

Opera Funtime

by the Young Patronesses of the Opera

| The Abduction from the Seraglio | Mozart |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Aida | Verdi |
| The Barber of Seville | Rossini |
| La Bohème | Puccini |
| Carmen | Bizet |
| La Cenerentola | Rossini |
| Così fan tutte | Mozart |
| Cristoforo Colombo | Franchetti |
| Don Giovanni | Mozart |
| Faust | Gounod |
| Die Fledermaus | J.Strauss |
| Hansel and Gretel | Humperdinck |
| Idomeneo | Mozart |
| Madame Butterfly | Puccini |
| The Magic Flute | Mozart |
| The Marriage of Figaro | Mozart |
| Otello | |
| Pagliacci | Leoncavallo |
| Rigoletto | Verdi |
| Roméo and Juliette | Gounod |
| The Tales of Hoffmann | Offenbach |
| Tosca | Puccini |
| La Traviata | Verdi |
| Turandot | Puccini |

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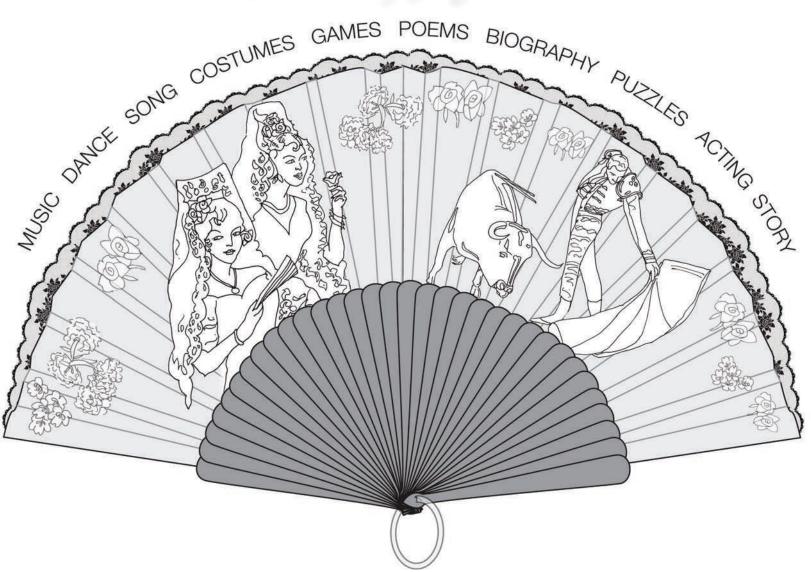
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A YOUNG PERSON'S INTRODUCTION TO THE ARTS THROUGH THE OPERA





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THE COMPOSER Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

Georges Bizet was born in Paris into a musical family. His father was a voice teacher and his mother was a gifted pianist. He was a child prodigy and entered the Paris Conservatory at age nine. In 1857 Bizet won the Prix de Rome scholarship and was able to study in Italy for several years.

Bizet was an excellent pianist and composer. Opera was his first love. He wrote six published operas and several incomplete or unpublished ones. At age 26 his Les Pêcheurs de Perles (The Pearl Fishers) had eighteen performances. While visiting the Pyrenees Mountains, he became familiar with Spanish folk music and customs. This gave him inspiration for his last and most famous opera, Carmen, 1875. Only three months later he died of a heart attack, unaware of Carmen's eventual success and fame.

Bizet dressed with the utmost care in the finest linens.

To protect his hands he wore soft button-less suede gloves and would throw them off before playing the piano.

