

IN BRIEF

Swan Lake in *Storytime Issue 61* is based on the original ballet by Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. He in turn based it on an old folk tale from Germany.



1 LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- Look up any tricky words on our **Storytime Glossary Sheet** – this includes every story in *Storytime Issue 61* as well as **Swan Lake**.
- Find out more about the composer behind this ballet on our **Who Was Tchaikovsky?** sheet.
- Use our **Class Discussion Sheet** to take a closer look at key elements of the story.
- Did you remember the story? Find out in our **Multiple Choice Quiz**.
- Can you put **Swan Lake** in the correct order on our **Story Sequencing Sheet**?
- Tell the story in your own words using our **Simple Storyboard Sheets**.
- Explore one part of **Swan Lake** in more depth using our **Reading Comprehension Extract**.
- Break down the story on our **Story Structure Sheet**.
- Expand your vocabulary with the help of our **Character Description Sheet**.
- Cut out our **Storytime Storyteller Cards** to tell the story or make up new versions.
- Use our **Storytime Writing Template** to write a story about why Rothbart became evil or about Odette's life before Rothbart cursed her.

Continued on page 2...

- On our **Acrostic Poetry Template** write an acrostic poem using the letters SWAN LAKE.
- Act out the story using our printable **Swan Lake Masks**.
- Solve our **Swan Lake Tangle Trail** and help Siegfried reach Odette.

2 MUSIC LESSON IDEAS

- You can't read the fairy tale without listening to at least some of the music from this wonderful ballet. You can hear it and watch several clips from the **English National Ballet's Swan Lake** production for children here:
<https://www.ballet.org.uk/production/my-first-ballet-swan-lake/>
- Also watch the **Four Little Swans** performed by the Mariinsky Ballet here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=-gApOfm4qd0
- Many musical instruments are used in Swan Lake including flutes, oboes, clarinets, trumpets, a triangle, a tambourine, cymbals, drums and violins. Listen out for them in the ballet and discuss how some of the instruments are used to create drama, tension and a sense of magic in the composition.
- Use some of these instruments to play along with the music. Which ones sound smooth like a swan gliding on water or angry like Rothbart shouting?

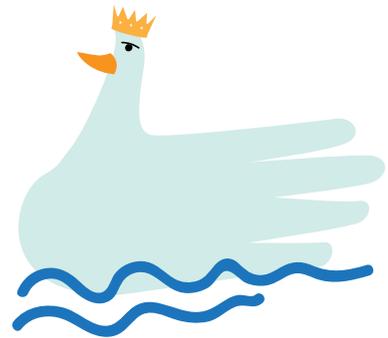
Continued on page 3...

3 P.E. LESSON IDEAS

- Introduce your class to basic ballet moves. The English National Ballet has a helpful guide here: <https://www.ballet.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Swan-Lake-Ballet-Moves-and-Mimes.pdf>
- How do Odette and Odile or Siegfried and Rothbart move differently? How can you use movements to show whether you are good or bad or happy or angry? Explore how to express yourself using only dance.

4 ART LESSON IDEAS

- Decorate your classroom wall with simple handprint swans. Ask everyone to spread their fingers and thumbs out wide and draw around their hands on a sheet of white paper. Cut them out, then draw an eye on the thumb. Add an orange triangle beak and a yellow crown to finish.
- Use craft feathers or paper scraps to decorate the swan on our **Storytime Colouring Sheet** – will it be white like Odette or black like Odile?
- Draw your favourite character from the story in our **Storytime Picture Frame**.



STORYTIME GLOSSARY

1 OF 2

Check you know the meanings of all the words in Storytime Issue 61.

