

The Nutcracker

E. T. A. Hoffmann



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Special Features:

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The text is recorded in full.

n. track  These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages
end linked to the listening activities.



E. T. A. Hoffmann (1776-1822), self-portrait.

About the Author

Name: Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffmann

Born: 24 January 1776 in Königsberg, Germany

Nationality: German

Jobs: musician, composer, ¹ writer

Most famous story: *The Nutcracker* (1816)

Other stories: *The Golden Pot* (1814), *The Sandman* (1816)

Dies: 25 June 1822

1. **composer** : this person writes music.



Back row: **Uncle Drosselmeyer**

Front row, from left to right: **Fritz, Clara, The Nutcracker, The Nutcracker Prince**

Nuremberg



The story you are going to read takes place in the early 1800s in Nuremberg. It is a beautiful city in southern Germany. There are a lot of beautiful old buildings and monuments in the city.

The summer in Nuremberg is usually warm and the winter is usually cold and snowy. It is famous for its Christmas markets in December. You can buy all kinds of Christmas decorations, sweets,



Christkindlesmarkt (Christmas market) in the city square, Nuremberg.

food, drinks and toys at the markets. Every year there is also the Nuremberg International Toy Fair. Toy makers from all over the world show their new toys at the fair. It is a very important event.

All about Nuremberg

Coat of Arms of Nuremberg:

Population: about 500,000

Famous Citizens: Albrecht Dürer
(1471-1528) painter, artist

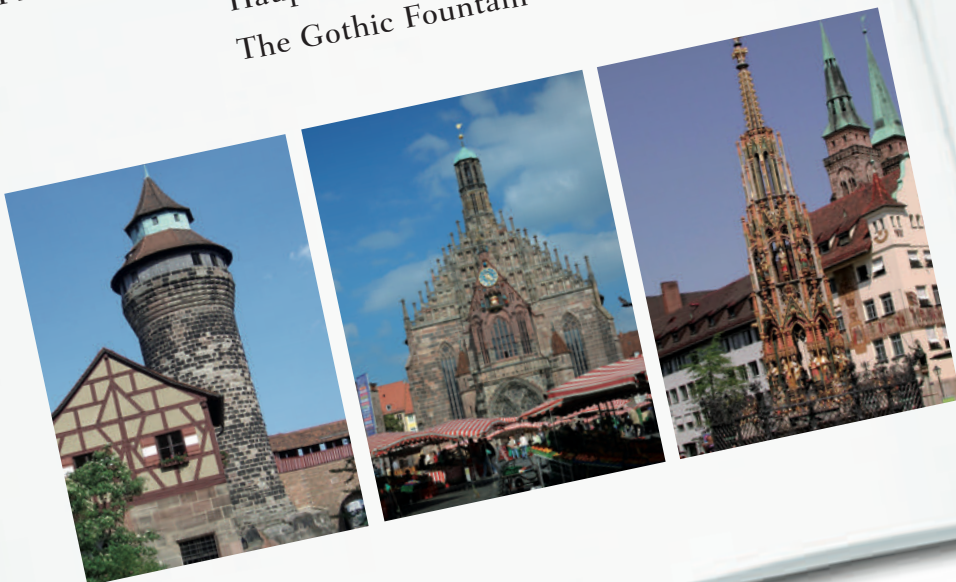
Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706) musician, composer

Products: gingerbread,¹ clocks, watches and toys

Places to Visit: Nuremberg Castle

Hauptmarkt, the market area

The Gothic Fountain



1. gingerbread : a kind of sweet bread.

1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 There are a lot of modern buildings in Nuremberg. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 There are famous markets in Nuremberg at the end of the year. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 You can buy clothes and shoes at the markets. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 There are all kinds of new toys at the Nuremberg International Toy Fair. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 The city of Nuremberg has got two famous citizens. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 The Hauptmarkt is the name of the castle in Nuremberg. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

PROJECT ON THE WEB

A trip to Nuremberg

Connect to the internet and go to www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine. Open the page for *The Nutcracker*. Click on the Internet project link.

Divide the class into three groups and each group chooses three pictures. Click on each picture and describe it. Then, in your group, write three sentences about it and read your sentences to the class. Can the other groups identify the picture?





1 VOCABULARY

Look at this picture of some of the people and things from Chapter One. What can you see? What are the people doing? Describe the picture using the words below. Use a dictionary to help you.

Christmas decorations

Christmas carols

patch

candles

toy soldiers



CHAPTER ONE

Christmas Eve

It is the 24th of December – Christmas Eve – in Nuremberg and it is cold. There is a lot of snow on the houses and in the streets. There are Christmas markets everywhere with toys, decorations and Christmas sweets. People are buying Christmas presents for their family and friends. All the shops have got Christmas decorations in their windows. Some children are singing Christmas carols in the streets.



track 03

The Stahlbaum family live in Nuremberg and everything is ready for Christmas in their lovely house. There is a big Christmas tree in the sitting room. It has got a lot of candles and colourful decorations on it. Under the beautiful tree there are a lot of Christmas presents, big and small.

Clara and Fritz Stahlbaum are sister and brother. Clara is a pretty girl with long brown hair and blue eyes. She loves dolls and has got a lot of them. Fritz is a tall boy with blond hair and brown eyes. He loves toy soldiers and he often plays with them. He and Clara are excited about the Christmas Eve party.





The Nutcracker

‘The party is going to start soon,’ says Clara happily. ‘Some people are already here.’

‘Yes,’ says Fritz. ‘Look, there are biscuits, sweets, fruit and a Christmas cake on the table.’

‘Where’s Uncle Drosselmeyer?’ asks Clara. ‘I can’t see him.’

‘It’s still early, Clara,’ says Fritz.

Mr Drosselmeyer is a good friend of the family and the children call him Uncle Drosselmeyer. He is a tall thin man with long legs. He has got white hair and a long nose and he wears a black patch over one eye. Everyone likes Uncle Drosselmeyer because he is clever and makes all kinds of magic toys and clocks. The doorbell rings and Clara and Fritz run to open the door, but it is not Mr Drosselmeyer.

‘Where’s Uncle Drosselmeyer?’ asks Fritz. ‘It’s almost seven o’clock.’

‘Why’s he late?’ asks Clara.

‘He *has to* come to the Christmas Eve party,’ says Fritz looking at the door. ‘He’s bringing a lot of Christmas presents and some of them are magic.’

A lot of people come to the party. Everyone is wearing beautiful party clothes. A small orchestra ¹ is playing music and some people are dancing. Others are talking and laughing and looking at the wonderful Christmas tree. Some of the children are running around the tree and laughing. But Uncle Drosselmeyer is not there. Suddenly the doorbell rings again. Clara and Fritz run to the door.

‘It’s Uncle Drosselmeyer!’ shouts Clara jumping up and down.

1. **orchestra** : this group of people plays different musical instruments together.





