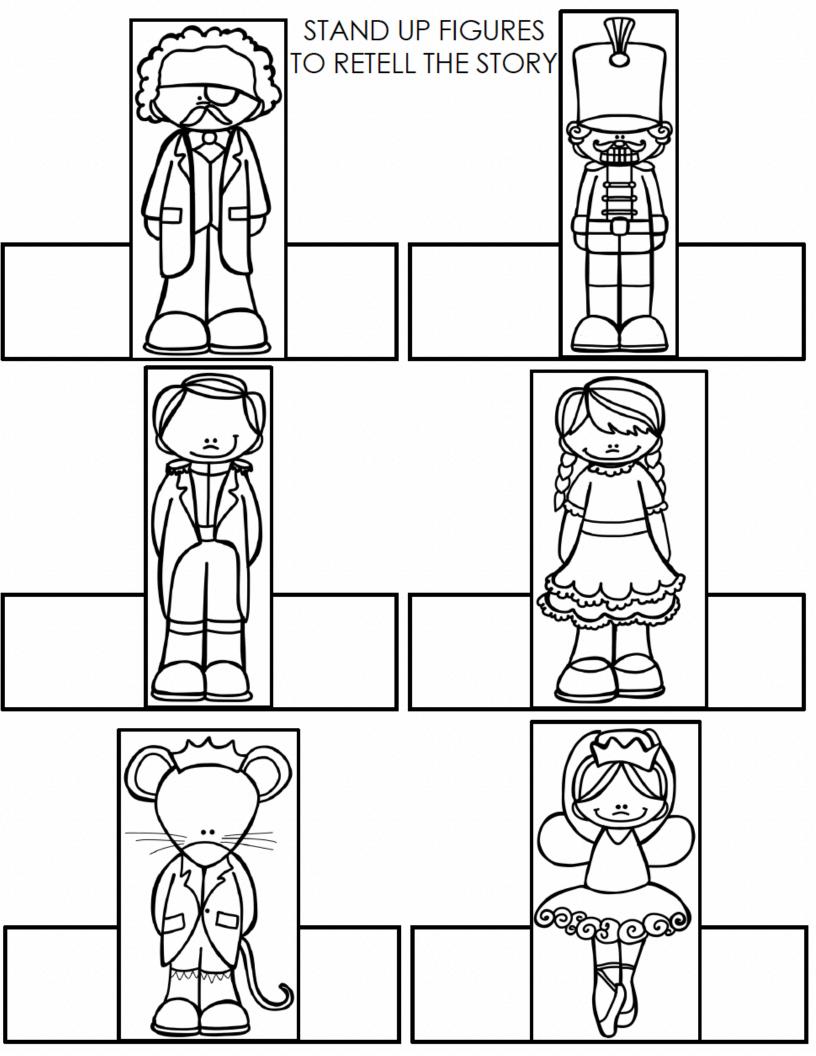
•find \_\_\_\_\_

•hear \_\_\_\_\_

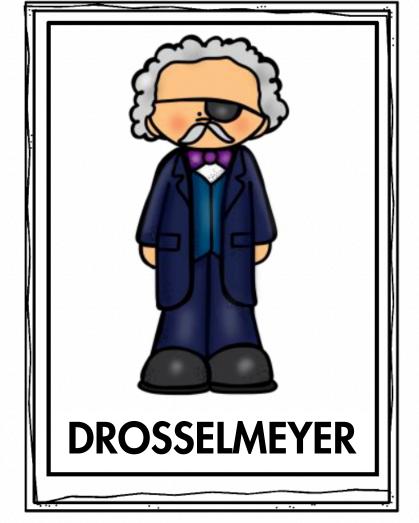
• fly \_\_\_\_\_

•lead \_\_\_\_\_

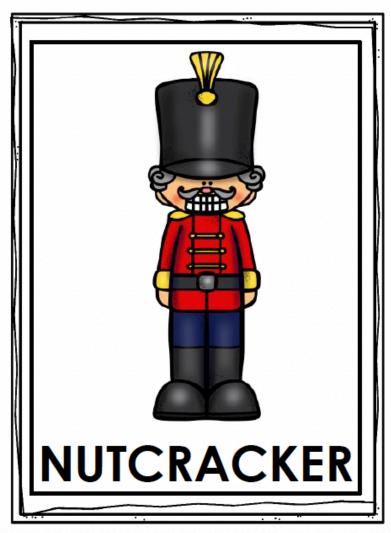


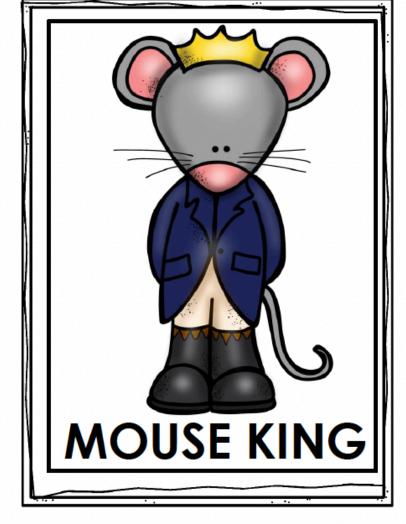


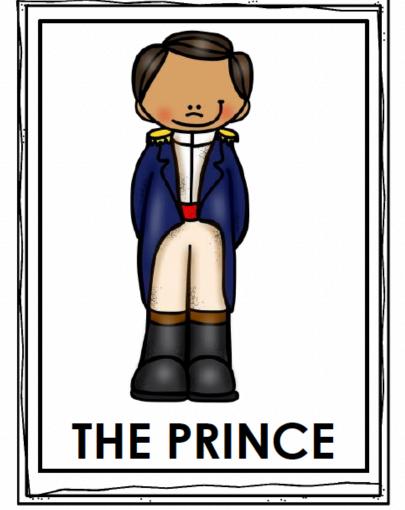






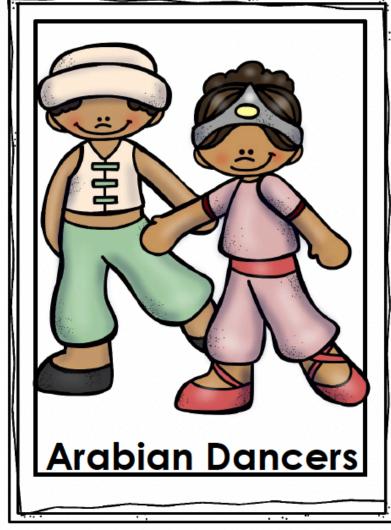