Paper Round with the Queen (Page 6)

- ▷ **Drenched** – soaked
- ▷ **Tandem** – bicycle with two seats

Raven Steals the Sun (Page 10)

- ▷ **Longhouse** – long narrow house with one room
- ▷ **Approval** – support, agreement
- ▷ **Inky** – dark blue or black
- ▷ **Suspended** – hung
- ▷ **Source** – supply
- ▷ **Billowing** – blowing, wafting

Beauty's Magic Mirror (Page 14)

- ▷ **Register** – list of pupils' names called out by teacher to check everyone is there
- ▷ **Rapped** – knocked, tapped
- ▷ **Prank** – trick, practical joke
- ▷ **Investigate** – explore, look into
- ▷ **Persuasion** – pleading, convincing
- ▷ **Trawled** – searched
- ▷ **Nagging** – niggling, troublesome
- ▷ **Ridiculous** – silly, absurd

The Pirate Poodle (Page 19)

- ▷ **Briny** – salty
- ▷ **The land of Yankee Doodle** – America
- ▷ **Caribees** – the southern islands of the West Indies
- ▷ **Outlandish** – unusual, remarkable
- ▷ **Valour** – bravery
- ▷ **Renown** – fame

- ▷ **Cutlass** – curved sword
- ▷ **Brandish** – wave, show off
- ▷ **Ferocious** – wild, fierce
- ▷ **Aghast** – shocked, horrified
- ▷ **Reiterated** – repeated
- ▷ **Naught** – nothing
- ▷ **Quail** – cower, tremble
- ▷ **Trifle** – little, bit
- ▷ **Squall** – storm
- ▷ **Portended** – threatened
- ▷ **Blended** – mixed together

Swan Lake (Page 22)

- ▷ **Spectacular** – impressive, extravagant
- ▷ **Responsibilities** – duties, jobs
- ▷ **Vying** – fighting, competing
- ▷ **Respectable** – with good reputation
- ▷ **Dynasty** – family
- ▷ **Flounced** – stomped, stormed
- ▷ **Despair** – hopelessness, misery
- ▷ **Crossbow** – type of bow
- ▷ **Dusk** – time when sun sets and it becomes dark
- ▷ **Melancholy** – sad
- ▷ **Scheming** – sly, cunning
- ▷ **Sorcerer** – magical man, wizard
- ▷ **Cursed** – put a spell on
- ▷ **Declare** – announce, state
- ▷ **Undying** – never-ending
- ▷ **Cower** – shrink, tremble
- ▷ **Chilling** – cold, scary
- ▷ **Captive** – prisoner, imprisoned

STORYTIME GLOSSARY

2 OF 2

Swan Lake Continued (Page 22)

- ▷ **Pirouetted** – turned round and round, twirled, swirled
- ▷ **Distracted** – troubled, thinking about other things
- ▷ **Pestered** – nagged
- ▷ **Accompanied by** – in the company of, with
- ▷ **Bewitched** – put a spell on
- ▷ **Whisked** – pulled
- ▷ **Glimpse** – glance, quick look
- ▷ **Cackled** – laughed in a wicked way
- ▷ **Deceived** – tricked
- ▷ **Enchantment** – spell
- ▷ **Menacing** – scary

The Fox and the Grapes (Page 30)

- ▷ **Vineyard** – land where grape vines grow
- ▷ **Quenching** – satisfying
- ▷ **Just shy of** – just short of
- ▷ **Determination** – willpower, purpose
- ▷ **Frustration** – annoyance, disappointment
- ▷ **Grasp** – grab
- ▷ **Luscious** – juicy, succulent
- ▷ **Scorn** – contempt, hatred

The Three Presents (Page 33)

- ▷ **Astounded** – stunned, shocked
- ▷ **Rag-dealer** – someone who buys and sells second-hand clothes and fabric
- ▷ **Bargain** – deal
- ▷ **Wrung** – squeezed, twisted
- ▷ **Prospered** – done well, grown rich
- ▷ **Generous** – kind, charitable
- ▷ **Valuable** – expensive, important
- ▷ **Nobleman** – rich, important man
- ▷ **Ecstatic** – overjoyed, very happy

Oisín and the Land of the Young (Page 37)

- ▷ **Legendary** – famous
- ▷ **Immense** – great, incredible
- ▷ **Killarney** – Irish town
- ▷ **Homesick** – missing home a lot
- ▷ **In his absence** – while he wasn't there
- ▷ **Landscape** – countryside, scenery
- ▷ **Valley pass** – road, path, gap
- ▷ **Plunged** – fell
- ▷ **Bolted** – ran away
- ▷ **Frail** – weak



WRITE
IT!