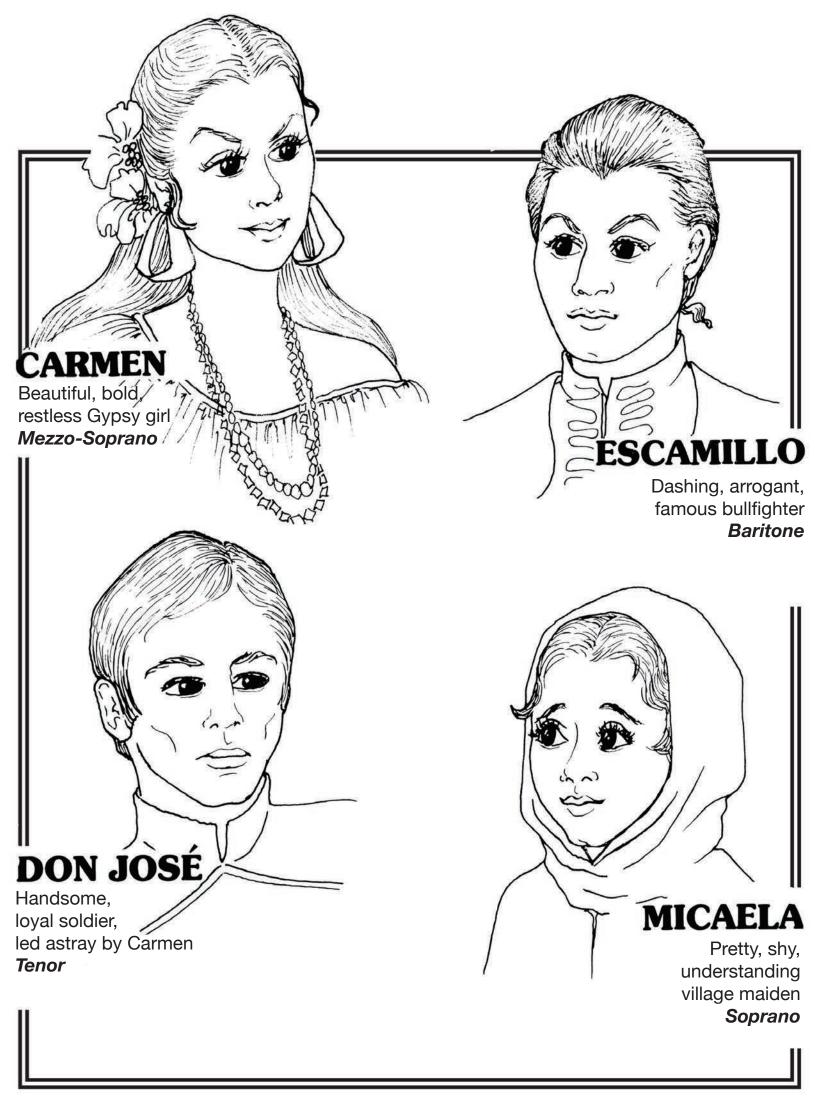
He had a passion for sweets and cakes and could eat the contents of a dish in one sitting.



The Opera Carmen

Carmen is an opera in four acts. It is sung in French and takes place in Seville, Spain around 1820. Bizet wrote the music with the libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy. The opera plot was based on the novel Carmen by Prosper Mérimée. The first performance was at the Opéra-Comique, Paris on March 3, 1875.





Carmen

Carmen is an opera of passion and hate, With musical themes of doom and of fate.

Gypsies and soldiers are part of the setting, With bullfights and fist fights and card games and betting.

> Spain is the country – Seville is the town. Look at a map. It's the tip, way, way down.

> > 1820 is the year. Of the sad tale you will hear.

Carmen's a beauty. She teases and flirts. She tosses her head and rustles her skirts.

Cigarette factory work is her trade. She's a Gypsy who's reckless and unafraid.

Act One

The opera begins on the town square at noon. Young boys, each playing the part of dragoon*

Micaela is there searching for Don José. When he doesn't appear, she rushes away.

Carmen appears and sings, "I must be free! I warn you there's danger in falling for me!"

Flashing her eyes and weaving her magic, She leads Don José on a path which is tragic.

*dragoon – soldier on horseback

She tosses a flower which he holds to his heart. He vows to himself that they never will part.

He once loved Micaela; and he just said so. But now he's seen Carmen and he doesn't know.