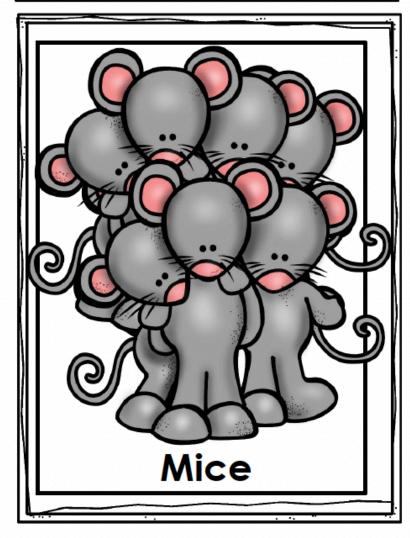




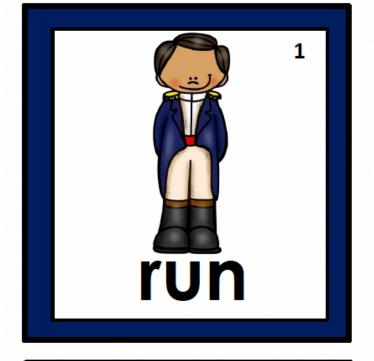








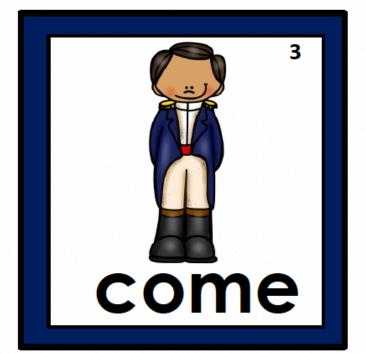








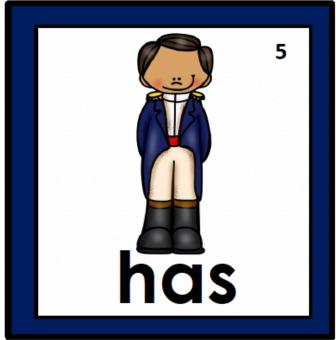




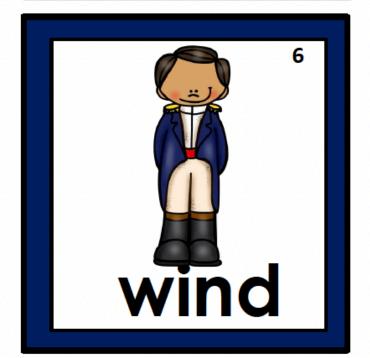




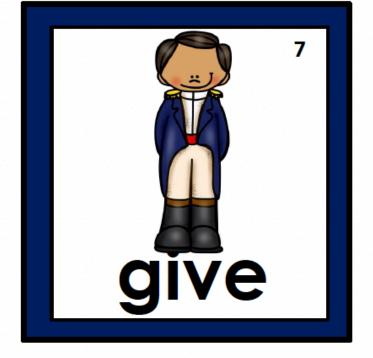