Pick one of the words in our glossary and try to use it in a new sentence.

WHO WAS TCHAIKOVSKY?



- ▶ Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was born in 1840 in Russia. His surname is pronounced 'ch-eye-koff-ski'.
- ▶ He had five brothers and sisters.
- ▶ He loved music from a young age. He composed his first song at the age of four and started taking piano lessons when he was five.
- ▶ By the age of six, he could also speak French and German.
- ▶ At first his parents didn't want to him to work in music, so he got a job in an office to please them.
- ▶ When he was 21, he started going to music school – the St Petersburg Conservatory. After that he became a music professor in Moscow.
- ▶ Later in life, a rich lady called Nadezhda von Meck liked his music so much she sent Tchaikovsky money so he could give up work and spend his time composing. She did this for many years but never met him.
- ▶ He is most famous for composing the music for three ballets: **Swan Lake**, **The Nutcracker** and **The Sleeping Beauty**. Swan Lake was his first ballet.
- ▶ He also composed the **1812 Overture**, which ends with cannons being fired.
- ▶ In his lifetime, he composed music for many operas, symphonies and songs. He wrote over 160 pieces of music.
- ▶ Tchaikovsky died from a disease called cholera in 1893. He was aged 53.
- ▶ His ballets and symphonies are still performed all over the world and he is one of Russia's most famous musical composers.

CLASS DISCUSSION SHEET

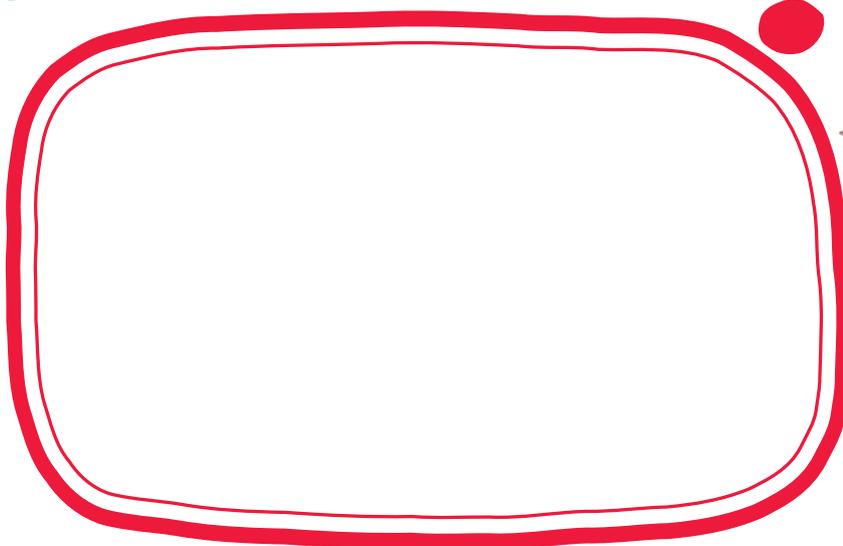
TEXT QUESTIONS

Pose these questions to your class to get them thinking more deeply about the story.

1. Why wasn't Prince Siegfried looking forward to being king? Is 21 too young to be a ruler?
2. Why wouldn't the queen let Prince Siegfried marry someone he loved? Was she right or wrong to behave like this?
3. How did Princess Odette feel when Rothbart turned her into a swan?
4. Why do you think Rothbart choose such a strange punishment for Odette?
5. Where do you think Rothbart and his daughter went at the end?

PICTURE QUESTION

What is Rothbart's daughter thinking here?



NAME _____

CLASS _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUIZ

Check how well you remember **Swan Lake**.

