

Rainbow Readers

Title: Frédéric Chopin

Word Study

Fill in the blanks using the words.

instrument	literature	sonata	funeral	pianist
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1. Her piano teacher is having her learn a sonata by Mozart.
2. In the West, people usually wear black to a(n) funeral.
3. A famous pianist is giving a concert tonight.
4. A harpsichord is a(n) instrument similar to a piano.
5. He is studying English literature in college.

Reading Comprehension

A. Circle T for true or F for false.

1. Young Chopin thought his hands were too big. T / F
2. Chopin wrote a funeral march for his younger sister. T / F
3. He did not like playing in front of big audiences. T / F
4. Prince Walenty asked Chopin to play at his friend's house. T / F
5. Very few people came to Chopin's funeral. T / F

B. Circle the correct word(s).

1. Chopin's mother was a (tutor / housekeeper).
2. His first piano teacher was his (sister / father).
3. He (lied / complained) to his parents about his life in Vienna.
4. Although he wanted to, he couldn't go to (Poland / Paris).
5. He wrote (a lot of / little) music while with George Sand.

C. Choose the best answer.

1. Which is NOT true of young Chopin?
 - a. He cried when he heard music.
 - b. His parents both played instruments.
 - c. He had three sisters.
 - d. He was very healthy.

2. How old was Chopin when he started learning the piano?
 - a. 4
 - b. 6
 - c. 7
 - d. 8

3. Who helped Chopin develop his own musical style?
 - a. His father
 - b. Jozef Elsner
 - c. His sister
 - d. Franz Liszt

4. Chopin planned—but never made—a trip to _____.
 - a. Germany
 - b. Austria
 - c. The USA
 - d. Russia

5. Which is true about Chopin?
 - a. He married Maria Wodzijska.
 - b. He lived in Spain for a while.
 - c. He had tuberculosis when he was with Sand.
 - d. He rarely changed his music after writing it.

Summary

Fill in the blanks with the words.

genius	homesick	tuberculosis	clavichord	composers
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Frédéric Chopin was born in Poland in 1810. As a child, he liked playing with the clavichord. Soon he was learning the piano and then composing his own music for it. People called him a genius, and he gave his first concert at age 8. Soon after finishing music school, he left Poland. In Paris he met and became friends with Franz Liszt. The composers Robert Schumann and Felix Mendelssohn also admired Chopin. In Paris he made money by giving piano lessons. He was homesick for Poland, but could not return. This is because Russia controlled Poland, and Chopin refused to ask the Russian Embassy for a passport. Chopin never married. But he lived with the famous writer George Sand for ten years. His sister cared for him in the last years of his life. He died of tuberculosis in 1849. He had written many masterpieces during his life, mostly for the piano. Two hundred years later, people still play and love Chopin's music.