

## *The Nutcracker*

### Arts and Humanities Activity Ideas

1. Create a marketing poster or billboard for *The Nutcracker* ballet. What characters' pictures would you include to entice people to come to the ballet? What would you say on the poster - what would your marketing slogan be? What else do you need to include on the poster - e.g. dates, contact info., etc.?
2. Nutcrackers in the 19th century were carved into lots of shapes and characters; the mouth always had a handle that you moved up and down to crack nuts. When we first see the Nutcracker in the ballet, it's a wooden toy shaped like a soldier / prince. What would your nutcracker character be and why? Design your own nutcracker, complete with clothing / costume. Don't forget the handle for the mouth!
3. Using evidence from the text and ballet to support your word and language choices, write a formal thank you note from one of the following character's perspective: Marie thanking her father for her scarf; the Nutcracker thanking Marie for her help in defeating the Rat King; party guest thanking the Stahlbaums for their Christmas Eve party.
4. The original *Nutcracker* ballet was set in 19th century Russia; PBT's version is set in early 20th century Pittsburgh. Boston Ballet's production is set in Revolutionary Era America. How would the ballet change if it were set in another time period or place? What if it were set in your town or neighborhood? Or in the future or past? Choose a place and time period and design your ballet. Name your locations for the party scene, the battle scene, the Snow scene, and the Land of Enchantment. What would the costumes be like? Who would your characters be for Marie, the Nutcracker, Drosselmeyer, the Rat King, and the Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier? Include as many details as you can!
5. Six-Sentence Story Challenge – summarize the synopsis in a storyboard style! Read the synopsis and summarize what happens in just six sentences. Illustration is optional!
6. Write a different ending to the story!