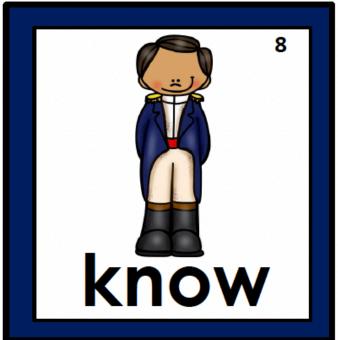




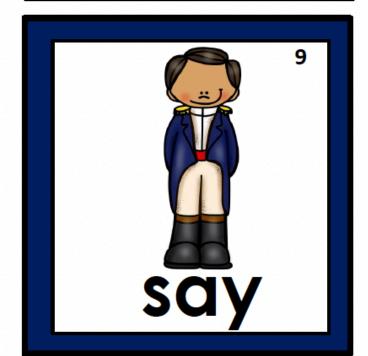
















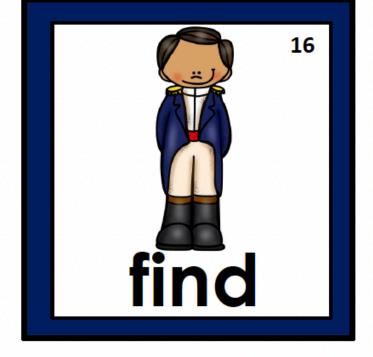




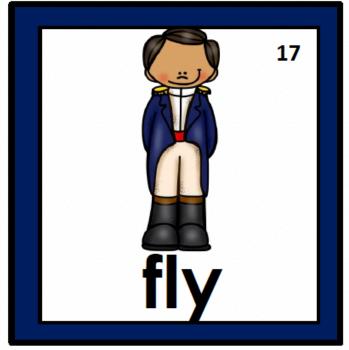


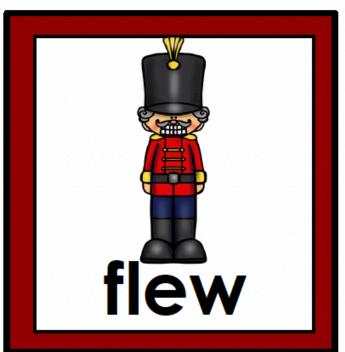






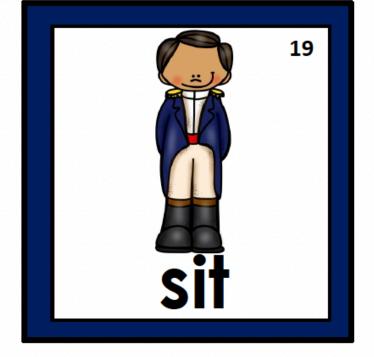


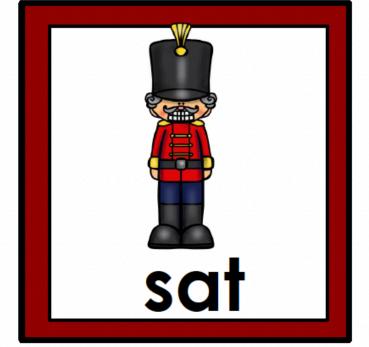


