



Swan Lake

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Good vs. Evil, True Love, Breaking Curses

Book Brief: A magical retelling of Tchaikovsky's beloved ballet, Swan Lake, where a prince falls in love with a cursed swan princess and must break an evil sorcerer's spell!

Author:
Storytime

Illustrator:
Letizia Rizzo

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

The Pictures: Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, "Have you heard stories where someone has been cursed or put under a spell? How was the curse broken?" (Optional: Think-Pair-Share)

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying Vocabulary Guide.

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about the central message or lesson of this story. What does Swan Lake teach us about love, deception, and breaking curses?"



Think Aloud: "Rothbart uses deception and dark magic to keep Odette cursed, but Prince Siegfried's declaration of true love is powerful enough to break the spell. The message seems to be that true love is more powerful than evil and deception."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What curse has been placed on Princess Odette? Who cursed her and why?
- How does Prince Siegfried feel when he meets Odette?
- How does Rothbart try to trick the Prince at the ball?
- Why is Rothbart's curse finally broken?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: "What is the central message or lesson of Swan Lake? How did love triumph over Rothbart's evil curse?"

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students, "What other stories do you know where love or goodness breaks a curse or defeats evil? What makes love more powerful than evil in these stories?" Encourage students to compare Swan Lake to another story they know with similar themes. Students can create a simple comparison showing what is similar and different between the two stories' characters, conflicts, and messages, then share their comparisons and discuss why these themes appear in so many stories across different cultures and time periods.

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- Explore 100 other free eBooks on Skybrary! Visit www.Skybrary.org to learn more.
- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.