

# Rainbow Readers

## Title: Frédéric Chopin

### Word Study

Fill in the blanks using the words.

instrument

literature

sonata

funeral

pianist

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

Frédéric Chopin was born in Poland in 1810. As a child, he liked playing with the \_\_\_\_\_. Soon he was learning the piano and then composing his own music for it. People called him a \_\_\_\_\_, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Robert Schumann and Felix Mendelssohn also admired Chopin. In Paris he made money by giving piano lessons. He was \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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.