- 1** How old was Prince Siegfried going to be?

 - a) 18
 - b) 21
 - c) 25
- 2** Where did his mother say he had to choose a bride?

 - a) At a costume ball
 - b) At his party
 - c) At the ballet
- 3** What weapon did Siegfried grab when he escaped with his friends?

 - a) Sword
 - b) Axe
 - c) Crossbow
- 4** When could Princess Odette appear as a human?

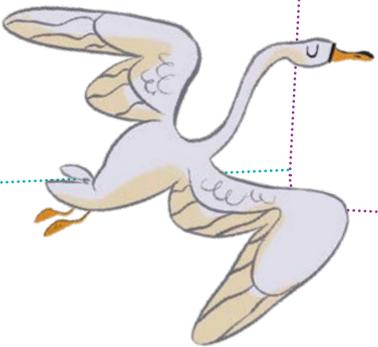
 - a) At night
 - b) At dawn
 - c) At noon
- 5** What was the lake filled with?

 - a) Swan feathers
 - b) Tears
 - c) Fresh water
- 6** What did Rothbart steal from Odette?

 - a) Her crown
 - b) Her maids
 - c) Her parents' throne
- 7** What was the name of Rothbart's daughter?

 - a) Odette
 - b) Odille
 - c) Odine
- 8** How did Siegfried break Rothbart's curse?

 - a) By shooting him
 - b) By pushing him in the water
 - c) By swearing his love for Odette



Answers: 1b, 2a, 3c, 4a, 5b, 6c, 7b, 8c.

NAME _____

CLASS _____

STORY SEQUENCING SHEET

Number these sentences from 1 to 12 to put them in the right order.

The next day, Rothbart brings his daughter Odile to the prince's costume ball disguised as Odette.

Prince Siegfried and Princess Odette return to the palace and get married.

Rothbart grabs Odette and forces her and her maids to dance for him. Siegfried can't stop him or save her.

Rothbart tries to stop Siegfried swearing his love for Odette, but he fails. The curse is broken.

The swan maiden is Princess Odette. She has been cursed by a sorcerer called Rothbart.

Odette's curse can only be broken if someone swears true love for her. Siegfried is about to do so when Rothbart appears.

Odette and her maids surround Rothbart and Odile, but the sorcerer uses magic to make them disappear.

Siegfried spots someone who looks like Odette weeping at the window and is confused.

Siegfried realises he has been tricked by Rothbart. He flees the palace to find Odette.

Siegfried escapes the party to go hunting by the lake, where he is amazed when he sees a swan turn into a woman.

Prince Siegfried is celebrating his 21st birthday party, but his mother wants him to choose a bride. This makes him sad.

Siegfried thinks Odile is Odette and asks her to marry him. Odile agrees and Siegfried tells everyone at the ball.

NAME _____

CLASS _____

FAVOURITE FAIRY TALE: SWAN LAKE STORYBOARDS, 1 OF 2



Write **Swan Lake** in your own words using the pictures below to help you.









NAME _____

CLASS _____

FAVOURITE FAIRY TALE: SWAN LAKE STORYBOARDS, 2 OF 2



Write **Swan Lake** in your own words using the pictures below to help you.





NAME _____

CLASS _____

READING COMPREHENSION SHEET

Complete the tasks below the extract.

As dusk began to fall, a swan glided across the lake towards him. Prince Siegfried was surprised to see that it was wearing a crown. But when the first beam of moonlight touched the water, the swan transformed into a beautiful young woman.

1. Find and circle the **two nouns** that tell you what time of day it is.

2. What does the verb **glide** mean? What does it tell you about the way the swan moves?

3. Can you think of **three different adjectives** to replace the word ‘surprised’?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

4. Write this clause in a different way: **‘But when the first beam of moonlight touched the water’**.

Answers: 1. Dusk and moonlight, 2. It means to move smoothly, 3. You could use shocked, startled, amazed, stunned, astonished or astounded.

NAME _____ CLASS _____

STORY STRUCTURE SHEET

Where is the story set?

