

# NEWYORKCITYBALLET

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## **Nutcracker Sample Lesson Plan**

The lesson plan below is excerpted from a larger *Nutcracker* curriculum designed as a creative and reflective inspiration for 4th- and 5th-graders. The complete curricular handbook is available to all teachers who plan to take their students to a local production or watch a video of the ballet.

If you would like to receive the entire *Nutcracker* curriculum please email your request to [education@nycballet.com](mailto:education@nycballet.com).

This lesson has been adapted for the viewing of video or for the attendance of your local *Nutcracker* production. We suggest that you conduct this pre-performance lesson as close as possible to the date of the video viewing or performance.

### **Pre-Performance Lesson A by Classroom Teacher**

#### **Materials needed:**

- The Nutcracker Story (see below)
- *Original Soundtrack*—George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker* audio tape (or another cd or tape of Tchaikovsky's music for the ballet)
- Chalk board or chart paper to record student responses

#### **Introduction:**

As a prelude to the video viewing or the live performance of a local *Nutcracker* production, this lesson attempts to provide students with a background to view the dance and to begin seeing themselves as artists. Feel free to adapt the lesson to suit the needs of your students. Part I of the lesson invites students to discuss the themes listed below.

Optional: You may also want to assign one of the discussion items below as a writing activity.

Part II of this lesson includes a discussion of appropriate audience behavior. We recommend that you have this discussion with your