The Nutcracker

‘He’s here!’ says Fritz happily.

Uncle Drosselmeyer stands at the door and smiles at Clara and Fritz. He is wearing a long blue coat and he is carrying all kinds of colourful presents.

‘Good evening to everyone!’ says Uncle Drosselmeyer.

Mr and Mrs Stahlbaum and all the people at the party say, ‘Welcome to the party, Mr Drosselmeyer!’

‘Thank you,’ says Uncle Drosselmeyer. ‘What a cold evening outside! The wind is blowing and it’s snowing. It’s nice and warm in here.’

Then Uncle Drosselmeyer looks at Clara and Fritz and says, ‘I’ve got some wonderful surprises for you! You’re going to be very happy. Let’s go into the sitting room. I’ve got presents for everyone!’

‘You’re always very kind,’ says Mrs Stahlbaum, smiling.

Clara and Fritz run to the sitting room and Uncle Drosselmeyer follows them.

He looks at the tall Christmas tree and says, ‘What a beautiful tree!’

‘Have you got a Christmas tree at home?’ asks Clara.

‘Yes, I have. But it’s very small,’ says Uncle Drosselmeyer.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT



1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Are these sentences 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B)? If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B), choose 'Doesn't say' (C). There is an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 It is winter in Nuremberg.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 1 Twelve young children are singing Christmas carols in the streets.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 2 The Stahlbaum family's home is in Nuremberg.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 3 Everyone is eating dinner at the Stahlbaum home.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 4 On the table there are a lot of things to eat.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 5 Uncle Drosselmeyer is not a young man.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 6 Children are reading books under the Christmas tree in the sitting room.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 7 Uncle Drosselmeyer rings the doorbell at half past seven.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 8 He wants to give Christmas presents to all of the people at the party.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

T: GRADE 2

2 SPEAKING: FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Think of a good friend of your family or another student. Describe them to your partner. Use these questions to help you.

- 1 What's his/her name?
- 2 How old is he/she?
- 3 Is he/she short or tall?
- 4 What colour is his/her hair? And eyes?
- 5 What clothes does he/she usually wear?

3 CHARACTERS

Look at the pictures of Clara, Fritz and Uncle Drosselmeyer. Use the words in the box to describe them.

tall loves dolls white hair brown eyes thin pretty
 blond hair blue eyes long legs plays with toy soldiers



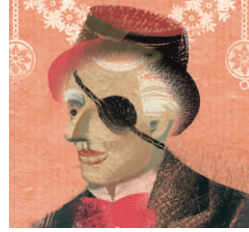
Clara

.....



Fritz

.....



Uncle Drosselmeyer

.....

4 DAILY ROUTINE

A Look at the activities in the box. Think about what time you usually do these things at the weekend.

get up have breakfast brush your teeth go out
 have lunch do homework have dinner watch TV go to bed

B Choose three of the activities and draw the time you do them on the clocks below. Don't say which activity it is. Show your clocks to another student. Can he/she guess what you do at each time?

e.g. **A:** Do you usually go to bed at half past ten? **B:** No, I don't.
A: Do you usually watch TV at half past ten? **B:** Yes, I do.



BEFORE YOU READ



1 NUTCRACKERS

Complete this information about nutcrackers. Write **ONE** word for each space.



This story is about (1) magic nutcracker. (2) you know what a nutcracker does? We use it to crack nuts (that is, break the outside of the nuts).

There are a lot (3) different types of German nutcrackers from the 19th century. There are soldiers, knights, kings and animals, and many of them are the same size as real children! Some of them (4) funny. When you want to crack a nut you open the big mouth and put a nut inside (5) Then you push down and crack the nut.

Today people in many different countries use nutcrackers as Christmas decorations. (6) Leavenworth,

Washington in the USA (7) is a Nutcracker Museum with more than 5,000 types (8) nutcracker!

2 READING PICTURES

Look at the pictures of nutcrackers on this page and talk about the following questions.

- 1 Describe the nutcrackers.
- 2 Where do you put the nut when you want to crack it?
- 3 Which is your favourite? Why?
- 4 Do you use nutcrackers in your country? What are they like?



The Nutcracker



Everyone stands near the tall Christmas tree and looks at Uncle Drosselmeyer. He puts a lot of colourful presents under the tree. Clara and Fritz look at them and they feel excited.

‘Now I’m going to show you some very special presents,’ he says. He opens two red boxes and takes out two big dolls. They are a man and a woman dressed in party clothes.

‘They’re very big!’ says Clara.

‘They’re like real people!’ says Fritz.

‘Now watch!’ says Uncle Drosselmeyer. He turns the key on the back of the dolls and they start dancing around the room. Everyone is surprised because they are good dancers. Clara and Fritz laugh. When the music stops the dolls stop dancing and Uncle Drosselmeyer puts them under the Christmas tree.



track 04





The Nutcracker

‘It’s time for the other presents,’ he says, looking at Clara, Fritz and the other children.

Clara’s heart is beating ¹ very fast. Uncle Drosselmeyer gives presents to her cousins, aunts, uncles, mother and father. They are all very happy.

Then he gives Fritz his present. He opens it and finds twenty toy soldiers.

‘Oh, Uncle Drosselmeyer,’ he says, ‘what a wonderful present! I love toy soldiers. They can be part of my army.’ ²

Uncle Drosselmeyer looks at Clara and gives her a big blue box.

‘Now you can open your present, Clara,’ he says.

Clara slowly opens the big blue box and what does she find? A big soldier made of wood!

She is surprised and looks at him carefully.

‘He’s a Nutcracker!’ she shouts happily. ‘Oh, thank you, Uncle Drosselmeyer!’

‘Yes, Clara, he’s a Nutcracker – a *magic* Nutcracker,’ he replies.

‘He’s very handsome,’ ³ says Clara happily.

‘He’s not handsome,’ says Fritz. ‘He’s ugly.’ ⁴

‘That’s not true, Fritz,’ says Clara. ‘He’s very handsome and I love him! He’s *my* Nutcracker.’

The Nutcracker is not very handsome but Clara is happy.

‘The Nutcracker can be a soldier in my army too,’ says Fritz. ‘He can be Captain Nutcracker and lead my toy soldiers!’

1. **beating** : (here) moving.
2. **army** : a big group of soldiers.
3. **handsome** : attractive, good-looking.
4. **ugly** : opposite of handsome.





The Nutcracker

He takes the big wooden soldier from Clara and runs around the Christmas tree. He jumps up and down and throws the Nutcracker into the air. Everyone starts laughing but Clara is angry.

‘You’re Captain Nutcracker!’ says Fritz, laughing.

‘Stop it, Fritz!’ shouts Clara. ‘Don’t throw him in the air! Give him to me! He’s mine!’ She runs after Fritz and stops him. Suddenly Fritz throws the Nutcracker on the floor... *crash!*

Clara looks at him.