Who are the main characters?

What is the main problem?

What is the solution?

How does the story end?



What happened to Princess Odette's kingdom after Rothbart disappeared? Did her parents come back? Write a paragraph or a new story about it.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION SHEET

Circle the adjectives you think are right.

Which adjectives best describe **Prince Siegfried**?

Pitying Worried Cold
Carefree Tired Determined
Kingly Despairing Loyal Happy



Which adjectives best describe **Princess Odette**?

Melancholy Captive Big
Elegant Beautiful Frightened
Confident Hardworking



Which adjectives best describe **Rothbart**?

Quiet Cruel Greedy
Joyful Fun Thoughtful
Scheming Menacing



NAME _____

CLASS _____

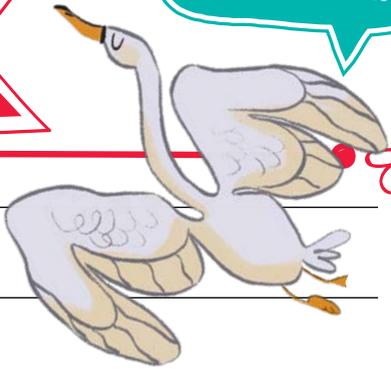
STORYTELLER CARDS

Use these cards to help you retell Swan Lake or make up a new story.

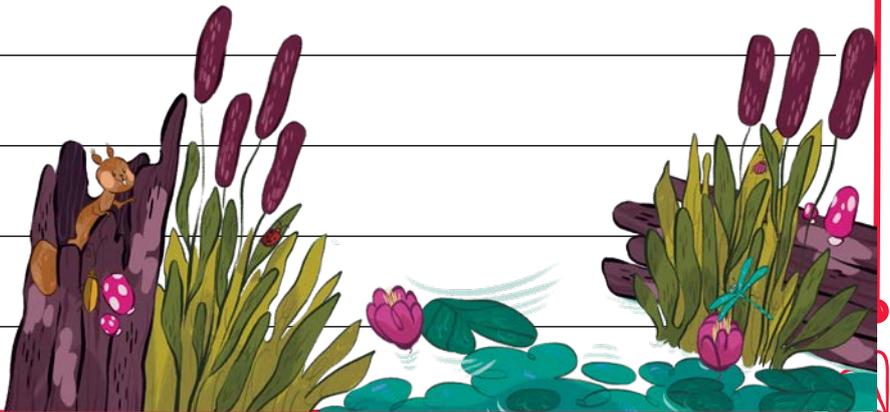
<p>PRINCE SIEGFRIED</p> 	 <p>THE QUEEN</p>
 <p>SWAN</p>	<p>PRINCESS ODETTE</p> 
 <p>ROTHBART</p>	 <p>ODILE</p>
 <p>SWAN MAIDEN</p>	 <p>SWAN MAIDEN</p>



WRITING TEMPLATE



A large writing area consisting of 18 horizontal lines, enclosed in a red border with decorative corner elements.



