

## Curriculum for The Nutcracker – K-5th Grade

<https://youtu.be/APH8YzPDI9Q>

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### 1. Introduction to the Story of The Nutcracker

- **Objective:** Familiarize students with the story of The Nutcracker in an engaging, age-appropriate manner.
- **Activity:**
  - Read short synopsis of The Nutcracker. SEE LINK ON GOOGLE PRESENTATION
  - Show a short, animated clip, The Nutcracker (5-10 minutes). SEE LINK ON GOOGLE PRESENTATION

**Follow-Up:** Ask the students questions to ensure they understand the story:

- Who are the main characters? (Marie, Nutcracker, Rat King, etc.)
  - What happens to the Nutcracker?
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### 2. Exploring Characters through Art

- **Objective:** Introduce students to the main characters and allow them to express creativity.
  - **Activity:**
    - Provide coloring sheets of characters like Marie, the Nutcracker, and the Sugar Plum Fairy.
    - Have students create their own Nutcracker character using construction paper or drawing supplies. SEE LINK ON GOOGLE PRESENTATION
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### 3. The Music of The Nutcracker

- **Objective:** Help students recognize and appreciate the famous music from The Nutcracker.
- **Activity:**
  - Play short sections of The Nutcracker music (e.g., "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy"). SEE LINK ON VIDEO PRESENTATION
  - Ask the students to move like the characters in the music (light and soft like fairies, strong and brave like soldiers, etc.).

**Follow-Up:** Ask the students how the music makes them feel and what story they think the music is telling.

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### 4. Dance & Movement

- **Objective:** Encourage students to engage with the ballet aspect of The Nutcracker through simple movement.
  - **Activity:**
    - Teach basic dance moves like skipping or twirling and let them mimic characters' movements (e.g., pretend to fight like the Nutcracker or tiptoe like the Sugar Plum Fairy).
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### 5. The Magic of Costumes & Sets

- **Objective:** Give students a glimpse of the visual world of The Nutcracker.
- **Activity:**
  - Show pictures of the costumes and sets used in The Nutcracker. SEE LINK ON GOOGLE PRESENTATION
  - Have students design their own costumes for a character using basic art supplies.

**Follow-Up:** Create a classroom gallery of their costume designs.

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