Micaela's a sweetheart; his mom loves her, too. For him to choose Carmen's a cruel thing to do.

Off in the factory there is fighting and strife. A co-worker of Carmen's is stabbed with a knife.

Carmen's arrested, her hands are then tied. Don José's guarding her, close by her side.

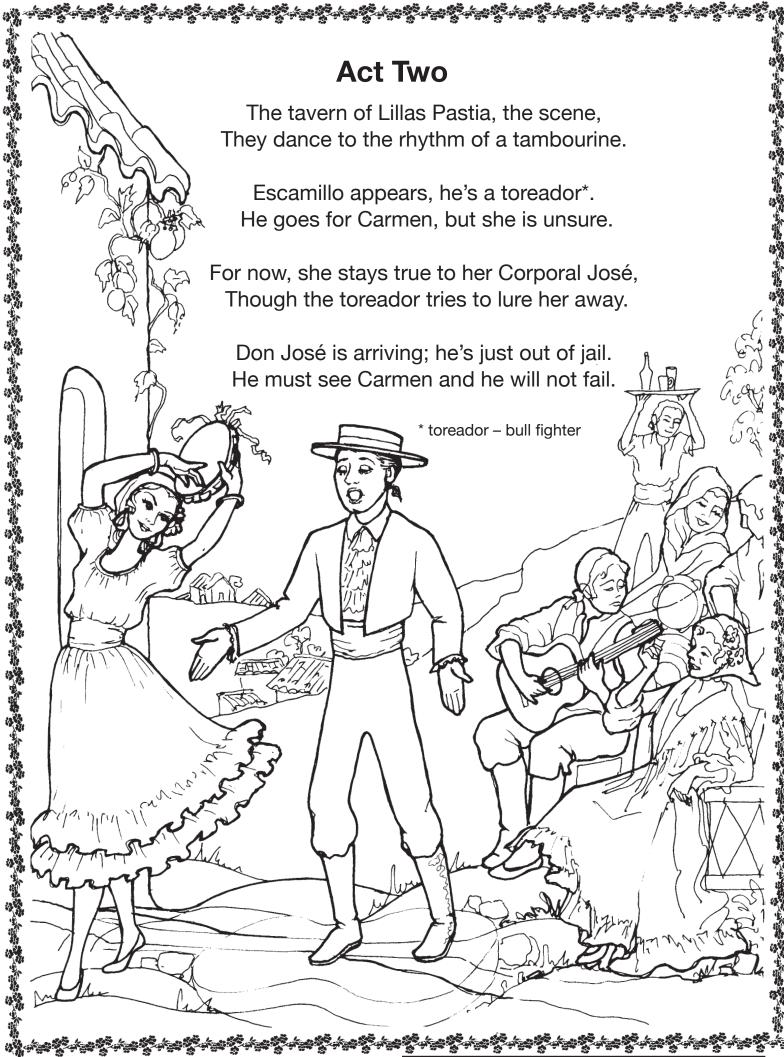
She charms the young corporal. José can't resist her. Sweet Micaela seems more like a sister.

Under the spell of her uncommon beauty, Carmen makes Don José forget his duty.

He loosens the rope which binds up Carmen's hands So she can escape to her Gypsy friends' lands.

And so to continue this pitiful tale, Carmen goes free, Don José goes to jail.





Act Three

José doesn't follow his officer's orders. And refuses to vacate the Gypsy camp borders.