‘Oh, no! His arm is broken!’ she says angrily. ‘My poor Nutcracker! You’re a bad boy, Fritz.’

Clara is very angry and starts crying.

‘Please stop crying, Clara,’ says Uncle Drosselmeyer. ‘I can put his arm in a sling. ¹ Remember, he’s a magic Nutcracker.’

Clara looks at her uncle but doesn’t stop crying.

‘Now put the Nutcracker to sleep with your dolls,’ says Uncle Drosselmeyer. ‘He’s going to be well again.’

Clara doesn’t believe her uncle, but she takes the Nutcracker and goes to the toy corner of the sitting room. In the toy corner there are her dolls, Fritz’s toy soldiers and some other toys. She puts the Nutcracker to sleep next to her favourite dolls.

‘I hope Uncle Drosselmeyer is right,’ says Clara sadly. ‘Good night, dear Nutcracker.’

1. sling :



UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT



1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Read this summary of Chapter Two. Choose the best word (A, B or C) for each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

There (0) *are*..... a lot of presents under the tall Christmas tree. Uncle Drosselmeyer takes two big dolls (1) of two boxes. The dolls start dancing (2) the children laugh. Uncle Drosselmeyer gives presents (3) all the family and their friends.

Fritz (4) his present – he has got twenty toy soldiers. He is very happy. Then Uncle Drosselmeyer gives Clara (5) wooden Nutcracker. Clara loves the Nutcracker. But Fritz takes the Nutcracker from (6) sister and runs around with it. Clara gets angry and Fritz throws the Nutcracker (7) the floor.

The Nutcracker's arm breaks and Clara is very sad and starts crying. Uncle Drosselmeyer tells her the Nutcracker is magic. She puts (8) in the toy corner next to her dolls.

- | | | | |
|---|-----------|--------|---------|
| 0 | A be | B is | C are |
| 1 | A out | B by | C from |
| 2 | A because | B and | C but |
| 3 | A to | B at | C on |
| 4 | A opening | B open | C opens |
| 5 | A a | B any | C an |
| 6 | A she | B his | C her |
| 7 | A on | B at | C in |
| 8 | A them | B her | C him |

2 OPPOSITES

A Match the words from Chapters One and Two (1-8) to their opposites (A-H).

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------|---------|
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | handsome | A hot |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | love | B short |
| 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | happy | C early |
| 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | long | D hate |
| 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | right | E wrong |
| 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> | cry | F ugly |
| 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> | cold | G sad |
| 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> | late | H laugh |

B Now write five sentences using some of the words above.

'HE'S MINE!'

Mine is a possessive pronoun. We use a possessive pronoun instead of a possessive adjective and a noun. When we use possessive pronouns we don't repeat the noun.

*'Is that your dog?' 'Yes, it's **ours**.'* (It's our dog.)

Remember, we use the possessive pronouns **mine, yours, his, hers, ours** and **theirs** to talk about the person or people the thing belongs to, NOT the thing.

*It's **hers**.* (It's Susan's coat.)

*It's **theirs**.* (It's my parents' garden.)

3 POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

Look at the pictures. Write another sentence for each picture using the correct possessive pronoun. Start with 'It's...' There is an example at the beginning (0).

0



This is your mobile phone.

It's yours......

1



This is my sister's school bag.

.....

2



This is our family's new home.

.....

3



This is my parents' boat.

.....

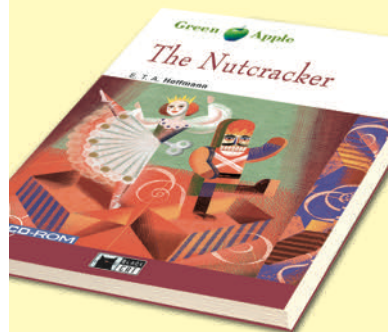
4



This is my brother's bike.

.....

5



This is my English book.

.....

BEFORE YOU READ

1 READING PICTURES

Look at the picture on page 29 and talk about the following questions.

- 1 How many mice can you see in the picture?
- 2 What are they doing?
- 3 What is the Nutcracker doing? Why?

2 LISTENING



track 05

Listen to the first part of Chapter Three. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

- 1 Clara can't sleep because she is hungry.
- 2 She goes downstairs with her shoes on.
- 3 The big old clock in the sitting room is broken.
- 4 Clara hears a noise and goes back to bed.
- 5 The big mice and the Mouse King are hungry.
- 6 The toy soldiers and the mice play together.

T	F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



CHAPTER THREE

Midnight Magic

After the Christmas Eve party Clara and Fritz are tired and go upstairs to bed. But Clara can't sleep. She thinks of her Nutcracker and his broken arm and she feels very sad.



track 05

'How's my poor Nutcracker?' she thinks. 'Is he asleep? I can't wait until tomorrow morning. I want to see him now.'

She gets out of bed and puts on her shoes. Then she goes downstairs. The big house is dark and silent. The sitting room and the big Christmas tree look strange in the dark. On the long table there are some biscuits and part of the Christmas cake.

'I'm hungry,' she thinks. 'I'm going to eat a piece of cake.'

She looks at the big old clock in the corner of the sitting room; it says midnight. Then suddenly something strange happens – the long table starts growing.

'What's happening to the table?' she thinks.

Then she looks at the Christmas tree and it starts growing too. Suddenly everything in the sitting room is big and Clara is very small.

'Why's everything big?' she thinks. 'And why am I small?' She is afraid.

Midnight Magic

She hears a noise behind her and turns around. She quickly hides under the table. Then she hears the noise again; it is a loud noise. She suddenly sees a lot of big mice with long tails running into the sitting room. Their captain is the big, terrible Mouse King.

‘Oh, dear,’ she thinks, ‘what big mice! And they don’t look friendly.’

The big mice and the Mouse King jump onto the long table and start eating the Christmas cake and the biscuits. Clara hides under the table and doesn’t know what to do.

The big mice see Clara and run towards¹ her.

‘Oh, no!’ shouts Clara. ‘Where can I go?’

Suddenly she hears a noise from the corner of the room and turns around. Fritz’s toy soldiers start walking across the room. They are wearing their blue hats, red jackets and blue trousers.

‘Fritz’s toy soldiers!’ says Clara happily. ‘They’re going to help me.’

The toys soldiers walk towards the mice and the mice walk towards the toy soldiers.

‘They’re going to fight,’ Clara thinks. She looks at them with big eyes.

It is very noisy and the Nutcracker wakes up.

‘What’s happening?’ he thinks.

He sits up and sees the toy soldiers and the mice.

‘The soldiers need a captain,’ he thinks.

He quickly gets out of bed and goes to the toy soldiers.

‘I’m Captain Nutcracker and I’m your captain now,’ he says. ‘Let’s fight the mice together! Follow me.’

‘Yes, let’s!’ shout the toy soldiers happily.

The toy soldiers follow their captain and start fighting against the big mice. They fight around the Christmas tree and around



end

1. **towards** : in the direction of.