NAME _____

CLASS _____

**ACROSTIC POETRY
TEMPLATE**

S _____

W _____

A _____

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NAME _____

CLASS _____

SWAN LAKE: CHARACTER MASKS 1



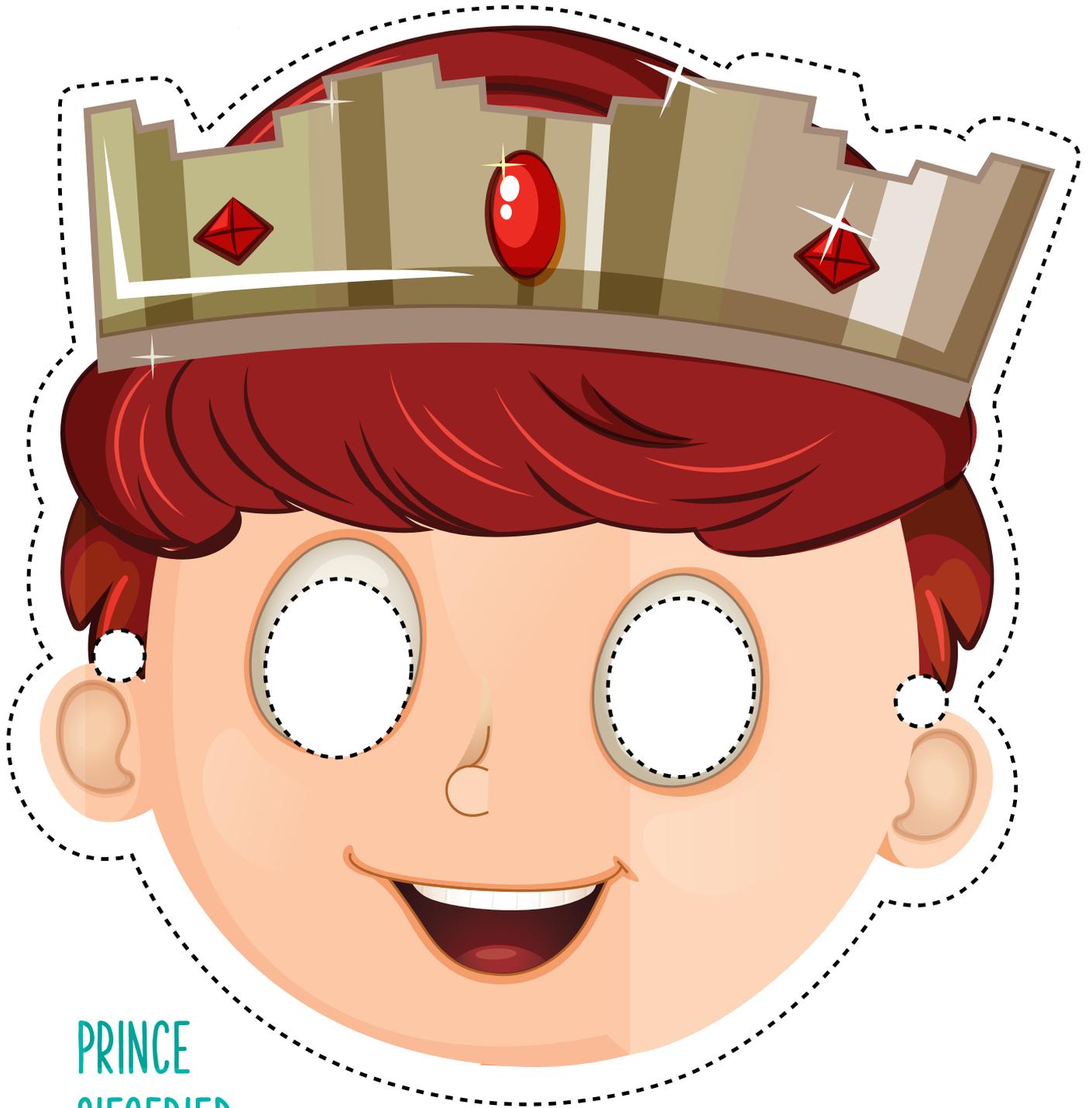
Print out and cut out our masks to act out **Swan Lake**.

