

**Level 2-7**  
**The Nutcracker**

**Workbook**

**Teacher's Guide and Answer Key**

# Teacher's Guide

## A. Summary

### 1. Book Summary

*The Nutcracker* is a story about a girl who loved a nutcracker doll that she got for Christmas. She helped the nutcracker turn back into a boy again.

Mr. Drosselmeier gave Marie a nutcracker doll for Christmas. Mr. Drosselmeier told her a story about why the doll was so ugly.

A king had a pretty baby girl. The Mouse Queen turned the baby princess into a nutcracker doll. The king asked the toy maker, Mr. Drosselmeier, to help the princess. Mr. Drosselmeier told him that the princess must eat a Krakatuk nut.

Mr. Drosselmeier traveled around the world looking for a Krakatuk nut for the king. Mr. Drosselmeier's cousin gave the nut to him. Mr. Drosselmeier's nephew cracked the nut. The princess ate it and became pretty again.

The Mouse Queen was very angry. She ran to the boy. The boy fell on the Mouse Queen. The Mouse Queen used her magic to turn him into a nutcracker doll. Then she died.

The princess thought the nutcracker was ugly, so the king sent Mr. Drosselmeier and the nutcracker away.

Marie did not like the story. She felt sad for the nutcracker. That night, she had a dream about the nutcracker. She dreamed that the nutcracker fought the new Mouse King and killed him.

In the morning, Marie decided that it did not matter if the nutcracker was ugly. She would always love him. She looked for the nutcracker, but he was gone. Mr. Drosselmeier came to the house with his nephew. He was a boy again! Marie had saved him.

The boy said he would marry Marie, and she would be the queen of Toy Land.

## 2. Section Summary

► **Pages 6-11:** Mr. Drosselmeier gave Marie an ugly nutcracker doll. She wanted to know why it was so ugly, so he told her a story. The Mouse Queen turned the king's baby daughter into a nutcracker doll. The king asked Mr. Drosselmeier for help. Mr. Drosselmeier told him that the princess must eat a special nut.

► **Pages 12-17:** Mr. Drosselmeier looked for the Krakatuk nut that would save the princess. Mr. Drosselmeier's cousin had the nut. His nephew cracked the nut. The princess ate it and became pretty again. The Mouse Queen turned the boy into a nutcracker. Pirlipat did not want to marry the nutcracker because he was ugly. The king sent Mr. Drosselmeier and the nutcracker away.

► **Pages 18-22:** Marie thought Pirlipat was not kind. Marie said she would always love the nutcracker. But the nutcracker was gone. Mr. Drosselmeier came with his nephew. He was a boy again! He was no longer a nutcracker because Marie saved him. He said he would marry her, and she would be the queen of Toy Land.

## B. Background and Themes

★ **Judging by Appearances:** The first thing we see when we look at other people is their appearance. We can quickly make assumptions about their character based on what they look like. We may even determine whether or not we like the person based on what we see. This is not fair. Someone who is ugly may be very kind. Someone who is pretty may be very mean. We must get to know the person before we make any decisions about him or her. Pirlipat saw the nutcracker and said she would not marry him because he was ugly. The nutcracker saved her life, but she didn't care. All she cared about was his looks. Marie thought the nutcracker doll was ugly, but after she heard the story, she decided that his looks did not matter. He was a kind boy who saved the princess.

★ **Beauty Comes From Within:** People who are beautiful on the outside may not be beautiful on the inside. How a person treats others is much more important than what they look like. Pirlipat was pretty, but she was ungrateful and unkind. The nutcracker saved her life, but she would not marry him because he was ugly. The nutcracker was ugly, but he had a good character. Marie was kind to the nutcracker, even though he was ugly.

# Answer Key

## Part A. Story Focus

### Before You Read

*(Answers may vary.)*

#### ► Introduction

1. It was *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*.
2. He used it to make a ballet.
3. He was from Germany.

