

Pre/Post Activities

Use these activities to accompany the author's reading on RallytoRead.org.

Standards: CCRA.R.3, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.W.3



The Nutcracker

Author & Illustrator: Jan Brett

Grades: PK–3

Pre-Reading Activity

Tell students that they are going to listen to a magical version of *The Nutcracker*, retold and illustrated by Jan Brett. Show the cover and read the title aloud.

Ask students:

- What do you think the characters are celebrating in this story?
- Who or what is “The Nutcracker”? What might happen in the story?

Tell students to look closely at the borders on each page as they listen to the story.

- Explain that Jan Brett uses the borders to give clues (foreshadowing) about what will happen next.
- Ask students to watch for hints in the borders and see if they can guess what might happen on the next page.

Post-Reading Activity

In this story, siblings Marie and Fritz go on a magical adventure filled with surprises.

Ask students:

- What celebration is happening at the beginning of the story?
- What magical things happen during the adventure?
- How did the borders give hints about what was coming next? Can you remember an example?
- What did the Nutcracker and the other characters learn or experience during their adventure?

Imagine you are part of the Nutcracker's adventure. Write your own short story about what happens next after the book ends.

- Where would you and the Nutcracker go?
- What magical characters or places would you discover?
- How would the adventure end?