

Vocabulary Words

1. Pass away (phrasal verb) - To die or cease to exist.
Example: Our beloved pet dog passed away peacefully in his sleep.
2. Locked (adjective) - Secured with a lock or unable to be opened.
Example: The door was locked, and we couldn't get inside the house.
3. Nutcracker (noun) - A tool used to crack the shells of nuts, typically with two hinged metal arms.
Example: She used a nutcracker to open the walnuts for baking.
4. Realm (noun) - A kingdom or domain, often a region or sphere in which something operates.
Example: The fantasy novel is set in a magical realm with mythical creatures.
5. Conquer (verb) - To overcome or defeat by force, achieving victory over a challenge or opponent.
Example: The ancient warrior sought to conquer new lands in his epic journey.
6. Restore (verb) - To bring back or return something to its original or former condition.
Example: The restoration of the historic building took several years of meticulous work.



The Nutcracker and the Four Realms

Clara Stahlbaum lived with her family in London. After her mother **passed away**, Clara received a **locked** egg-shaped box as a gift from her mother's will. The box had a note that said, "Everything you need is inside."

On Christmas Eve, Clara followed a golden thread that led her to a magical world. There, she met a **nutcracker** soldier who came to life and told her about the Four **Realms**: the Land of Snowflakes, the Land of Flowers, the Land of Sweets, and the Fourth Realm.

Clara learned that she was a princess and that her mother was the Queen of the Four Realms. But the Fourth Realm was dark and ruled by Mother Ginger, who wanted to **conquer** the other realms.

With the help of the nutcracker soldier, Clara went on a journey through each realm to find the key to unlock her mother's special gift. Along the way, she encountered colorful characters and discovered her inner strength.

Clara finally unlocked her mother's gift, a music box, and used it to **restore** peace to the Four Realms. She realized that the magic was inside her all along.

Comprehension Questions:

1. Who is the main character of the story?
2. What did Clara receive as a gift from her mother's will?
3. How did Clara discover the magical world?
4. What are the Four Realms mentioned in the story?
5. Who ruled the Fourth Realm, and what were their intentions?
6. What was the purpose of Clara's journey through the realms?
7. How did Clara ultimately restore peace to the Four Realms?
8. What was the special gift left by Clara's mother?
9. What important lesson did Clara learn during her adventure?
10. How did Clara's journey change her character and perspective?

Discussion Questions:

1. If you received a mysterious locked box like Clara did, what would you hope to find inside?
2. Which of the Four Realms would you most like to visit, and why?
3. The story is set during Christmas Eve. How does the holiday season add to the magic of the tale?

4. Clara discovered that she had the key within her to unlock the gift. What do you think this symbolizes in the story?
5. Clara's journey is filled with challenges and discoveries. Can you recall a personal challenge you faced and what you learned from it?
6. Discuss the role of the nutcracker soldier in the story. How did he help Clara on her journey?
7. How did Clara's mother's presence continue to be felt throughout the story, even though she had passed away?
8. What do you think the message of "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms" is about inner strength and self-discovery?
9. If you were a character in the Four Realms, what kind of realm would you rule, and what would your realm be like?
10. In the end, Clara embraced her role as a protector of the Four Realms. If you had a special role or responsibility, what would it be, and how would you fulfill it?