PRINCESS
ODETTE



SWAN LAKE: CHARACTER MASKS 2

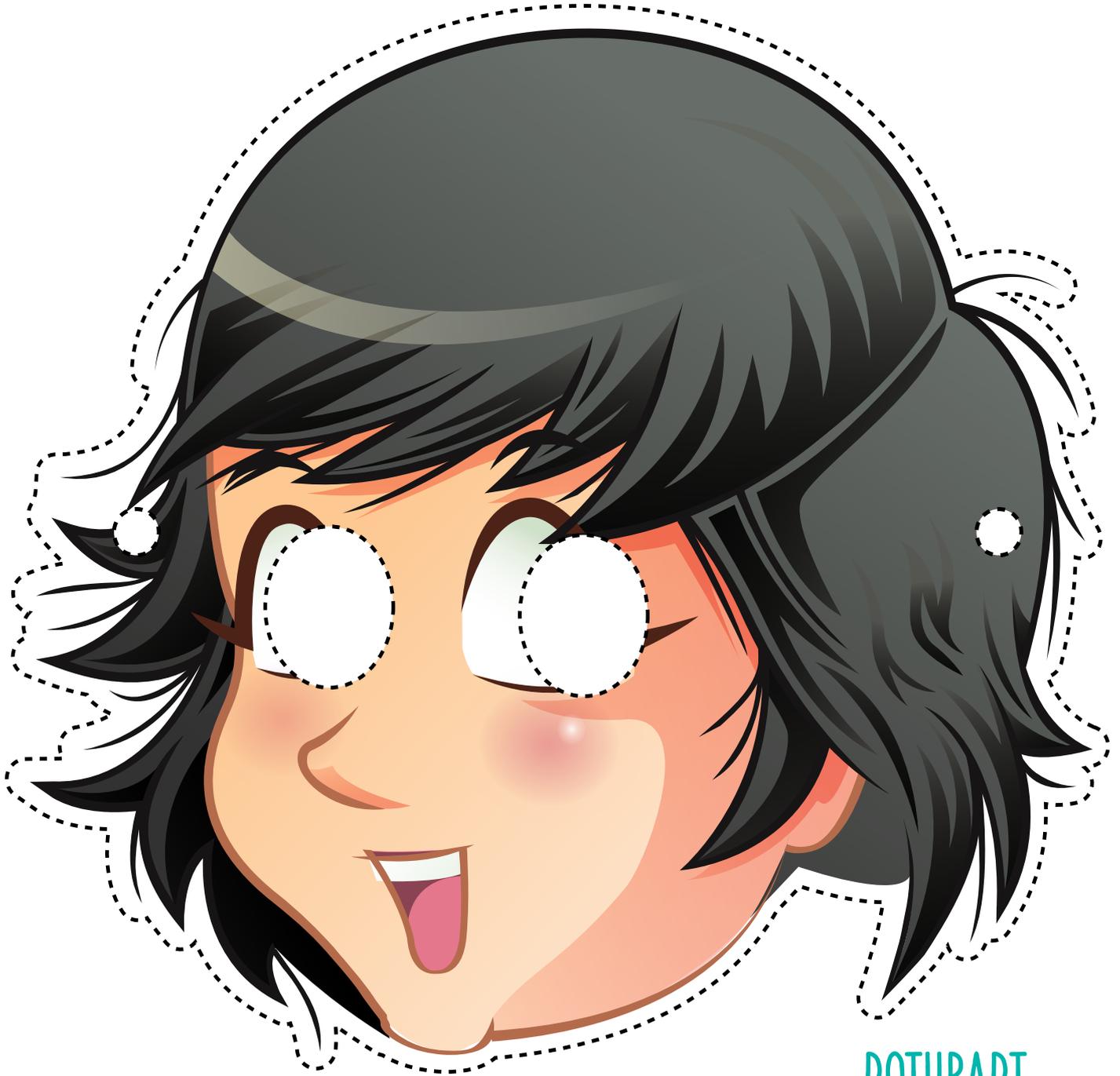
Print out and cut out our masks to act out **Swan Lake**.



PRINCE
SIEGFRIED

SWAN LAKE: CHARACTER MASKS 3

Print out and cut out our masks to act out **Swan Lake**.



ROTHBART

SWAN LAKE: CHARACTER MASKS 4

Print out and cut out our masks to act out **Swan Lake**.



TANGLE TRAIL

Only one of these trails leads Prince Siegfried to Princess Odette. Which one?