The Nutcracker

the long table. They fight in the dark corners of the sitting room. The toy soldiers are good fighters but some of them fall over the long tails of the mice. There is a lot of noise.

Then the Nutcracker and Mouse King start fighting with their swords. ¹ They fight all around the sitting room and run from one side to the other. Then they fight around the big Christmas tree. They make a terrible noise. The Mouse King is very strong and the Nutcracker is very brave. ² But the Nutcracker falls over the Mouse King's long tail.

'Oh, my poor Nutcracker!' says Clara. 'I must help him – but how?'

She thinks for a moment and then takes off her pink shoe and throws it at the terrible Mouse King. Clara's shoe hits the Mouse King on the head. He falls to the floor and doesn't move.

'Oh, no!' shout the big mice.

They run to look at him.

'The king is hurt,' says one of the mice sadly. 'He isn't moving. We must take him home.'

Some of the mice carry their king out of the room.

'Hurrah! Hurrah!' shout the toy soldiers.

One toy soldier fires the toy cannon. ³ BANG! There is a terrible noise and a lot of black smoke ⁴ all over the room. The big mice are afraid and run away.

Clara covers her eyes with her hands for a few seconds.

'I'm afraid to open my eyes,' she thinks. 'What's happening here? I can hear lots of noise and I can smell smoke. Where's my wonderful Nutcracker?'

1. **swords** : 

2. **brave** : not afraid.

3. **fires the toy cannon** : creates an explosion with the toy cannon.

4. **smoke** : you see this grey gas when something burns.





UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

KEY

1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Read these sentences about Chapter Three and choose the correct answer – A, B or C. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 Clara and Fritz go to bed after the party
- A but they can't sleep.
 - B because they are tired.
 - C and they hear a big noise outside.
- 1 Clara goes downstairs to
- A look at the Christmas tree.
 - B eat a piece of Christmas cake.
 - C see the Nutcracker.
- 2 At midnight
- A Clara sees something strange.
 - B Clara becomes very big.
 - C the clock starts growing.
- 3 Clara is afraid and she
- A goes out of the sitting room.
 - B makes a loud noise.
 - C hides.
- 4 The toy soldiers fight against
- A the big mice.
 - B Clara.
 - C the Nutcracker.
- 5 The Nutcracker
- A becomes the captain of the big mice.
 - B fights the Mouse King.
 - C watches the mice from his bed.
- 6 The Nutcracker falls over the Mouse King's tail and
- A breaks his arm.
 - B Clara throws her shoe at the king.
 - C the toy soldiers take him home.



2 CONVERSATION

Complete the conversation. What does Clara say to her friend Helga? Write the correct letter next to the number. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Helga: Can you come with me to the Christmas market?

Clara: (0) **B**.....

Helga: Great! When can we meet?

Clara: (1)

Helga: OK. I want to buy a toy soldier for my brother at the market.

Clara: (2)

Helga: You're right. Then I can buy him a good book.

Clara: (3)

Helga: Well, then I want to buy him a Christmas cake.

Clara: (4)

Helga: Oh, dear! I haven't got any money.

Clara: (5)

A Yes, I do.

E Ask your mother for some.

B Yes, I can.

F That's a good idea, he likes sweet things!

C After lunch.

G But he doesn't like reading.

D Two hours.

H He has already got fifty of them.



3 WRITING

Complete these letters between Clara and Helga. Write ONE word for each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Dear Helga,

There (0) **is**..... going to be a big New Year's party at my house (1) 31 December. Can you and Hans come? You can meet all my friends.

The party starts (2) eight o'clock. We can dance (3) have fun. Your brother can play (4) Fritz. He has got a lot (5) toy soldiers.

Your friend,

Clara

Dear Clara,

Thank (6) for the invitation to your New Year's party. It sounds like great fun! I want to meet all (7) friends.

I'm going (8) wear my new pink party dress and new black shoes. Hans is coming too. He wants to show Fritz his Christmas presents.

See you on Saturday evening (9) Nuremberg!

Your friend,

Helga

T: GRADE 2

4 SPEAKING: ROOMS IN THE HOME

Clara and Fritz have got a big house with a beautiful sitting room. Draw a plan of your house and tell your partner about it. Use these questions to help you.

- 1 What is your house like? How many rooms has it got?
- 2 What is your bedroom like?
- 3 Which is your favourite room? Why?

5 THE SENSES

A Clara says, 'I can *hear* lots of noise and I can *smell* smoke.' Do you know the five senses? Complete the sentences (1-5) with their endings (A-E).

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | You hear with | A | your nose. |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | You smell with | B | your mouth. |
| 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | You feel with | C | your eyes. |
| 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | You taste with | D | your ears. |
| 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | You see with | E | your hands and fingers. |

B We use our senses all of the time in many different situations. Think about when you use yours. Talk about the following questions with another student.

- 1 When you go to the park what can you **see**?
- 2 What is your favourite **smell**? Are there any places near where you live where there is a bad smell?
- 3 When you go to a birthday party what can you **hear**?
- 4 Have you got a cat or a dog? Does it feel rough or smooth?
- 5 What **tastes** do you like? Are there any tastes you hate?

BEFORE YOU READ

1 VOCABULARY

Match the words to the pictures. Use a dictionary to help you.

- | | | | |
|------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 1 cherries | 3 strawberries | 5 apricots | 7 sleigh |
| 2 throne | 4 snowflakes | 6 peppermint sticks | 8 monkeys |



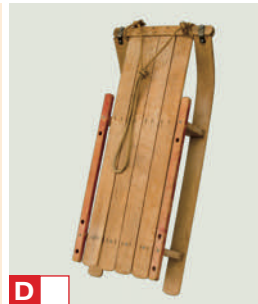
A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H

2 LISTENING



track 06

Listen to the first part of Chapter Four. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Clara doesn't open her eyes because there is a lot of smoke. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 She sees trees and snow around her. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Clara knows who the handsome boy is immediately. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 He is a good friend of the Mouse King. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 The Mouse King has got a castle. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



CHAPTER FOUR

The Prince

Clara is standing with her hands over her eyes. There is no smoke and no noise. Everything is silent.



track 06

‘Now perhaps I can open my eyes,’ she thinks. She slowly moves her hands away from her face and opens her eyes. She looks around and she is very surprised.

‘Am I dreaming?’ she thinks. ‘I’m not in the sitting room any more. Where am I? This is magic!’

Clara is not in the sitting room. She is in a magic forest with a lot of tall trees all around her. There is snow everywhere and there is a round moon in the black sky. She sees a beautiful sleigh with two white horses.

A handsome boy is sitting in the sleigh.

‘Hello, Clara!’ says the boy.

‘How do you know my name?’ asks Clara.

The handsome boy laughs.

‘Who are you?’ asks Clara.

‘You don’t know?’ says the boy. ‘Oh, Clara, the bad spell¹ is broken!’

