



SNOW WHITE BALLET

Teacher Study Guide

A Classic Fairy Tale Comes to Life Through the Magic of Ballet

Dance • Music • Literature • Visual Arts • Character Education • Social-Emotional Learning

Welcome, Teachers!

Thank you for downloading this study guide to accompany Snow White Ballet. These discussion questions, creative activities, and reflection pages help students explore how dance, music, movement, and imagination can tell a timeless story.

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Please note the performance name on all correspondence.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Step into an enchanted world as the beloved story of Snow White comes to life through the beauty and artistry of classical ballet!



Students follow Snow White on her magical journey as she encounters the Seven Dwarfs, the Evil Queen, the Magic Mirror, and Prince Charming. Dancers tell the story through music, costumes, scenery, facial expressions, movement, and choreography.

How is ballet different from a book?

Books use words to describe thoughts and feelings. Ballet dancers communicate through their bodies, gestures, expressions, and carefully planned movement.

The performance offers an engaging introduction to classical ballet and classical music while encouraging storytelling, imagination, creativity, and self-expression.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After the performance, students will be able to:

- Identify characters, setting, problem, important events, solution, and theme.
- Explain how dancers communicate without speaking.
- Recognize ballet vocabulary and elements of choreography.
- Describe how music, costumes, scenery, and expression shape a story.
- Compare Snow White as a book, movie, and ballet.
- Discuss kindness, courage, jealousy, friendship, and inner beauty.

BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

What Do You Know About Snow White?



Talk together:

1. Who is Snow White?
2. Who are the Seven Dwarfs?
3. Why is the Evil Queen jealous?
4. What is special about the Magic Mirror?
5. What role does the apple play?
6. How does the story end?
7. What makes Snow White a fairy tale?

MAKE A PREDICTION

Students may know the story - but how might it be different when told through ballet instead of words?

WHAT IS BALLET?

Ballet is a form of dance that uses carefully practiced movements to communicate ideas, emotions, characters, and stories.

Dancers develop: Balance • Strength • Flexibility • Coordination • Musicality • Expression • Discipline

Try it! Show happiness, fear, anger, or surprise without saying a word.

BALLET VOCABULARY

Ballet	a theatrical dance form using specific movements and techniques
Choreography	the planned movements and steps of a dance
Choreographer	the person who creates the dances
Ballerina	a female ballet dancer
Plié	a bending of the knees
Relevé	rising onto the balls of the feet
Pirouette	a turn or spin
Arabesque	a position with one leg extended behind the dancer
Pas de Deux	a dance performed by two dancers
Gesture	a movement that communicates an idea or emotion

MUSIC & MOVEMENT

Listen for fast and slow music, loud and soft passages, changing moods, and music that sounds happy, frightening, mysterious, or exciting.

Happy music would make me move...

Scary music would make me move...

Exciting music would make me move...

Sad music would make me move...

DURING THE PERFORMANCE



Be a Ballet Detective!



MOVEMENT

How do dancers use movement to tell the story?

EXPRESSION

How can you tell what a character is feeling?

MUSIC

How does the music change with the mood?

COSTUMES

How do costumes help identify characters?

SYMBOLS

Watch for the apple, Magic Mirror, and other familiar objects.

CHARACTERS

Compare Snow White's movements with the Evil Queen's or Seven Dwarfs' movements.

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

Let's Talk About It!



1. Who were the main characters?
2. What was the main problem?
3. Why was the Evil Queen jealous?
4. How did dancers communicate without speaking?
5. How did Snow White's movements show her personality?
6. How did the Queen's movements differ?
7. How did music help you understand the story?
8. Which costume interested you most?
9. What was your favorite dance or scene?
10. What emotions did you recognize?
11. What did you learn about ballet?
12. What lesson can we learn from the story?

WHAT MAKES A FAIRY TALE?