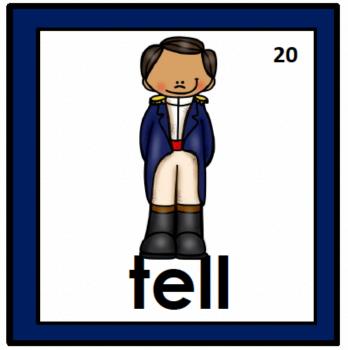


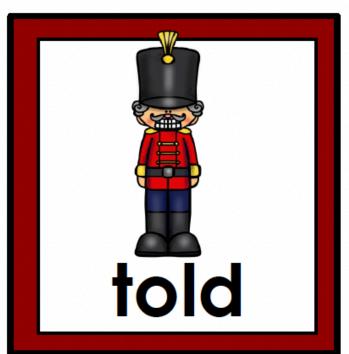


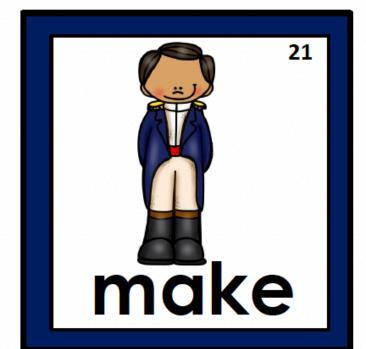










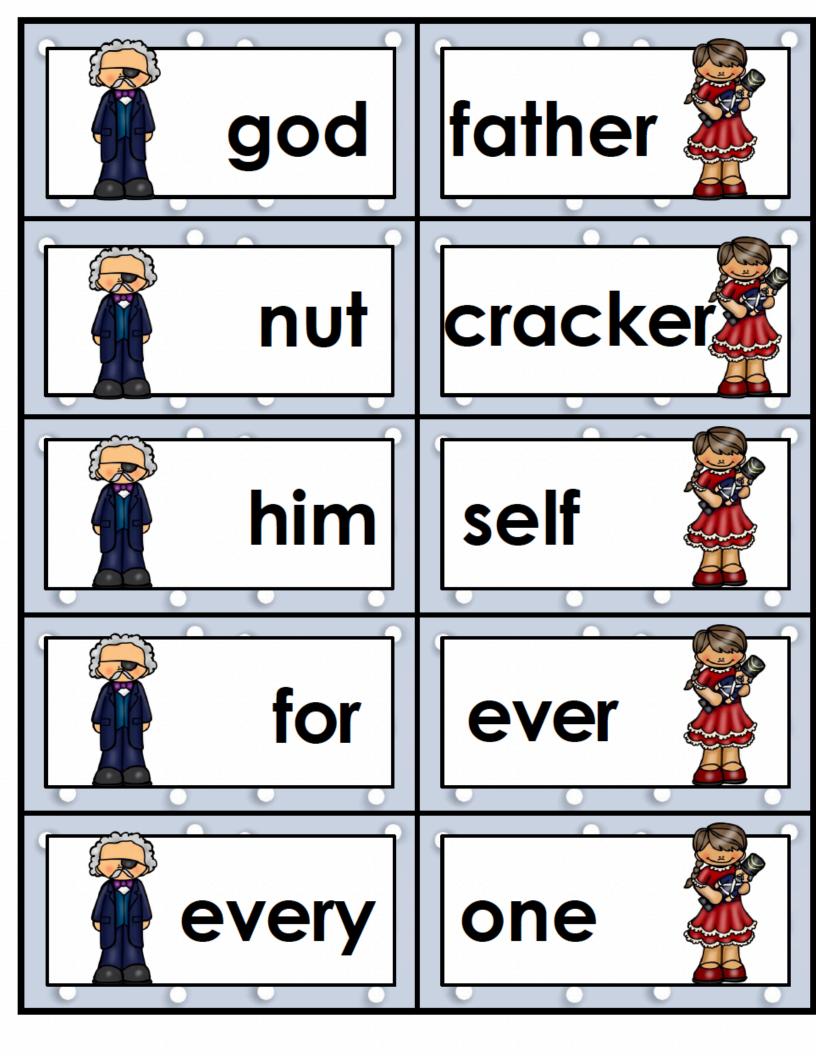


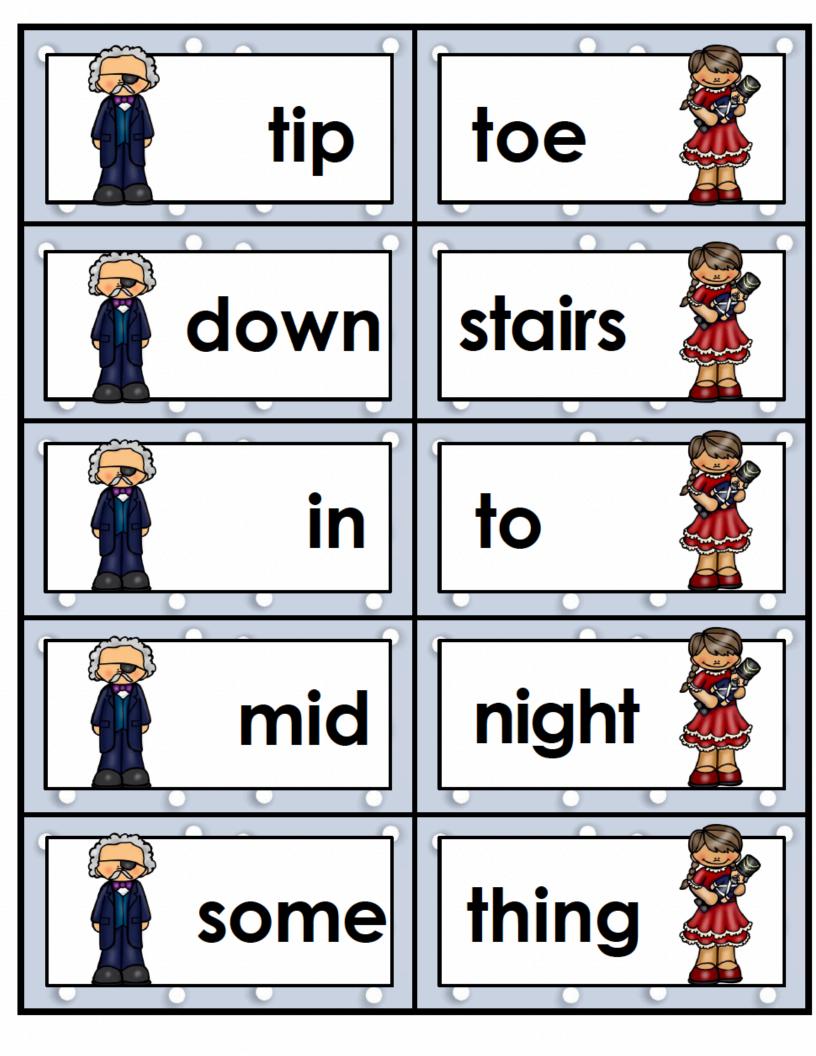


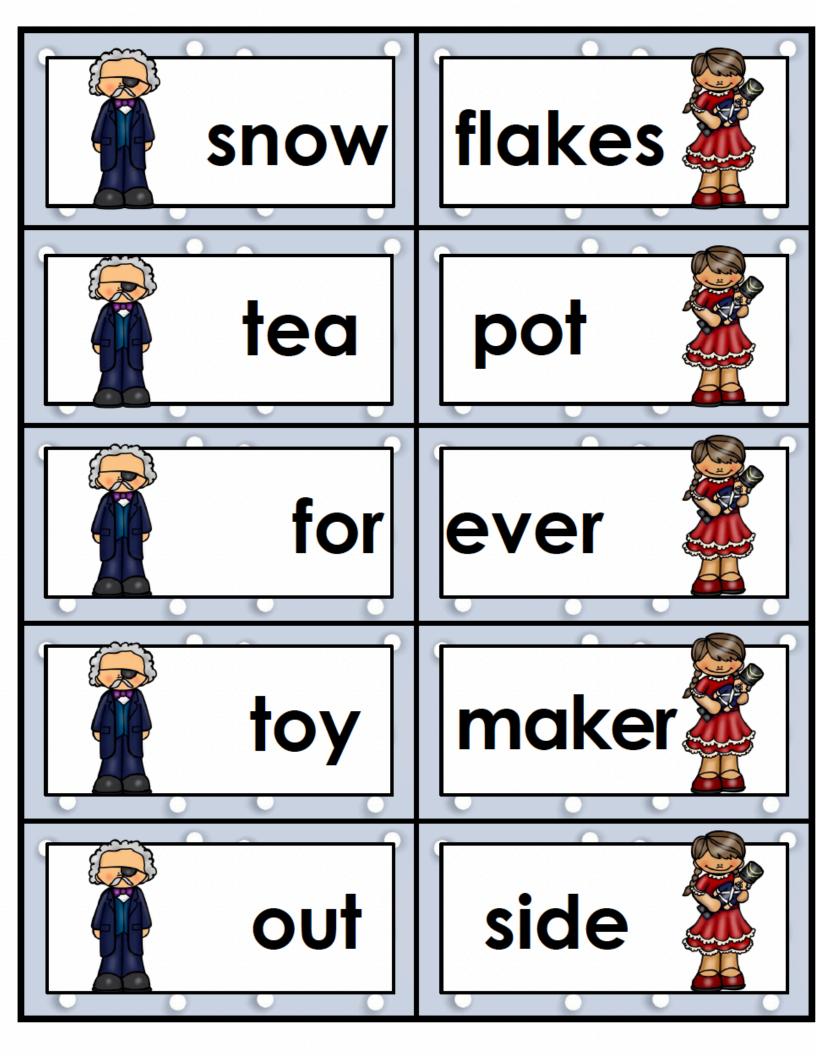
	Name		
1	2	3	
4	5	6	
7	8	9	
10	11	12	
13	14	15	
16	17	18	
19	20	21	

