

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Firebird Study Questions to Consider*

**What do you think the music will sound like in each section-ex: loud or soft, fast or slow, lots of instruments, not many instruments? What in the story makes you think this?**

Introduction:

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Prelude and Dance of the Firebird:

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Round Dance of the Princesses:

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Infernal Dance:

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Berceuse:

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Finale:

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**After reading through the story, look into each section and look for elements that are common to many folk tales.**

**These elements include:**

- Magical Objects
- Talking animals
- The use of trickery
- Simple characters
- Appearance of monsters or villains

**Please write down where you see these elements in the story:**

Magical Objects:

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Talking Animals:

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The Use of Trickery:

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Simple Characters:

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Appearance of Monsters or Villains:

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## Describing the Firebird

**Listen to the “Introduction” from 1:40-end. What does the firebird sound like here. What did it sound like? What instrument(s) were used to show it?**

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**Listen to the “Prelude and Dance of the Firebird.” What does the firebird sound like here? Describe the firebird here (Is she strong or weak, mean or nice etc).**

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## Round Dance of the Princesses

**Choose an image that comes into your mind as you listen to the “Round Dance of the Princesses.”** It may help to close your eyes as you listen so that you can visualize it. **Draw your picture on the bottom of this page.**

Here are some questions to help you consider what to draw:

- What does the music tell you to draw?
- What is the background of your picture?
- What other things are going on in your pictures?

Title of Picture: \_\_\_\_\_

**Add a title to your drawing****Answer the following questions about your picture:**

What is happening in your picture?

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How did the music influence your picture?

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What other sounds or noises would you add to the music to make it match your picture?

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Describe the sound of the violin, a major instrument in this movement, using at least three words:

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## Infernal Dance

**Read this portion of the story again. Review your answers from before regarding how you think the music will sound.**

**Listen to the “Infernal Dance” movement.**

**After listening to this movement, please answer the following questions:**

Did the music sound the way you thought it would?

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What types of movements do you picture the characters doing?

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Did the music make you feel a certain way (*Nervous, excited, scared*)?

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How do you think the characters were feeling?  
Were they feeling different at the end than at the beginning?

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Instruments in the *Infernal Dance*: Which ones?  
What did they sound like? Were they fast, slow,  
loud, soft, wild scared, etc?

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Please listen to Tage Larsen and Patsy Dash's  
descriptions of playing their instruments in the  
Firebird. ("Infernal Dance-Guided listening" 1,2, and 3)  
Which of these instruments would you most like to  
play? Why?

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## Berceuse

This movement is a lullaby that the Firebird sings to Katschei and his guards to keep them asleep.

**Read this portion of the story again. Review your answers from before regarding how you think the music will sound.**

**Listen to the “Berceuse” movement.**

**After listening to this movement, please answer the following questions:**

Did the music sound the way you thought it would?

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What types of movements do you picture the characters doing?

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## Texture

In our world, everything we touch can be described as having a certain texture. For example, a piece of sandpaper has a scratchy, rough and flexible texture. A pencil has a hard texture and one end has a hard texture and the other has a soft and somewhat squishy texture. A Nerf ball has a soft texture.

In music we have “texture” as well. In the *Firebird*, we have many examples of *thick* and *thin* texture. Listen to the “Berceuse Guided Listening” 1 and 2, examples of *thick* and *thin* texture.

**Listen again to the “Berceuse”.**

**Now answer the following questions:**

What is the texture of the music in this movement?  
Does it stay the same all the way through?

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Is it like the other sections of the *Firebird*? Why or why not?

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How does the music make you feel?

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The *Firebird* was written as music for a ballet. What type of movements do you think the dancers would make onstage during this movement?

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The violin uses an effect of *tremolo* in this movement. Please listen to “Berceuse-Guided listening 3, Nathan Cole.” Describe the sound of *tremolo*. How does it add the mood of the movement and make you feel?

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## Finale

**Review your answers from before regarding how you think the music will sound.**

**Before listening, please answer the following questions to help you:**

Will the texture be thick or thin? Will there be many instruments playing or just a few?

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Will it sound loud or soft?

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**Listen to the “Finale” movement.**

**After listening to this movement, please answer the following questions:**

Did the music sound the way you thought it would?

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What types of movements do you picture the characters doing? Did the movements stay the same the whole time? If not, describe how their movements change?

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**Please listen to the “Finale Guided Listening” 1, 2, and 3.**

**After listening to these, answer the following questions:**

Which instruments from these tracks do you most want to learn to play? Describe their sound, and why you would like to play them.

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After studying *The Firebird*, would you want to go to see a performance of it? Would you want to see another ballet by the composer, Igor Stravinsky? Why or why not?

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What have you learned about fairy tales?

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What have you learned about ballet and dance, and how music relates to it?

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What have you learned about the different ways an orchestra can sound and perform?

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Thank you for all your hard work in studying *The Firebird!*