Look for these traditional elements in Snow White:



- A hero or heroine
- A villain
- Magic
- A mysterious object
- A castle or enchanted setting
- A problem to overcome
- Good versus evil
- A happy ending
- A lesson or message

What other fairy tales contain some of these same elements?

WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE?

The Evil Queen focuses on being the “fairest,” while Snow White demonstrates the importance of inner qualities. Discuss the difference between how someone looks and who someone is.

Inner Beauty: Kindness • Honesty • Courage • Friendship • Compassion • Generosity • Respect • Helpfulness

One quality that makes me a good friend is:

One quality I admire in someone else is:

CHARACTER TRAIT ACTIVITY

A character's choices and actions reveal personality traits.



SNOW WHITE

Kind • Caring • Hopeful • Friendly • Courageous

EVIL QUEEN

Jealous • Angry • Selfish • Deceptive

SEVEN DWARFS

Helpful • Loyal • Funny • Protective • Friendly

PRINCE CHARMING

Caring • Brave • Helpful

THINK DEEPER

Can a character have more than one trait? Can actions tell us what kind of person someone is?

Choose a character and describe one action that reveals a trait:

TELL IT WITHOUT WORDS!



Create Your Own Choreography



Choose a short scene:

- Snow White meets the Seven Dwarfs
- The Queen speaks to the Magic Mirror
- Snow White discovers the cottage
- The Evil Queen offers Snow White the apple
- The celebration at the end

Create three to five movements that tell the scene without words.

Movement 1:

Movement 2:

Movement 3:

Movement 4:

Movement 5:

Performance Time!

Perform your choreography for the class. Can classmates identify your scene and emotions?

BECOME A COSTUME DESIGNER

Imagine you are designing costumes for a new production of Snow White Ballet.



Choose a character: Snow White • Evil Queen • Prince Charming • A Dwarf

Think about: Colors • Shapes • Patterns • Fabrics • Personality • Freedom of movement

DRAW YOUR COSTUME HERE

I chose these colors because:

My costume tells the audience that my character is:

DRAW WHAT YOU HEAR

Play a short piece of classical music. Draw lines, shapes, patterns, characters, scenes, or colors that match what you imagine.

MY MUSIC PICTURE

IF THE MAGIC MIRROR COULD TALK...

Imagine you are the Magic Mirror. You have watched everything happening in the kingdom. Write about what you saw.

Story Starter

"Every day the Queen asked me the same question, but one day everything changed..."

SEQUENCING THE STORY

Place six important events in order. Add a small picture beside each event to create a Snow White Story Timeline.

1

Event:

2

Event:

3

Event:

4

Event:

5

Event:

6

Event:

Challenge: Draw one picture for each event on separate cards. Mix them up, then ask a partner to put the story back in order.

PERSEVERANCE & PRACTICE

The movements we see on stage require tremendous practice. Dancers do not learn difficult movements immediately.



Practice → Mistakes → Learning → More Practice → Improvement

What is something you became better at because you practiced?

FROM PAGE TO STAGE

BOOK	MOVIE	BALLET
Words and illustrations	Actors or animation, dialogue, music, and camera effects	Dancers, choreography, music, costumes, scenery, lighting, and movement

Which parts of the story were especially exciting to see performed through dance?

CROSS-CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS

English Language Arts	story elements, sequencing, character traits, theme, fairy tales, point of view, and creative writing
Dance	ballet vocabulary, choreography, movement, balance, coordination, and expression
Music	rhythm, tempo, dynamics, mood, classical music, and interpretation
Social-Emotional Learning	kindness, jealousy, friendship, courage, empathy, and self-expression
Character Education	positive choices, inner qualities, friendship, and compassion
Visual Arts	costume design, scenery, illustration, color, and creative expression
Physical Education	balance, coordination, flexibility, movement, and body awareness

THE BIG IDEA

A story can be told without saying a word!

Snow White Ballet shows how dance, music, movement, and imagination work together to communicate emotions and ideas.

True beauty comes from kindness, courage, and the way we treat others.

DANCE • LISTEN • IMAGINE • CREATE