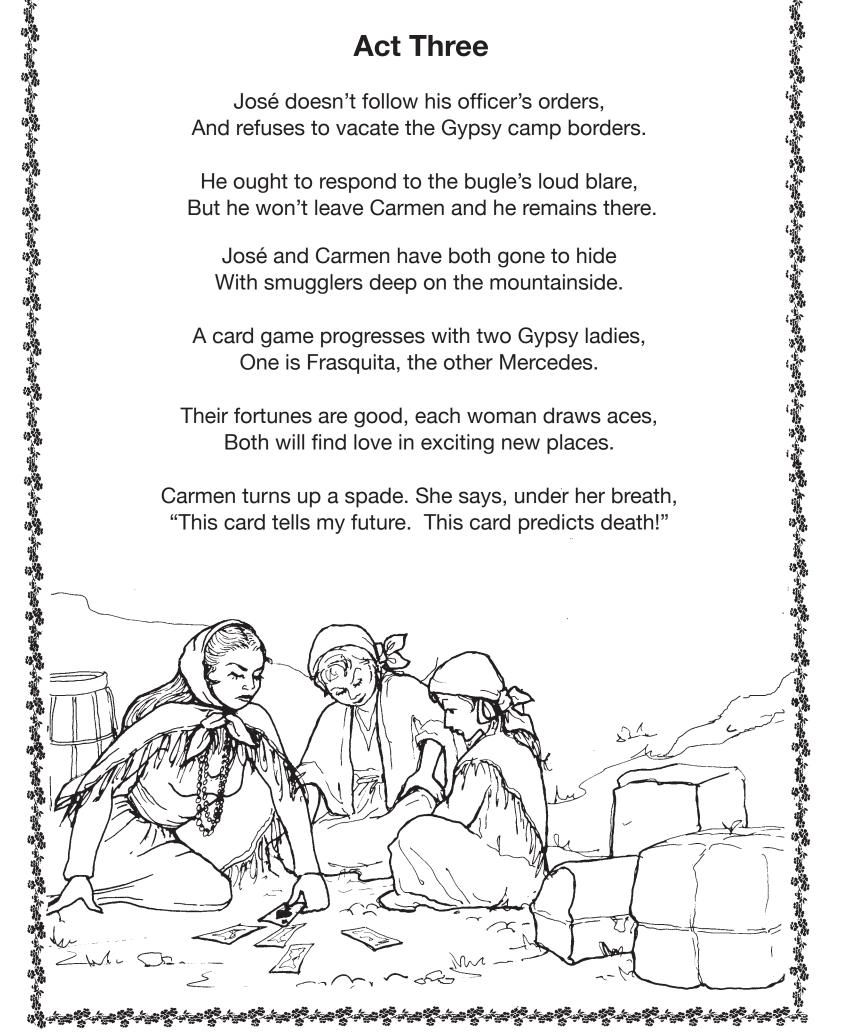
He ought to respond to the bugle's loud blare, But he won't leave Carmen and he remains there.

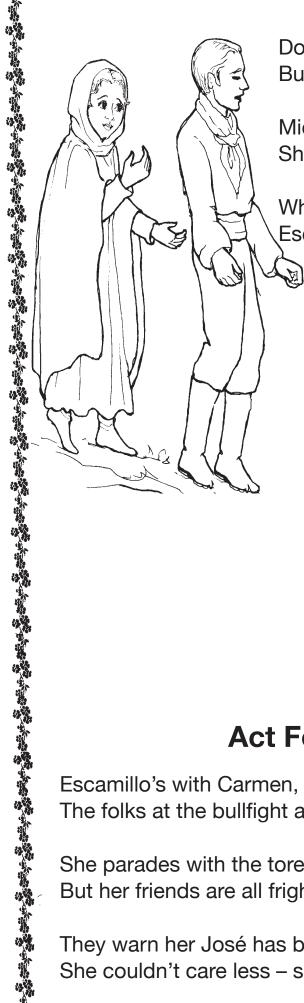
José and Carmen have both gone to hide With smugglers deep on the mountainside.

A card game progresses with two Gypsy ladies, One is Frasquita, the other Mercedes.

Their fortunes are good, each woman draws aces, Both will find love in exciting new places.

Carmen turns up a spade. She says, under her breath, "This card tells my future. This card predicts death!"





Don José is unhappy. He hates Gypsy life. But unless he remains Carmen won't be his wife.

