

students the day before or just prior to watching the video or going to the theater.

Discussion, Part 1:

Procedure:

1. During this exercise, you may want to play the music from the cassette tape as background music. Begin the lesson by informing the students that they will be seeing a performance of a ballet that is based on a story that is almost 200 years old. *The Nutcracker* takes place in Nuremberg, Germany and begins with a party on Christmas Eve. The main character of the story is Marie (called Clara in some productions), a young girl whose parents host a big party for friends and relatives.



Choreography by George Balanchine
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You may begin discussion of the related theme with the suggested leading questions. Feel free to modify classroom discussion to meet your specific needs and interests as well as those of your students. Record and save student responses on the chalkboard or chart paper for use in post-performance/post-video lessons B and C.

Theme #1: A celebration or party

What kinds of parties have you had?

What are the reasons and occasions that you celebrate with a party?

Who comes to these celebrations and parties?

Why do we invite these guests to our parties?

What do you do at these parties? Do people dance? Listen to music?

2. There are many friends and relatives at Marie's and her family's Christmas party, but not everyone is fun to be with. Marie's brother, Fritz,