Name_		

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15
16	17	18
19	20	21



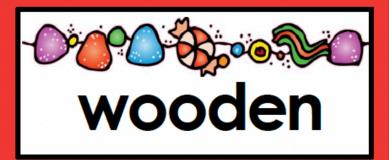




Name		Date	
1 (3)110		pound Words	
Write the two v		-	nd word they form.
	+		
	+		
	+		
		·	
	+		
	+		
	+		
	+	<del></del>	
	+		
	+		
	+		
	+		
~~~	+		
	+		
	+		
414			
PIY			
• 19Mrs. G. Dual Language	<del></del>		



























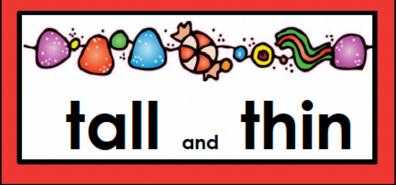














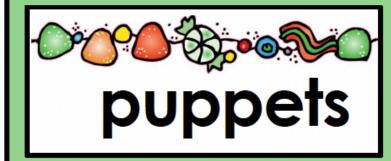


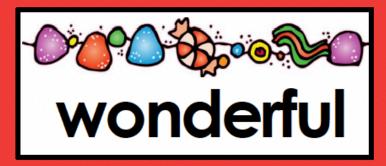








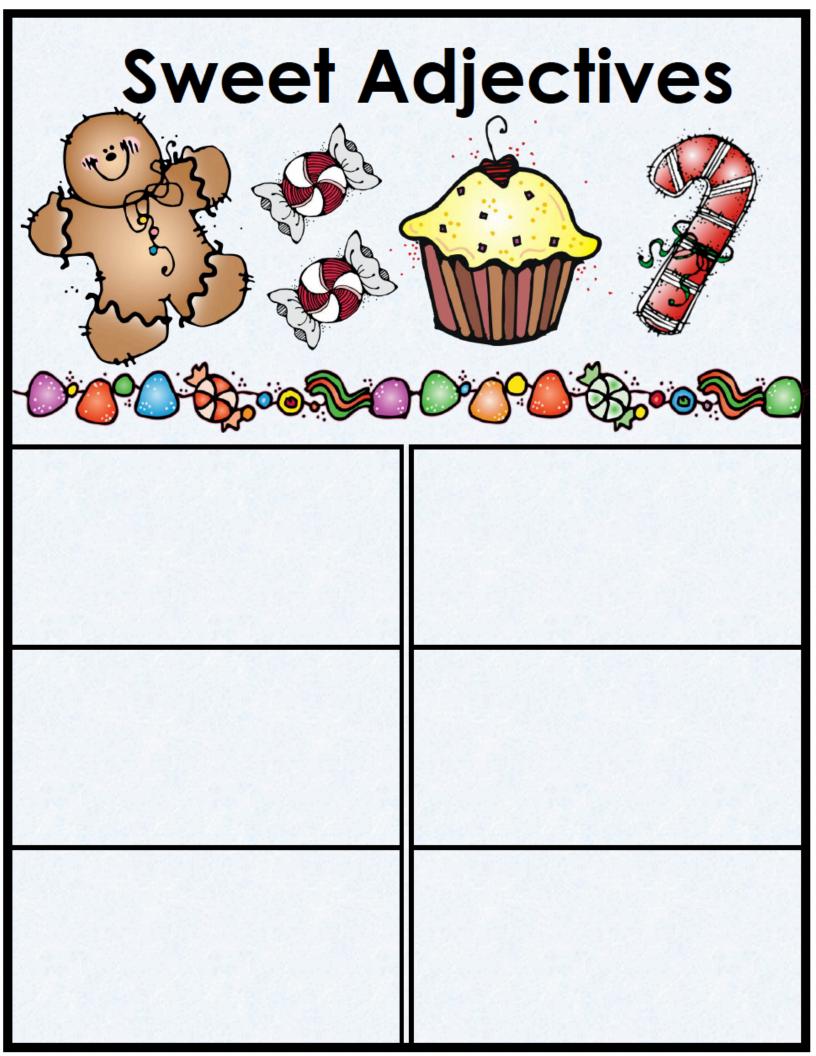












Name	Date
	Sweet Adjectives
Write a nou	n and its adjective. Draw a picture to illustrate it.
• Whrs. G. Dual Language	

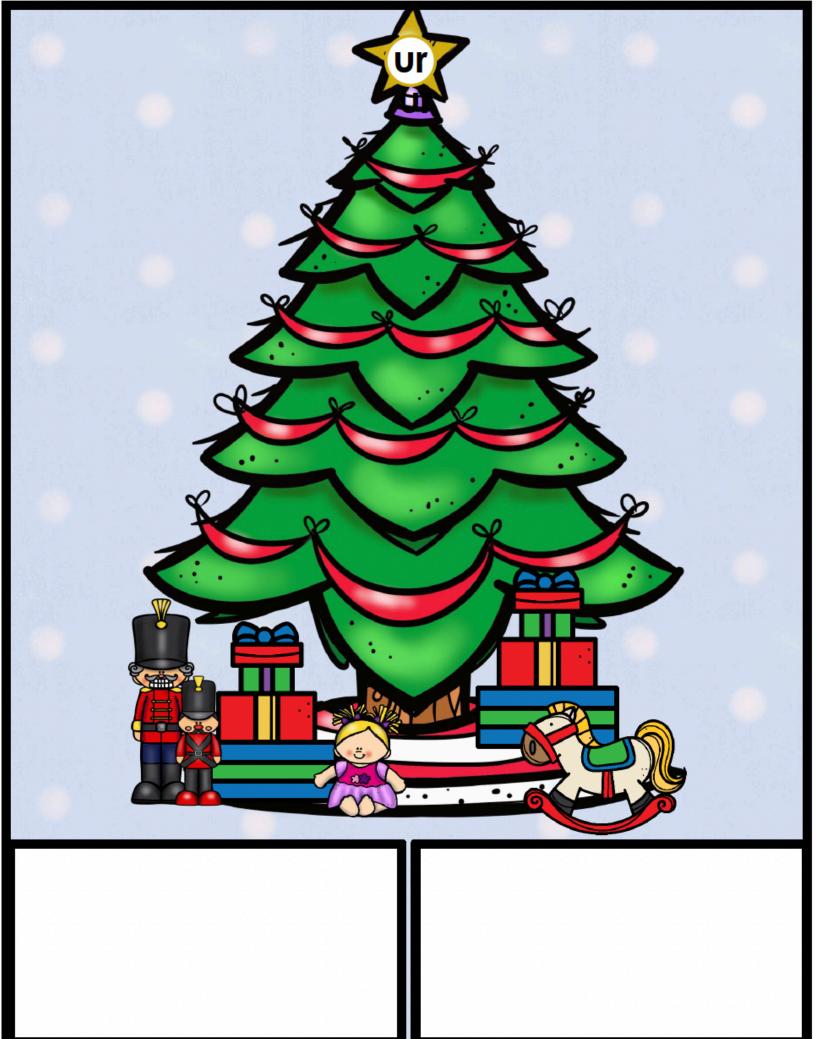
•••

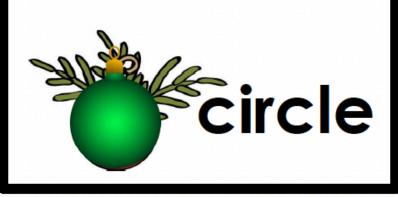




















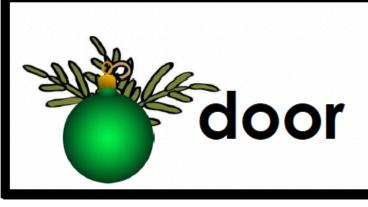










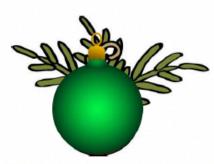






are



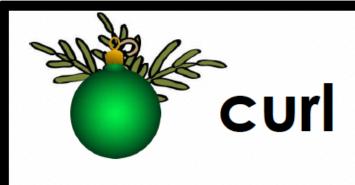


first

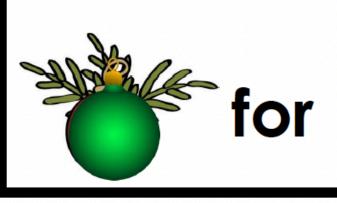




over



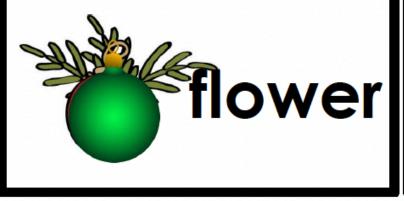






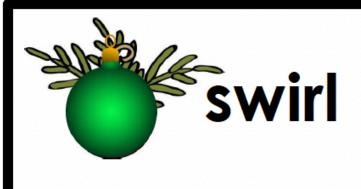


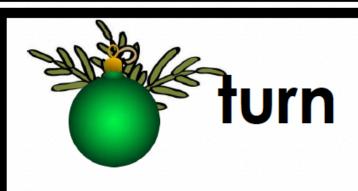




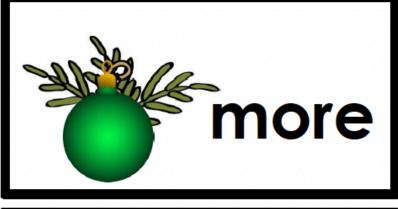


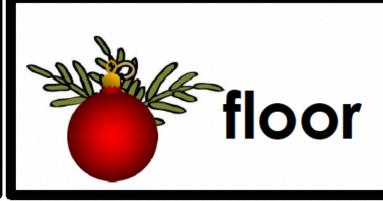












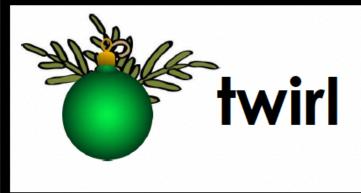










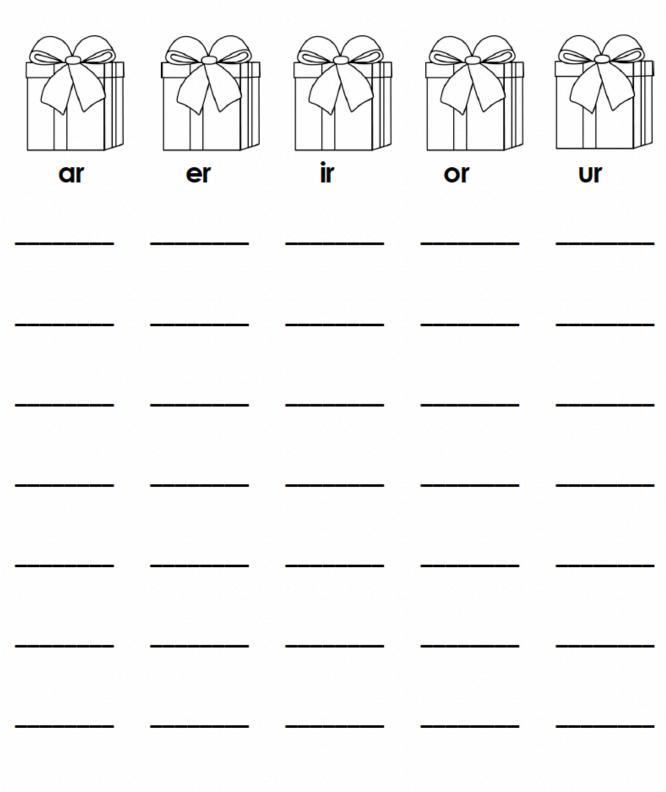






Name\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_