Micaela arrives. She's distraught, and she's crying. She begs him to go to his mother who's dying.

While Don José visits his parent who's ill, Escamillo and Carmen run off to Seville.



Act Four

Escamillo's with Carmen, she's beautifully dressed. The folks at the bullfight are really impressed.

She parades with the toreador on her arm. But her friends are all frightened and full of alarm.

They warn her José has been seen in the crowd. She couldn't care less – she is haughty and proud. Carmen looks for José in her confident fashion, To inform the poor man he's no longer her passion.

The bullfight is over. Escamillo has won. Don José is now sure that his life's come undone.

The ring he gave Carmen, she throws to the floor, And then tries to get back to her toreador.

José's out of hope and he's out of time. He pulls out his knife for the horrible crime.

Now realizing that he sold his soul, He's jealous and raging and out of control.

As the crowd exits the arena walls, José stabs the Gypsy – and dying she falls!



CARMEN'S CROSSWORD

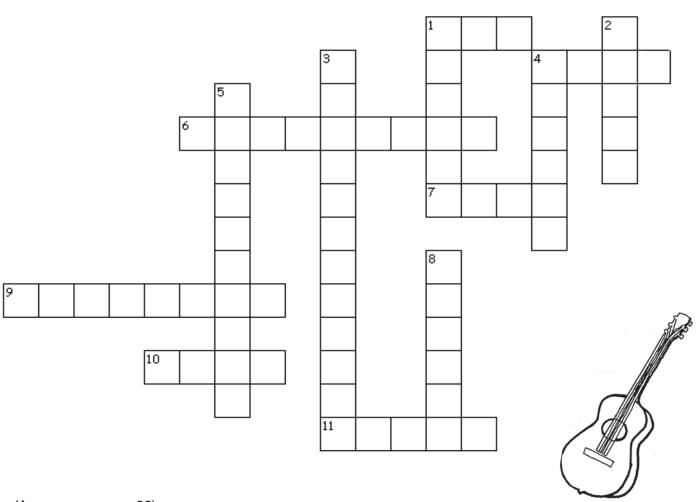
ACROSS

| 1. While on duty Don José cleans his | |
|--|--|
| 4. Ladies at the bullfight carry | |
| 6. Carmen dances with in her hands. | |
| 7. Don José loosens the binding Carmen's hands. | |
| 9. The smugglers gather around a | |
| 10. Carmen throws Don José's at him. | |
| 11. Don José draws his when ordered to return to his barracks. | |



DOWN

| 1. One of the Gypsy r | men plays a |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • • • | l with Don José's |
| | heir fortunes with |
| 4. Carmen throws a _ | at Don José to flirt with him. |
| 5. Carmen moves to t | the rhythm of a |
| 3. Micaela carries a _ | from Don José's mother. |