1. **spell** : magic power.





The Nutcracker

‘What spell?’ says Clara. ‘I don’t understand.’

‘I’m a prince,’ says the boy, smiling.

‘A prince?’ says Clara softly.

‘Yes, a prince,’ says the boy. ‘Sometimes the terrible Mouse King puts spells on people and only true love can break the spell. I know your love is true, Clara, because the spell is broken.’

She looks at him carefully. Then she looks at his clothes. They are beautiful and expensive.

She suddenly shouts, ‘I know you! You’re the Nutcracker! My wooden Nutcracker!’

‘Yes,’ says the Prince, ‘and now I’m not a wooden Nutcracker any more. Your love makes me a Prince – *your Prince!*’

Clara can’t speak because she is very surprised. She looks at the handsome Prince and smiles.

‘Thank you for breaking the Mouse King’s magic spell,’ says the Prince. ‘Now I want to take you to my castle.’

‘Have you got a castle?’ asks Clara, surprised.

‘Of course I have,’ says the Prince. ‘I’m the Prince of the Land of Sweets.’

‘The Land of Sweets,’ says Clara. ‘What a lovely name!’

‘It’s a wonderful place,’ says the Prince. ‘Come and sit next to me on the sleigh. I want to take you to the Land of Sweets.’

Clara gets on the sleigh and sits on a soft yellow pillow next to the handsome Prince. Soon the sleigh is flying through the night sky.

‘This is exciting,’ says Clara. ‘We’re flying near the moon and the stars!’

‘Can you see the big castle down there?’ asks the Prince, pointing to a beautiful castle near a little lake.

‘Yes, I can see it,’ says Clara. ‘And I can see the little lake too.’



end

The Prince

The castle looks like a big party cake. It's pink, yellow, blue, green, orange and brown!

'It's the castle of the Land of Sweets,' says the Prince happily. 'It's made of sugar, all kinds of sweets, chocolate and peppermint sticks. And the castle garden is full of magic surprises. This is a happy place.'

'How wonderful!' says Clara.

'Today you're going to meet Gerhard,' says the Prince.

'Who's Gerhard?' asks Clara.

'He's a special person,' says the Prince. 'He's like a grandfather to me. He looks after the castle when I'm away.'

'Your castle is very big,' says Clara.

'Yes, it is very big,' says the Prince. 'There are one hundred rooms.'

'One hundred rooms!' says Clara, surprised. 'There are only twelve rooms in my house in Nuremberg.'

They get off the sleigh and it is snowing. They see a lot of dancing snowflakes everywhere.

'The snowflakes are dancing all around us,' says Clara. 'How beautiful!'

Soon Clara and the Prince are standing outside the castle door. The big door is made of pink sugar and chocolate. Six monkeys in little red jackets are standing at the door. They are singing a happy song because they want to welcome their Prince.

'Hello, my friends,' says the Prince. 'Thank you for the lovely song.'

Clara and the Prince walk into the castle garden. There is gold fruit on the trees and there is music in the air. The flowers are made of chocolate and red cherries. They walk by a lovely river.



The Nutcracker

‘This is Orange River,’ says the Prince. ‘As you can see, it’s orange!’

‘And there’s a wonderful smell of oranges too,’ says Clara, laughing.

‘And these are jam ¹ trees,’ says the Prince, pointing to some trees near Orange River. ‘This is a strawberry jam tree,’ says the Prince. ‘The other one is an apricot jam tree.’

‘Those are my favourite kinds of jam,’ says Clara.

When they get back to the castle an old gentleman with white hair welcomes them. He is tall and he is wearing a long red and gold jacket.

‘Welcome home, dear Prince!’ he says. ‘Everyone is happy because the magic spell is broken.’ The old gentleman looks at Clara and smiles.

‘Thank you, Gerhard,’ says the Prince.

‘We want to celebrate ² with a special show for you,’ says Gerhard. ‘You’re going to see some wonderful dancers with beautiful costumes. ³ And you’re going to hear some great music. Please, sit on the throne.’

1. **jam** : you eat this on bread.
2. **celebrate** : do fun things on a special occasion.
3. **costumes** : dancers wear these clothes when they are dancing.



UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Complete the following sentences (1-10) with their endings (A-J).

- 1 Clara opens her eyes
- 2 The handsome boy on the sleigh
- 3 The Mouse King
- 4 The Nutcracker Prince has got
- 5 The castle is made of
- 6 There are a lot of magic surprises
- 7 Six monkeys are singing
- 8 The fruit on the trees
- 9 Clara likes
- 10 Gerhard welcomes the Prince with

- A sometimes puts spells on people.
B chocolate, peppermint sticks and sweets.
C is made of gold.
D at the castle door.
E a special show.
F and sees a magic forest.
G strawberry and apricot jam.
H a castle in the Land of Sweets.
I is the Nutcracker Prince.
J in the castle garden.



2 VOCABULARY

Read the definitions of some things from Chapter Four. What is the word for each one? The first letter is already there. There is one space for each other letter in the word. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------|
| 0 | You travel in this on the snow. | s e g h |
| 1 | Dancers wear these colourful clothes. | c _ _ _ _ _ |
| 2 | These animals have got long tails and live in trees. | m _ _ _ _ _ |
| 3 | This is a place with a lot of trees. | f _ _ _ _ _ |
| 4 | A king sits on this special chair. | t _ _ _ _ _ |
| 5 | This person is the son of a king. | p _ _ _ _ _ |

THERE IS SNOW EVERYWHERE.

We use *everywhere* when we talk about all places.

We use *everyone* when we talk about all people.

We use *everything* when we talk about all things.

3 EVERYONE, EVERYTHING, EVERYWHERE

Fill in the gaps with *everyone*, *everything* or *everywhere*. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 *Everyone*..... likes old Uncle Drosselmeyer because he is clever.
- 1 in the castle garden is magic.
- 2 The children are eating on the table.
- 3 Gerhard gives a jar of strawberry jam.
- 4 'We can go in my sleigh,' says the Prince.
- 5 Clara looks for her new doll.
- 6 wants to welcome the Prince.

4 ODD ONE OUT

A Which word in each group is different from the others? Circle it.

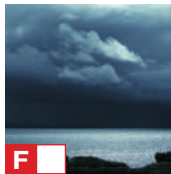
- 1 prince princess dancer king
- 2 dark blue black brown
- 3 sweets biscuits cake strawberry
- 4 trousers patch jackets hats
- 5 sitting room door kitchen bedroom
- 6 moon sun stars sky

B Write six sentences using each of the odd words.

5 WHAT'S THE WEATHER LIKE?

Match the descriptions to the pictures.

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 It's snowing. | 3 It's foggy. | 5 It's cloudy. |
| 2 It's windy. | 4 It's sunny. | 6 It's raining. |



BEFORE YOU READ

1 VOCABULARY

Label the pictures with the words in the box. Use a dictionary to help you.

fairy ballet slippers violin horn piano plum



1



2



3



4



5



6

2 READING PICTURES

A Look at the picture on page 45 and talk about the following questions.