## **R-Controlled Vowels Recording Sheet**

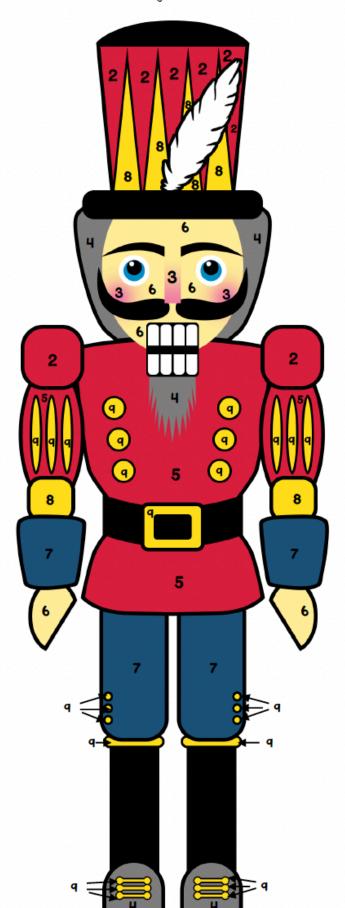


### 4th Grade: Color by Number Multiplication Puzzle

Solve a set of multiplication problems which then the correct answers when colored can reveal a picture of the nutcracker.

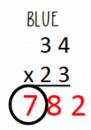
Name		
	lti-Digit Numbers — Color by Number	
<b>Directions</b> — Solve the problems on the right. Circle the problem. That is the color you use to color the sections		
2/2/2/2/2	GRAY 98	RED <b>5 4</b>
8 8 8	<u>x 5 6</u>	<u>x 2 3</u>
("/ " \ ")	YELLOW	YELLOW
	8 3	8 6
	<u>x 6 0</u>	<u>x 5 6</u>
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	BLUE	RED
	3 4	5 2
\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	<u>x 2 3</u>	<u>x 4 9</u>
5	BLACK	PINK
$\langle \cdot \rangle$	75	51
7 7 7	<u>x 6 8</u>	<u>x 2 7</u>
	PE	ACH
		78
	<u>x</u>	21
HH		

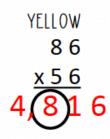
Directions — Solve the problems on the right. Circle the number in the HUNDREDS place value. Look at the color above the problem. That is the color you use to color the sections with that number in the picture.

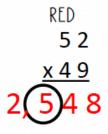


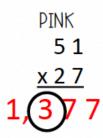
GRAY
98
<u>x 5 6</u>
5(4)88











# 5th Grade: Theme Analysis Paragraph Write an elaborate paragraph on themes found throughout the performance.

Name:	Date:
Theme Anal	ysis Worksheet