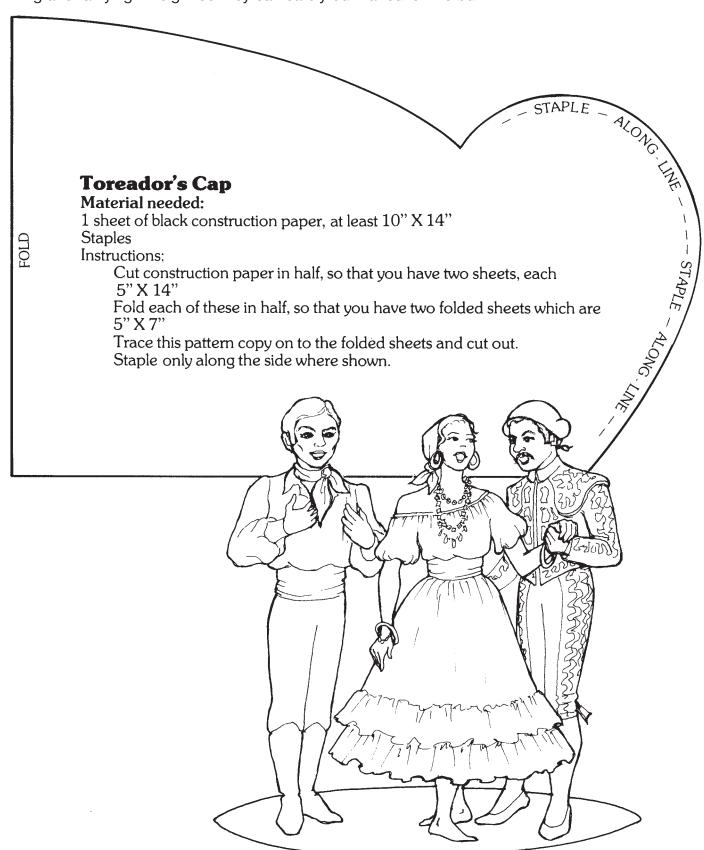


(Answers on page 28)

COSTUMES OF THE OPERA

Costumes help set the scene in an opera. They tell you in what country it takes place, or about the characters, or even in what era it is set. In *Carmen*, the costumes of the Gypsies, the guards, and the toreador, are all very different. Gypsies love bright colors. The girls wear heavy earrings, many bracelets, and necklaces. In their hair they sometimes wear flowers, but more frequently wear brightly colored scarves on their heads. Their skirts are full and decorated with ruffles near the bottom. The Gypsy boys wear loose fitting shirts, ascots (scarf-like ties), cummerbunds (wide cloth belts), and boots.

The guards wear uniforms. Toreadors wear dashing and flamboyant costumes. They must be close fitting and fairly lightweight so they can safely outmaneuver the bull.



CARMEN

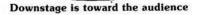
An opera in four acts by Georges Bizet

ACT IT OUT

Characters in order of appearance:

| Morales, an officer |
|--|
| Micaela, a peasant girl Soprano |
| Zuniga, a captain of dragoons (José's captain) |
| Don José, a corporal of dragoons |
| Carmen, a Gypsy girl |
| Mercedes, a Gypsy companion of Carmen Mezzo-Soprano |
| Frasquita, a Gypsy companion of Carmen Mezzo-Soprano |
| Escamillo, a toreador |
| Remendado, a smuggler |
| Dancairo, a smuggler |
| Group of Boys, Cigarette Girls, Dragoons, Smugglers, Gypsy Dancers |

Upstage is away from the audience upstage right upstage left center stage downstage right downstage left





ACT I

Setting: A public square in Seville, Spain, around 1820. At the back of the stage (upstage center) there is a bridge. A cigarette factory is located on the right (stage right) and a guardhouse is on the left (stage left). Officer Morales and several sentries are at the guardhouse. Micaela enters (downstage right) and hesitantly crosses the stage approaching Officer Morales and the sentries.

Morales: What are you looking for, my pretty thing?

Micaela: For Corporal Don José.

