

Fireside NUTCRACKER

Review Questions: Meet the Sugar Plum Fairy

1. Dancer Alexandra Kochis has a “game day” routine for the days she is performing the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy. Which of the following is NOT in her routine?

- gets plenty of sleep the night before
- has a big breakfast
- scrolls through her phone for an hour
- arrives at the theater early
- starts her hair and makeup before taking her warm-up class

2. What part of the tutu is unique to PBT and “sparkles like crazy under the stage lights”?

- the skirt
- the bodice
- the wings

3. Fill in the blank: According to Alexandra, the Sugar Plum Fairy’s tutu has to be both beautiful and _____ to withstand years of wear?

- strong
- pink
- delicate
- sparkly

4. Pointe shoes are made from

- satin and glue
- glue and cardboard
- cardboard and satin
- satin, glue and cardboard

5. Alexandra’s pointe shoes are handmade in

- England
- China
- the U.S.
- Russia

6. Alexandra makes her pointe shoes more stable by

- Sewing (darning) around the box
- Putting superglue inside the box
- Spraying shellac on the shoes
- All of the above

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Review Questions: Meet Drosselmeyer

1. How many magic tricks does Drosselmeyer do throughout the performance?

- 10
- 30+
- 89
- 5

2. Where does Drosselmeyer keep some of his tricks?

- in pockets in a special vest that he wears
- under the Christmas tree
- in his dressing room
- the Nutcracker holds them for him

3. What is important when working with magic tricks in a live performance?

- communication with other dancers involved in the tricks
- reviewing tricks with the prop team
- checking the tricks before the show
- all of the above

4. Corey describes student matinee audiences as being:

- loud
- honest
- late
- huge

5. There's a lot riding on the shoulders of the dancer who portrays Drosselmeyer. This is because of all of the magic tricks! But also because Drosselmeyer's actions:

- make no difference to the story
- keep the dancers backstage quiet
- are so over the top
- help to tell the story of the ballet

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Review Questions: Meet the Nutcracker and the Rat King

1. In the battle scene the Rat King stands on a platform. The platform is tricky for dancers because it's:

- super high off the stage
- slanted backwards to appear bigger to the audience
- not well made and wobbly
- crowded with a bunch of mice

2. One time when Joe was dancing the role of the Nutcracker, he broke the Nutcracker's _____ and it went flying into the orchestra pit.

- mask
- pointe shoe
- sword
- spirit

3. The base of the Rat King's head is a:

- ski cap
- baseball cap
- bandana
- bicycle helmet

4. The costumes for the Rat King and the Nutcracker both include very large heads, which make it very hard for the dancers to:

- see
- breathe
- dance
- all of the above

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Educator Answer Key

Meet the Sugar Plum Fairy

1. (3)
2. (3)
3. (1)
4. (4)
5. (1)
6. (4)

Meet Drosselmeyer

1. (2)
2. (1)
3. (4)
4. (2)
5. (4)

Meet the Nutcracker and the Rat King

1. (2)
2. (3)
3. (4)
4. (4)