- 1 What nationality are the people in the picture?
- 2 What colour are their costumes?
- 3 What are they wearing on their heads?

B Look at the picture on page 47 and talk about the following questions.

- 1 What are the people in the picture doing?
- 2 What do you think the music is like?
- 3 Describe their costumes.



CHAPTER FIVE

The Land of Sweets

Everyone is sitting in the big throne room. A small orchestra is playing lovely music. There are violins, horns and a piano. The show begins.



‘Now I’m going to tell you about the programme,’ says Gerhard. ‘The Sugar Plum Fairy’s dance is first.’

The Sugar Plum Fairy is the Prince’s favourite dancer. She is wearing a beautiful pink and white costume and pink ballet slippers. She dances with a handsome man in a blue costume. The music is wonderful and everyone watches and listens in silence. At the end of the dance everyone claps.¹

‘What a lovely dance!’ says Clara, clapping her hands.

‘Yes, the Sugar Plum Fairy is a wonderful dancer,’ says the Prince.

‘And now here’s the Spanish Dance,’ says Gerhard. ‘Listen to the great music.’

1. **claps** : hits their hands together to show they like it.



The Nutcracker

There are a lot of Spanish dancers: men and women. They have got dark hair and dark eyes. The women are wearing long red costumes and red ballet slippers. The men are wearing white shirts and black trousers. They move around quickly because the music is fast. At the end of the dance they give Clara and the Prince some delicious chocolate to eat.

‘Spain is the land of delicious chocolate,’ says one of the dancers.

‘The Arabian Dance is next,’ says Gerhard.

The dancers are men and women. The women are wearing long white costumes and black ballet slippers, and the men are wearing white shirts and white trousers. The music is lovely and the dancers move about slowly. At the end of the dance they give Clara and the Prince small cups of coffee to drink.

‘This coffee comes from Arabia,’ says one of the dancers.

‘I love this show,’ says Clara happily.

‘And now the Cossacks are going to dance the exciting Russian Dance,’ says Gerhard, smiling.

Ten Russian men start dancing and throw their legs up in the air. Then they jump high and turn around many times. Their costumes and hats are very colourful. The music is loud and fast.

‘They’re like magic,’ says Clara.

‘They *are* magic,’ says the Prince. ‘Look at how they dance.’

At the end of the Russian Dance the Cossacks give Clara and the Prince some red and white peppermint sticks.

‘These peppermint sticks are a present for you,’ says one of the dancers.





The Nutcracker

‘The Chinese Dance is next,’ says Gerhard.

The Chinese dancers are all women and their dance is beautiful. Their costumes are red and gold, and the music is lovely. They dance all around the throne room. Then they give Clara and the Prince a wooden box with a lot of Chinese tea in it.

‘Here’s some green and black tea from China,’ says one of dancers. ‘We drink a lot of tea in China.’

‘The Dance of the Flowers is the last dance this evening,’ says Gerhard.

Sweet music starts playing and twenty beautiful dancers come into the throne room. Each dancer has got a costume of a different colour, and they start dancing.

‘The dancers look like flowers,’ says Clara.

‘Yes, they do,’ says the Prince.

At the end of the dance each dancer gives Clara and the Prince a flower made of cherries and chocolate.

‘Welcome to the Land of Sweets,’ they say.

‘Thank you!’ says Clara to everyone. ‘Thank you for the wonderful show and the lovely presents. I’m very happy.’

‘Yes, thanks to everyone,’ says the Prince, smiling.



UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT



1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Read these sentences about Chapter Five and choose the correct answer – A, B or C. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 The Sugar Plum Fairy dances
A alone.
B with a handsome man.
C with the Prince.
- 1 Clara claps her hands because she
A wants to make some noise.
B is happy.
C likes the show.
- 2 The Spanish dancers
A are all men.
B dance fast.
C eat some chocolate.
- 3 The Arabian women are wearing
A black ballet slippers.
B trousers and shirts.
C trousers and black ballet slippers.
- 4 The Cossacks come from
A Spain.
B Germany.
C Russia.
- 5 The last dance of the show is the
A Dance of the Flowers.
B Chinese Dance.
C Russian Dance.

T: GRADE 1

2 SPEAKING: ITEMS OF CLOTHING

The dancers in the story wear colourful costumes. What kind of clothes do you wear? Work with a partner and ask and answer these questions.

- 1 What are you wearing today?
- 2 What clothes do you usually wear at the weekend?
- 3 Do you go shopping for clothes with your friends or your parents?
- 4 What are your favourite clothes?

3 WORD SQUARE

Can you find the five things the dancers give Clara and the Prince? Circle them in red. Then find the four countries the dancers come from. Circle them in blue.



4 VOCABULARY – MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

There are violins, horns and a piano in the small orchestra in the throne room. Do you know these other musical instruments? Label the pictures with the words in the box. Use a dictionary to help you.

cello

flute

drum

clarinet

guitar

harp



1



2



3



4



5



6

5 DISCUSSION

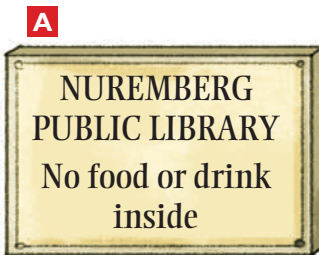
Ask and answer these questions with a partner.

- 1 Can you play a musical instrument? Which one?
- 2 If not, what musical instrument would you like to play?
- 3 Do you know anyone who plays a musical instrument? Do you like listening to it?

KET

6 NOTICES

Which notice (A-H) says this (1-5)? There is an example at the beginning (0).



- 0 People can only go here on foot.
- 1 You can buy a harp here.
- 2 Our things cost less now.
- 3 This is the home of a famous person.
- 4 You can't buy anything on Christmas Day.
- 5 Lessons are in the afternoon.

The Ballet of *The Nutcracker*



The Nutcracker is a famous ballet in two acts. The beautiful music is by the Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893). His music is very lively.

A lot of theatres give performances of *The Nutcracker* at Christmas time. Children and young people like this ballet a lot. It is fun to watch because there are a lot of dancers with colourful costumes. Some of the people in the ballet are not dancers; they are children at the Stahlbaum's Christmas Eve party.



Children in this travelling theatre company star in *The Nutcracker* in Massachusetts, USA.



Colourful costumes and modern dancing in Mathew Bourne's version of *The Nutcracker*.

The Nutcracker is very popular in America. At Christmas you can see three traditional versions of the ballet. The San Francisco Ballet performs William F. Christensen's version. This is the original version in America – the first performance was ¹ in 1944. Another version is by George Balanchine – you can see this at the theatre in New York. Mikhail Baryshnikov's version is on television, with dancers from the American Ballet Theatre.