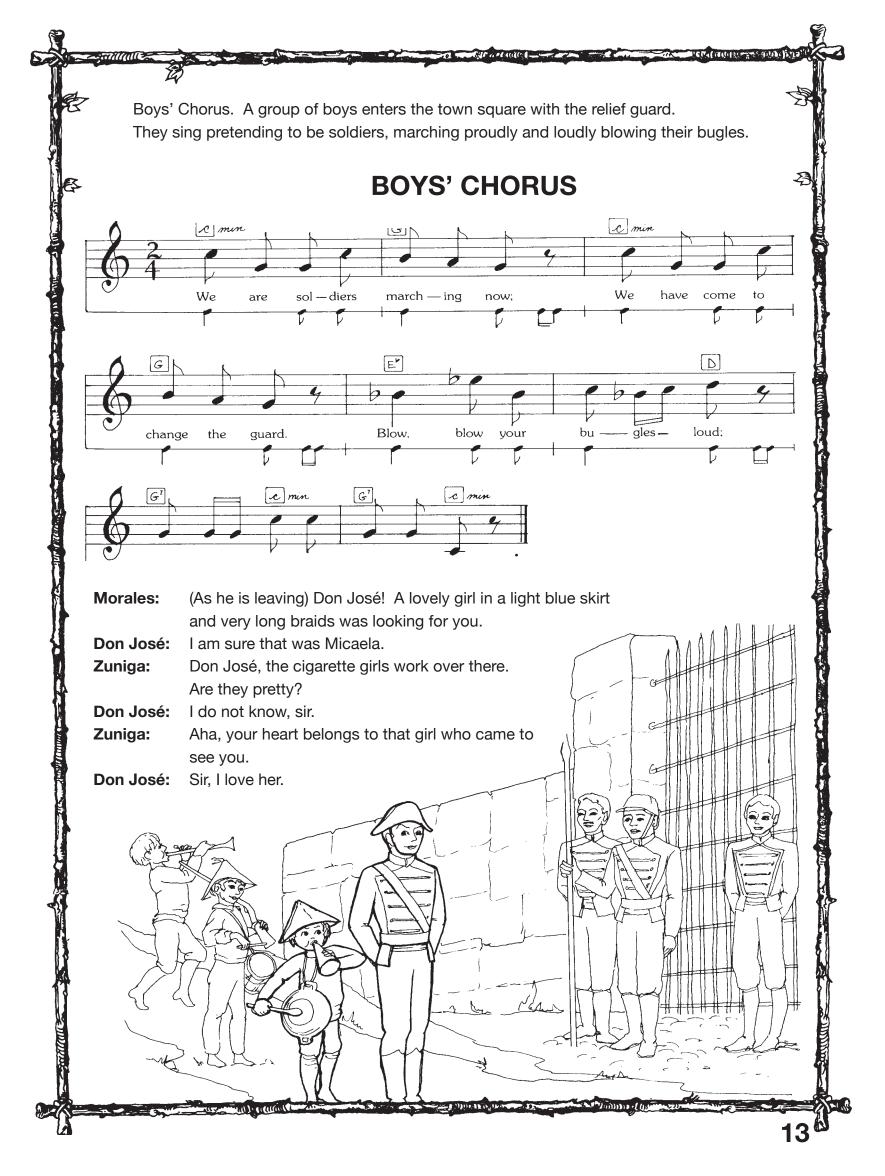
Morales: Stay and visit with us.

Micaela: No, no... thank you... I must go!

(She runs off downstage right.)

of chart the land of the control of

Captain Zuniga and Don José enter (upstage right) leading the relief sentries to the guardhouse. (Others exit upstage right.)



HABANERA

Slaves brought this song and dance from Africa to Cuba. From Cuba, it was imported to Spain. In Act I of the opera, Carmen sings and dances the Habanera to fascinate Don José.



Micaela: (Enters from downstage right.) José!

Don José: Micaela!

Micaela: I bring a letter from your mother, also some money... and a kiss from her.

(Micaela kisses Don José's forehead.) First read the letter. (She exits.)

After Don José reads the letter, loud, excited voices come from the factory. Zuniga appears (stage left) followed by the sentries.

Zuniga: What is going on? Go find out.

Don José and the two soldiers go into the factory and return holding Carmen by the arm.

Don José: Sir, it was a quarrel. **Zuniga:** What have you to say?

Carmen: Nothing.

Zuniga: All right, sing your secret to the prison walls.

The soldiers tie Carmen's hands. Zuniga exits to get the imprisonment order. Alone, Don José guards Carmen.

Carmen: Where will you take me?

Don José: To prison.

Carmen: Oh no you won't! That enchanted flower I gave you is working

well. I love you.

Don José: Stop talking to me.

Carmen: I am going to see my friend, Lillas Pastia, in Seville. If you

love me, you can meet me there...

Don José: Carmen? If I did love you, would you love me back? **Carmen:** Yes, yes... (Don José starts to loosen the ropes from

Carmen's hands.)