A theme is the central message of a reader.	story that the author wishes to convey to the
_	e text ، select a sample which supports the ation with supports the theme . Lastly ، illustrate
Text Title:	
TheTmheemT	Example (page #)
Explanation	Illustration (must support theme)

### 6th Grade: Nutcracker Set Reimagined

Write a paper designing a new and reinvented land that is already part of the Nutcracker with setting description, landmarks, etc.

	Nutcracker! Set Design	Scene:
		/
		*
	RARIE	
Desci	ribe, in detail, the set design of Nutcracker! Scene 1:	
/6 ma	rke)	
(6 ma	165)	
Expla	in how effective	ns, themes etc)
xpia		

#### 7th Grade: Puzzled Nutcracker

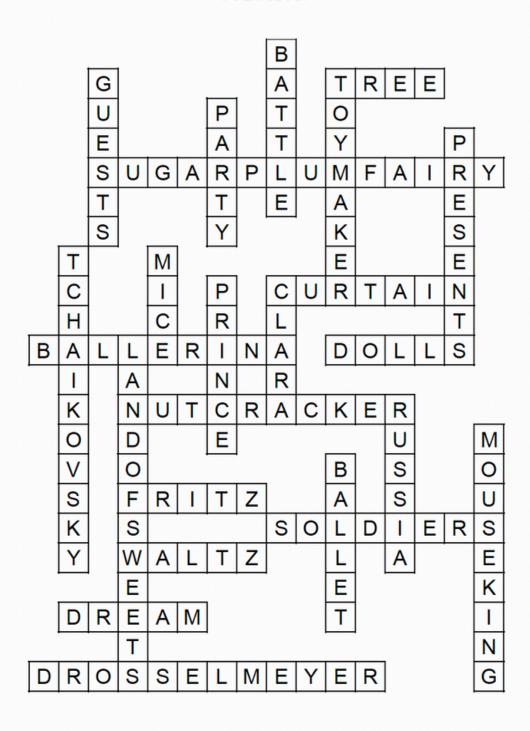
Students can solve a crossword puzzle about the Nutcracker

Name:			Date:	
Th	e Nu	tcrac	ker B	allet
	2		3	
ACROSS 3. It is decorated for Christmas. 6. She lives in the Land of Sweets.	6	4		5
<ul><li>10. Stage concealer.</li><li>11. Female dancer.</li><li>13. They dance for the party guests.</li><li>14. Drosselmeyer's gift</li></ul>	7	8 9	10	
to Clara.  18. Clara's brother who breaks the Nutcracker.  19. The Nutcracker leads an army of them.	11 12		13	15
<ul><li>20. The Ballet ends with this dance.</li><li>21. Night time imagining.</li><li>22. Clara's godfather.</li></ul>	18		17	16
DOWN 1. Military fight. 2. People invited to a party. 3. Drosselmeyer's pro-	20		19	
fession. 4. Christmas gathering. 5. Gifts.	22			
