

Laura McShane

## Winter Magic- The Nutcracker 45 min

### Objective:

Compare a retelling to an earlier version of a family classic

### Big Idea:

What elements make a story last for many generations??

## 1. Warm Up / Anticipatory 15 min

Read through the "Who wrote the Nutcracker"

<https://wonderopolis.org/wonder/who-wrote-the-nutc...>

## 2. Investigation and New Learning 15 min

Author T.E. Morrow and illustrator James Ransome provide a retelling of the Nutcracker :

[The Nutcracker in Harlem](#)

From the author's note:

"Years ago, I was hired as a stagehand for the Dance Theatre of Harlem, a ballet company and dance school based in the Sugar Hill Neighborhood of Harlem in New York City...When my wife suggested I write a retelling of her favorite Christmas story, "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King" by E.T.A. Hoffman, it seemed natural for me to set my retelling in Sugar Hill...I wanted my version of the story to be set in the place where I had seen the power of music and dance transform, people, performers, and audiences alike."

## 3. Review & Check for Understanding 30 min

Listen to the music from the ballet

<https://soundcloud.com/cleveland-orchestra/sugarpl...>