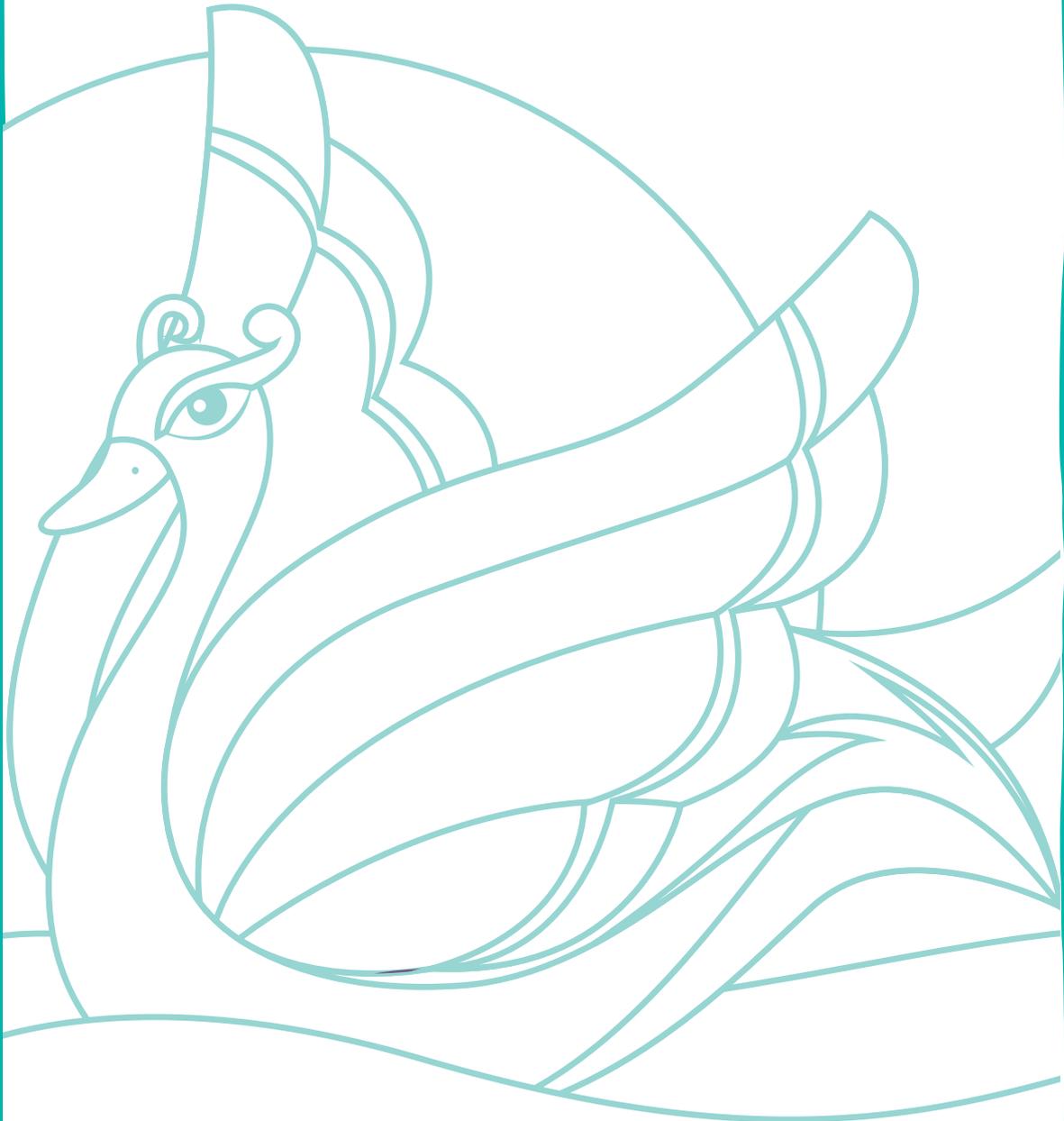


Answer: B

NAME _____

CLASS _____

COLOURING SHEET



NAME _____ CLASS _____

PICTURE FRAME

Draw your favourite character from **Swan Lake** here.

My favourite character is _____
I like this character because _____

NAME _____

CLASS _____