There are also many modern versions of *The Nutcracker*. Mathew Bourne's ballet, for example, is very colourful and very different to the traditional versions.

1. was : past of *to be*.



Ballet dancers Mikhail Baryshnikov and Gelsey Kirkland perform in *The Nutcracker*.

PROJECT ON THE WEB

The Nutcracker ballet

Connect to the internet and go to www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine. Open the page for *The Nutcracker*. Click on the Internet project link for *The Nutcracker* Ballet.

San Francisco Ballet - Performances & Tickets - Nutcracker

3 Ballet SAN FRANCISCO BALLET
WELLS TOMASELLO, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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The 2008 performance dates for *Nutcracker* are December 15-26.

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Performance Calendar

DECEMBER 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				11	12	13
				7pm G	7pm V	7pm V
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2pm V	2pm G	2pm G	2pm G	2pm G	2pm V	2pm V
7pm	7pm G	7pm	7pm	7pm	7pm V	7pm V
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
2pm V	2pm V	2pm	11am	Happy	2pm	2pm
7pm V	7pm V	7pm	4pm	Holidays	7pm G	7pm
2pm						
7pm						

G - Grand Prices Available V - VIP Club for Best Reviews
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Approximate Running Time: 2 hrs.

A Look at the information about the San Francisco Ballet's *The Nutcracker*. Work with a partner and answer these questions.

- 1 When are the first and last performances of *The Nutcracker*?
- 2 At what time does the afternoon performance usually start?
- 3 At what time do the performances start on Christmas Eve?
- 4 How long is the ballet?
- 5 What number can you call with questions about tickets?

B With a partner, look at the wonderful pictures of *The Nutcracker* ballet productions in California. Choose three performances and click on them. Write one sentence about each ballet performance.



CHAPTER SIX

Christmas Morning

All the dancers in the show sit in the big throne room and talk and laugh.

‘Can I dance with you?’ the Prince asks Clara.

‘Oh, yes!’ says Clara happily.

The orchestra starts playing and they start dancing. They dance from one side of the throne room to the other and back again. They laugh and they dance.

When the music stops Clara and the Prince sit down on the throne. Clara is very tired and she can’t keep her eyes open. Suddenly she is asleep.

There is a noise at the door.

‘Clara,’ someone says. ‘Clara, are you asleep? Please wake up!’

Clara wakes up. She is sitting near the Christmas tree in the sitting room.

‘Where am I?’ she says sleepily. ‘What’s happening to me? Where’s the Prince?’ She looks around the empty sitting room.

‘Clara!’ someone says again. ‘Clara, wake up!’

Uncle Drosselmeyer opens the door of the sitting room and walks in.



track 09





The Nutcracker

‘Good morning, Clara!’ he says happily. ‘What are you doing here on Christmas morning?’

‘Oh... it’s Christmas morning!’ says Clara, surprised. ‘Merry Christmas, Uncle Drosselmeyer!’

‘And Merry Christmas to you, Clara!’ says Uncle Drosselmeyer.

Clara looks at the Christmas tree and at the empty sitting room. She looks out of the window; it is snowing.

‘This isn’t the throne room,’ she thinks. ‘Where are the dancers and where’s the Prince?’

Everything is silent.

‘Then it’s all a dream...,’ she says sadly.

‘A dream?’ asks Uncle Drosselmeyer.

Clara doesn’t know what to say. Her face is red and she is sad.

‘Yes, a dream – a beautiful dream in the Land of Sweets with the Nutcracker Prince. What lovely music and what wonderful dancers!’ says Clara.

‘Perhaps it’s not a dream,’ says Uncle Drosselmeyer, looking at the door of the sitting room.

Clara turns around and looks at the door. And who does she see? The Nutcracker Prince!

‘Happy Christmas, Clara!’ says the Prince.

‘Oh! It’s not a dream, then,’ says Clara happily.

‘No, Clara, I’m a *real* Prince!’ he says, smiling at her.

‘I’m very happy because you’re real,’ says Clara.

‘And *I’m* the Prince’s uncle,’ says Drosselmeyer happily. ‘This is going to be a magic Christmas for everyone!’

‘We agree!’ say Clara and the Prince, laughing.



UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT



1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Are these sentences 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B)? If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B), choose 'Doesn't say' (C). There is an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 The Prince and Clara dance together until midnight.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 1 Clara stops dancing because her feet hurt.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 2 When Clara wakes up she is sitting on the throne.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 3 She can't find the Prince.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 4 Someone calls Clara's name because breakfast is ready.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 5 It is snowing on Christmas Day.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 6 Clara sees the Nutcracker Prince under the Christmas tree.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

2 QUESTION WORDS

Clara says, 'Where am I? What's happening to me?' *Where* and *what* are question words. Complete the questions with the correct question word in the box. Then choose the correct answer – A-E.

Why Who What Where When

- 1 makes magic toys and clocks?
- 2 time does Clara usually go to bed?
- 3 does the Prince live?
- 4 do the children open their Christmas presents?
- 5 does Clara fall asleep in the throne room?

- A in the Land of Sweets
B because she is very tired
C Uncle Drosselmeyer
D at half past ten
E on Christmas Eve

3 COUNTRIES AND NATIONALITIES

A The dancers in the show come from different countries: Spain, Russia, Arabia and China. Do you know their nationality? Work with a partner and complete the table. Use a dictionary to help you. There is an example at the beginning (0).

COUNTRY	NATIONALITY
0 Spain	Spanish
1 Russia
2 Arabia
3 China
4 Germany
5 Italy
6 France
7 England
8 Turkey
9 United States of America
10 Austria
11 Poland
12 Switzerland
13 Ireland
14 Japan
15 Greece
16 Portugal
17 Mexico

B Now complete the sentences with the correct nationality.

- Justin Timberlake is
- I want a watch because the watches from Switzerland are very good.
- The rock group U2 are
- People speak in Turkey.
- Nuremburg is a city.
- Salma Hayek is; she comes from Mexico.
- The Cossacks are
- Tchaikovsky is a composer.

4 WRITING

Complete Clara's diary. Write **ONE** word for each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Nuremberg, 25 December

Today (0) ...is..... Christmas Day! It is (1) cold day and the wind is very strong. There's a lot (2) snow in the garden. I (3) very happy because the Nutcracker is a real prince. (4) is friendly and handsome. Fritz likes (5) too.

We (6) going to have Christmas lunch in the sitting room. (7) mother is cooking a big meal (8) the kitchen.

Fritz is playing (9) his new toy soldiers.

Our friends Helga and Hans are coming to visit us (10) four o'clock. I want to show (11) my new dolls. It's a wonderful Christmas day!

5 MYSTERY WORD

Read the definitions and write the words in the boxes. One letter is already there. What is the mystery word?