#### ► Characters

1. Marie	2. Mr. Drosselmeier	3. Pirlipat
<u>gets a doll</u> <u>kind</u>	<u>toy maker</u> <u>helpful</u>	<u>princess</u> <u>pretty</u>

4. The Nutcracker	5. King	6. Mouse King
<u>boy</u> <u>ugly</u>	<u>rich</u> <u>sad</u>	<u>small</u> <u>gets killed</u>

## While You Read

*(Answers may vary.)*

### ► Beginning: Pages 6-11

#### A. Preview Questions

1. It is about a grandfather and a girl during Christmas.
2. I have never been to a ballet, but I would like to go to one.
3. It was a bicycle.

#### B. Review Questions

1. It was Christmastime.
2. His enemy was the Mouse Queen.
3. She turned Pirlipat into a nutcracker doll.

### ► Middle: Pages 12-17

#### A. Preview Questions

1. It is about Mr. Drosselmeier and his travels.
2. I like cashew nuts.
3. I would feel honored, proud, and very nervous.

#### B. Review Questions

1. He searched for fifteen years.
2. Mr. Drosselmeier's cousin had it.
3. She died when the boy fell on her.

### ► End: Pages 18-22

#### A. Preview Questions

1. It is about what happens to the boy nutcracker doll.
2. I would not want to keep an ugly doll because it would scare me.
3. I think twenty years old is the best.

#### B. Review Questions

1. In her dream, the nutcracker killed the Mouse King.
2. She looked for the nutcracker doll.
3. She was going to be the queen of Toy Land.

### **Mini Quiz**

a. Do not judge a book by its cover.

→ Do not judge someone based on their appearance. We should get to know someone before deciding what they are like.

b. Bad news travels fast.

→ People spread bad news quickly.

c. First come, first served.

→ The first person in line will be attended to first.

## After You Read

*(Answers may vary.)*

### ► Pattern Practice

4. A: They must exercise.

B: They must play outside.

5. A: We must study for the test.

B: We must read our books.

### ► Challenge

1. She got a nutcracker doll.

2. She looked ugly.

3. He was looking for the Krakatuk nut.

4. They fought.

## Part B. Skill Focus

### ► Vocabulary Preview

#### A.

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. b / crack    | 2. i / enemy     |
| 3. h / cousin   | 4. a / godfather |
| 5. j / princess | 6. c / nephew    |
| 7. g / ugly     | 8. d / steal     |
| 9. e / travel   | 10. f / teeth    |

#### B.

##### Across

- |          |         |           |         |          |
|----------|---------|-----------|---------|----------|
| 2. crack | 4. doll | 6. seller | 7. gift | 8. mouth |
|----------|---------|-----------|---------|----------|

##### Down

- |          |              |          |          |          |
|----------|--------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. world | 2. Christmas | 3. queen | 4. dream | 5. fight |
|----------|--------------|----------|----------|----------|



## Reading Comprehension

### ► Beginning: Pages 6-11

#### A.

1. F    2. T    3. T    4. F    5. F

#### B.

1. King  
2. Mr. Drosselmeier  
3. Marie  
4. Pirlipat

#### C.

1. c    2. b    3. a    4. c    5. d

### ► Middle: Pages 12-17

#### A.

1. T    2. T    3. F    4. F    5. T

#### B.

1. b    2. c    3. a    4. d

#### C.

1. c    2. b    3. b    4. d    5. d

### ► End: Pages 18-22

#### A.

1. F    2. F    3. T    4. T    5. T

#### B.

1. a    2. d    3. b    4. c

#### C.

1. a    2. c    3. d    4. b    5. c

## Think and Write

1. stole
2. killed
3. king
4. princess
5. nut
6. pretty
7. fell
8. nutcracker
9. always
10. boy

## Vocabulary Review

1. godfather
2. doll
3. enemies
4. traveled
5. nephew
6. teeth
7. nut
8. dream
9. last
10. marry

## Summary

### A.

1	3
4	2

### B.

1. The princess turned into an ugly nutcracker doll.
2. Mr. Drosselmeier's cousin gave him the Krakatuk nut.
3. The Mouse Queen turned the boy into a nutcracker doll.
4. The nutcracker turned into a boy again.

## Book Report

Story b → a → d → e → c