<ul><li>7. His wrote the music for The Nutcracker.</li><li>8. Clara throws her slippe their leader.</li><li>9. The Nutcracker turns this.</li></ul>		12. Where the S lives. 15. Country whe cracker was orig formed.	re The Nut-	
10. The heroine of The N cracker.	ut-	16. Leader of th 17. Artistic dan		

## The Nutcracker Ballet

### Crossword

SOLUTION



# The Nutcracker Ballet

## WORD BANK

Ballerina

Mouse King

Ballet

Nutcracker

Battle

Party

Clara

Presents

Curtain

Prince

Dolls

Russia

Dream

Soldiers

Drosselmeyer

Sugar Plum Fairy

Fritz

Tchaikovsky

Guests

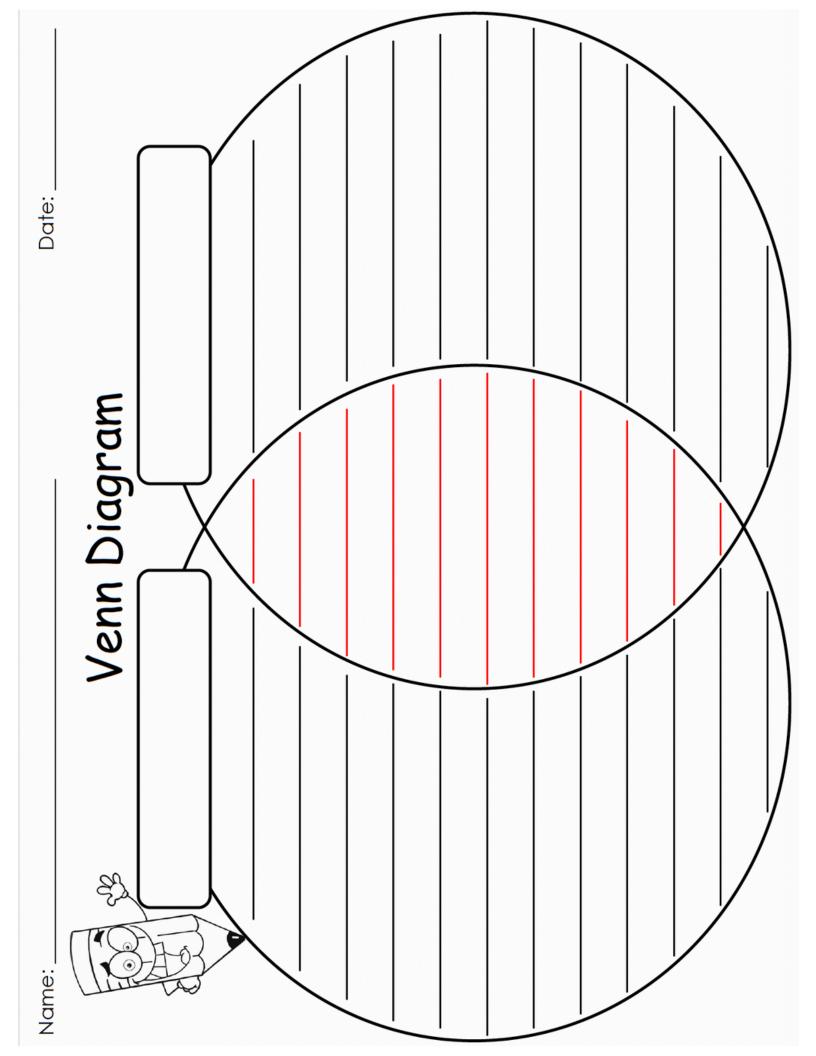
Toy maker

Land of Sweets

Tree

Mice

Waltz



## Rewrite it...\_\_\_\_

How would the story of The Nutcracker be different if it were a Halloween story, tather than a Christmas story?	

#### 10th Grade: Historical Context

Research Tchaikovsky's life and the origin of the story in comparison to the ballet and write a paper reflecting on the themes that are constant throughout the story and the ballet.

#### 11th Grade: Analytical Paper

Students can read a version of the Nutcracker and then write a reflection paper on how tone, plot structure, and characters were expressed through our performance of it.

#### 12th Grade: Nutcracker by Numbers

Students can research ticket sales based in the theatre, production budget, and stats by age group to create an infographic for increased funding or updated productions