

Especially for young readers

**The Mini Page** Teacher's Guide

**For use by teachers and parents at home and at school.**

**For use with issue: The Nutcracker Story**

**Main idea:** To introduce children to the famous Christmas ballet, "The Nutcracker."

**Page 1: Pre-readers and beginning readers:** Read the page to the children, then ask them to:

1. Count the number of pictures that include Clara in them.
2. Point to the Chinese, Russian, Arabian and Spanish dancers.

Discuss the differences in the different costumes.

**Beginning readers:** Ask the children to answer the following questions:

1. How many years ago was "The Nutcracker" written?
2. How many main characters are there in the ballet?

**Readers:** Ask the children to:

1. Find out from what language the word "ballet" comes from.
2. Define the phrase "pas de deux."

**All three levels:** Play the music to "The Nutcracker." Ask the children to point to each part of the story pictured in The Mini Page as the corresponding music is played. Let the children dance around the room to the music.

**Page 4: All three levels:** Ask the children to talk about any ballets they have seen on television or on stage. If any children have taken ballet lessons, ask them to demonstrate some steps for the others.

(Note to Editor: Above is the Teacher's Guide for Issue 19.)