



Ballet Stories



Retold from the classic originals
by Lisa Church

Illustrated by Eric Freeberg



STERLING

New York / London

www.sterlingpublishing.com/kids

What Do *You* Think? Questions for Discussion



Have you ever been around a toddler who keeps asking the question “Why?” Does your teacher call on you in class with questions from your homework? Do your parents ask you questions about your day at the dinner table? We are always surrounded by questions that need a specific response. But is it possible to have a question with no right answer?

The following questions are about the book you just read. But this is not a quiz! They

are designed to help you look at the people, places, and events in the story from different angles. These questions do not have specific answers. Instead, they might make you think of the story in a completely new way.

Think carefully about each question and enjoy discovering more about this classic story.

1. Cinderella's fairy godmother grants her wish to go to the prince's ball by giving her a golden carriage, six horses, one coachman, six footmen, and a beautiful gown. Do you think this is everything Cinderella needs? If you were the fairy godmother, what might be one more thing you would do for Cinderella?

2. How does the prince find Aurora hidden behind the wall of thorns and vines? Why couldn't other princes find her? Do you think Aurora and this prince were always meant to be together?

3. Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella both

marry princes at the end of their stories. Can you imagine a royal wedding? What would it be like?

4. “Why, you are just a doll!” Swanilda exclaims when she finds out Coppélia is not a real girl. Is she just a doll, or is she something more? Why do you think Coppélius made her?

5. Queen Odette is a swan every day until the clock strikes midnight. If you were to turn into an animal every day, which animal would it be? Why?

6. Becoming human meant that the Little Mermaid had to leave behind her home in the ocean. How would you feel if you had to give up the life you knew? Would you have done the same thing to get something you truly wanted?

7. Did you feel sorry for the Ugly Duckling throughout the story? What would you want to say to cheer him up?

8. The firebird gives the prince a feather of his in exchange for his freedom. He tells the prince

that the feather might save his life someday. Did it? Do you own an object that could be considered a lucky charm?

9. Clara Stahlbaum loves the nutcracker more than any other gift she receives. What is your favorite gift you received at Christmas?

10. Prince Nutcracker is from the Land of Sweets, “a place where the trees are sugarcoated and the houses drip with frosting.” He says it is every child’s dream to go there. Is that your dream place? What is your favorite part of the Land of Sweets?