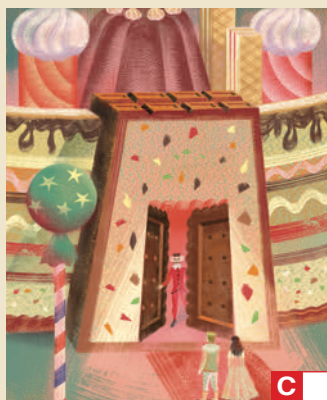
1								T						
2				N										
3	V													
4		O												
5						A								
6						T								

- 1 A yellow-orange fruit.
- 2 The colour of the river in the castle garden.
- 3 A musical instrument.
- 4 The opposite of short.
- 5 You put these on a Christmas tree.
- 6 You can see the ballet of *The Nutcracker* here.

AFTER READING

1 PICTURE SUMMARY

Put the pictures in the correct order to retell the story. Write a sentence to describe each picture and then retell the story to your partner.



2 CROSSWORD

Use the pictures and definitions to complete this crossword puzzle. All the words are from the story.

ACROSS

2 These animals fight against the toy soldiers.

3



7



8 The Arabian dancers give this to Clara and the Prince.

9 A big group of soldiers.

10 These people move with the music.

12 The dancers wear these clothes.

13 Attractive, good-looking.

14 A small round red fruit.

15 A magic power.

DOWN

1

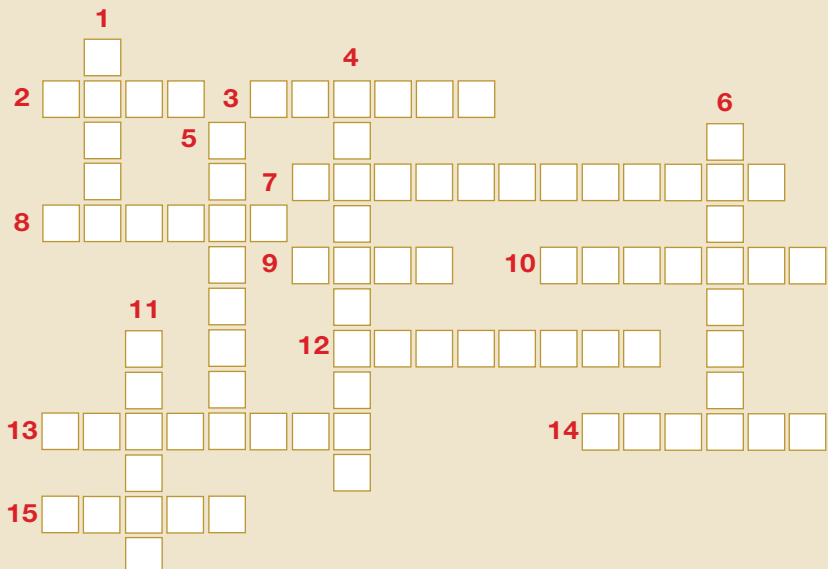


4 This is Clara's present.

5 Uncle Drosselmeyer arrives at the party with a lot of these.

6 Christmas is in this month.

11



3 A GERMAN CHRISTMAS



Today, a lot of people have a Christmas tree in their home at Christmas.

Christmas is a big celebration in Germany. In December you can find Christmas markets in German cities with a lot of people, lights, toys, food, drinks and music. You can also see big Christmas trees in German cities because there are a lot of forests with tall fir trees. The word *tannenbaum* means fir tree in German. Do you know the Tannenbaum Song? It is a famous German song about the Christmas tree.

Christmas trees are an important tradition in Germany, starting in the early 1500s. In the 1850s, Prince Albert brought ¹ a Christmas tree to Britain. He was the husband of Victoria, the British Queen at that time, and he was German. Today you can see Christmas trees all over the world.

In Germany a lot of families decorate the Christmas tree on the 24th of December. They put a star or an angel on top of the tree. On Christmas Day children often get a plate of sweets under the Christmas tree near the presents.

The 6th of December is also important in Germany, when children celebrate St Nikolaus. On the 5th of December they put their shoes outside the door of the house. The next day good children find sweets and small presents in their shoes. Bad children find coal! ²

Complete the following sentences (1-4) with their endings (A-D).

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | German forests | A | on the 6 th of December. |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | Prince Albert | B | at the Christmas markets. |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | You can find toys, food and music | C | was Queen Victoria's husband. |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | Children celebrate St Nikolaus | D | have got a lot of fir trees. |

1. **brought** : Past Simple of *to bring*.

2. **coal** :



This reader uses the **EXPANSIVE READING** approach, where the text becomes a springboard to improve language skills and to explore historical background, cultural connections and other topics suggested by the text.

The new structures introduced in this step of our **GREEN APPLE** series are listed below. Naturally, structures from lower steps are included too. For a complete list of structures used over all the three steps, see *The Black Cat Guide to Graded Readers*, which is also downloadable at no cost from our website, blackcat-cideb.com.

The vocabulary used at each step is carefully checked against vocabulary lists used for internationally recognised examinations.

Starter A1

Verb tenses

Present Simple

Present Continuous

Future reference: Present Continuous; *going to*;

Present Simple

Verb forms and patterns

Affirmative, negative, interrogative

Short answers

Imperative: 2nd person; *let's*

Infinitives after some very common verbs (e.g. *want*)

Gerunds (verb + *-ing*) after some very common verbs (e.g. *like, hate*)

Modal verbs

Can: ability; requests; permission

Would ... like: offers, requests

Shall: suggestions; offers

Must: personal obligation

Have (got) to: external obligation

Need: necessity

Types of clause

Co-ordination: *but; and; or; and then*

Subordination (in the Present Simple or Present

Continuous) after verbs such as: *to be sure; to know;*

to think; to believe; to hope, to say; to tell

Subordination after: *because, when*

Other

Zero, definite and indefinite articles

Possessive *'s* and *s'*

Countable and uncountable nouns

Some, any; much, many, a lot; (a) little, (a) few;

all, every; etc.

Order of adjectives

Available at **Starter**:

- **Alice's Adventures in Wonderland**
Lewis Carroll
- **Bathsheba the Witch** Jane Cammack
- **Beauty and the Beast**
Jeanne Marie Leprince de Beaumont
- **Black Beauty** Anna Sewell
- **Five Children and It** E. Nesbit
- **The Ghost Ship of Bodega Bay**
Gina D. B. Clemen
- **Halloween Horror** Gina D. B. Clemen
- **The Happy Prince and
The Selfish Giant** Oscar Wilde
- **The Jungle Book** Rudyard Kipling
- **The Nutcracker** E. T. A. Hoffmann
- **Peter Pan** J. M. Barrie
- **Sandokan** Emilio Salgari
- **The Secret Garden**
Frances Hodgson Burnett
- **The Secret of the Stones**
Victoria Heward
- **The Tempest** William Shakespeare
- **The Wind in the Willows**
Kenneth Grahame
- **The Wonderful Wizard of Oz**
L. Frank Baum
- **Zorro!** Johnston McCulley