

Rainbow Readers

Title: Igor Stravinsky

Word Study

Fill in the blanks using the words.

puppets	scenery	adopted	wizard	jazz
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1. The Harry Potter books and movies are about a boy who learns he's a(n) wizard.
2. I don't want to be in the play, but I'll help build the scenery.
3. The saxophone is an important instrument in jazz.
4. Many children's TV characters are funny puppets.
5. She moved to Mexico last year and is still learning about her adopted country.

Reading Comprehension

A. Circle T for true or F for false.

1. A famous composer taught Stravinsky for three years. T / F
2. Stravinsky graduated from college in 1905. T / F
3. When the civil war ended in Russia, he began giving concerts there. T / F
4. He lost his daughter, wife, and mother within just a few years. T / F
5. He left Europe because of World War I. T / F

B. Circle the correct word(s).

1. Stravinsky's father (wrote / sang in) operas.
2. *Petrushka* is about an evil (prince / wizard).
3. Stravinsky stopped writing (ballets / operas) for religious reasons.
4. Stravinsky (greatly admired / did not trust) the Soviet leaders.
5. He was living in (the US / Venice) when he died.

C. Choose the best answer.

1. Which is true about young Stravinsky?

- a. He enjoyed school.
- b. He learned many languages.
- c. He showed little interest in music.
- d. He grew up in Oranienbaum.

2. Which of Stravinsky's works is based on a dream he had?

- a. *The Mushrooms Going to War*
- b. *The Firebird*
- c. *Petrushka*
- d. *The Rite of Spring*

3. What did Stravinsky say about modern music?

- a. That he didn't like it
- b. That he invented it
- c. That it was the best music
- d. That he didn't understand it

4. Which is NOT true about Stravinsky's time in the US?

- a. He wrote songs for Broadway.
- b. He was honored by the president.
- c. His music was often used in movies.
- d. His home was in Los Angeles.

5. His first opera in English was based on _____.

- a. a painting
- b. a sign
- c. a Russian folktale
- d. a poem

Summary

Fill in the blanks with the words.

circus	Modernist	criticized	ballets	citizen
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Igor Stravinsky was an important Modernist composer. He was born in Russia in 1882 and always loved Russian folk music. This influenced many of his compositions. Though he studied law to please his father, he quit when his father died and studied music instead. His early ballets are his most famous works. One of them, *The Rite of Spring*, shocked people because the music was wild rather than gentle. When World War I began, Stravinsky and his family began living in Switzerland. He later became a citizen of France and then of the US. In Los Angeles he wrote more ballets and many other kinds of music, including a polka for circus elephants. His music was new and unique. Stravinsky had avoided Russia for years. He criticized its leaders, and they did not approve of him. When a new leader took over in 1962, he agreed to go back. He conducted a concert of his works, which made him very happy. Stravinsky died in 1971, but his well-loved music lives on.