

Rainbow Readers

Title: Ludwig van Beethoven

Word Study

Fill in the blanks using the words.

funeral	opera	composition	coma	Classical era
---------	-------	-------------	------	---------------

1. Opera singers must have very powerful voices.
2. When the former president died, many world leaders came to his funeral.
3. Mozart and Haydn were two great composers of the Classical era.
4. It is unclear whether someone in a(n) coma can hear what people are saying.
5. A symphony is a musical composition for a full orchestra.

Reading Comprehension

A. Circle T for true or F for false.

1. Beethoven had already sold some of his music by age 13. T / F
2. He started taking care of his brothers after his father died. T / F
3. In his thirties he started composing in a different style. T / F
4. He did not want Karl to join the army. T / F
5. He left behind an unfinished piece of music. T / F

B. Circle the correct word(s).

1. Beethoven was born in (Vienna / Bonn).
2. His (father / mother) forced him to practice music.
3. By 1801, Beethoven (could not hear at all / had trouble hearing).
4. He tried to communicate using (writing / sign language).
5. He (got along / often fought) with Karl.

C. Choose the best answer.

1. Which is true about Beethoven's family?
 - a. Both his parents were musicians.
 - b. His mother worked for a prince.
 - c. His brothers became musicians.
 - d. Only his two younger brothers lived.

2. Johann taught Beethoven until he was _____.
 - a. 5
 - b. 7
 - c. 10
 - d. 13

3. Which is NOT true about Beethoven?
 - a. One of his teachers was an organist.
 - b. In his music he treated instruments as voices.
 - c. He grew up during wartime.
 - d. At age 16 he helped Mozart write an opera.

4. Why did Beethoven's father lose his job?
 - a. Because he drank too much
 - b. Because he was getting old
 - c. Because he spent all his time teaching his son
 - d. Because he had trouble getting along with people

5. Who cared for Beethoven during his illness?
 - a. His mother
 - b. His nephew
 - c. His brother
 - d. His sister-in-law

Summary

Fill in the blanks with the words.

humming	organist	emotions	Romantic era	deaf
---------	----------	----------	--------------	------

Ludwig van Beethoven, one of history's greatest composers, was born into a musical family. His father and grandfather were also good musicians. However, when Beethoven was little, his father drank too much and beat him. Young Beethoven studied many instruments and gave his first concert at age 7. By 13 he was composing and working as a(n) organist. As a young man he went to Vienna, where he lived the rest of his life. Beethoven had an emotional personality. This made his music richer but hurt his relationships with people. He did strange things, like humming and groaning. It turned out that he was going deaf. This was terrible for him, but he kept composing. After his brother's death, he tried to be a father to his nephew, Karl. But he and Karl often fought. The emotions he felt about his family made his music even more powerful. Beethoven died in 1827. He was a genius who helped bring about the Romantic era. His greatness lives on in his music.