Zuniga re-enters (upstage right).

Zuniga: Here is the order. Keep her well guarded.

Carmen: (Whispers to Don José) Let me knock you over, then leave the

rest to me.

(Carmen, Don José, and two soldiers cross from left to right center, then up to the bridge. At the bridge, Carmen pushes Don José. He falls. Carmen escapes laughing loudly. The soldiers run after her.)

ACT II

Setting: The tavern of Lillas Pastia. Two months later. Carmen and her two Gypsy friends, Morales and Zuniga, are there. Gypsy men are strumming guitars and Gypsy women are dancing. Carmen sits at a table watching the dancing. Zuniga tries to speak to her.

Zuniga: Carmen, Don José is out of prison.Voices Outside: (Everyone sings, "Toreador's Song")

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Salina Se State Charles And Advantagement

TOREADOR'S SONG

This is the chorus of the theme song for Escamillo. Percussion rhythm for drums, tambourines, hands, etc., is indicated by the line of small notes beneath the words to the songs. It can be used as an accompaniment to the melody.



Voices Outside: Hurrah Toreador! Hurrah Escamillo!

Zuniga: (Looking out.) It's a torchlight parade for Escamillo,

the winner of the Granada bullfight.

Escamillo enters (upstage center) with his friends and sits at a table.

All: Hurrah Toreador! Hurrah Escamillo!

Zuniga: A toast to your triumph, sir.

(Carmen pours wine and all drink.)

Escamillo: I return your toast. (They all drink and Escamillo and his

friends start to leave. He turns to Carmen.) What is your name?

Carmen: Carmen or Carmencita, it is the same.Escamillo: I won't forget. (He leaves with the others.)

(Carmen, her friends, and two smugglers crowd around the table.)

Dancairo: We have an idea for a business deal.

Carmen,

Frasquita and

Mercedes: Is it a good one? Tell us.

Dancairo: Yes, and we have need of you. For when it comes to cheating and thievery,

it is always good to have beautiful women with you. Come help us.

Frasquita and

Mercedes: Okay, whenever you would like.

Dancairo: Right away!

Carmen: If it pleases you to leave, leave! But, I am not leaving.

I must wait for Don José. I am in love!

Dancairo: Are you sure he will come? (There is a knock on the door.)

Carmen: Listen... he is here.

Don José enters. (upstage center) The two Gypsy girls and the smugglers leave.

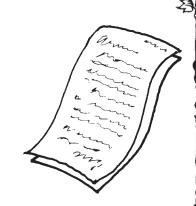
Carmen: It is you at last.

Don José: Yes.

Carmen: Your officers were here. We danced for them.

Sit down, I'll dance for you.

Carmen dances, humming a tune and working her castanets. A bugle sounds in the distance.





Don José: Carmen... the bugle... I must go to my quarters.

Carmen: To your quarters... I must be stupid spending my time with you.

(She throws his cap and sword at him.) Go back to the barracks.

Don José: I do love you. See, I still have the flower you gave me. **Carmen:** If you really loved me, you would take me away to the

mountains, where we both could be free.

There is a knock on the door and Captain Zuniga enters. (upstage center)

Zuniga: (To Don José) ... On your way soldier.

Don José: I will not go.

Zuniga: What? (He strikes Don José.) You dog!

Don José: (Pulling out his sword) You are asking for trouble.

Carmen: (Pushing between the two) Help, help!

The Gypsies and smugglers return; they disarm Zuniga and lead him away.

(upstage center)

Carmen: Are you one of us now? **Don José:** I have no other choice.

ACT III

Setting: The mountain camp of the smugglers. (Carmen, her friends, and the smugglers wait in the darkness of the night for a chance to slip past the coast guards with their contraband goods. Dancairo and Remendado leave to see if the way is clear. Don José stands apart (stage left) looking down over the rocks.

Carmen: What are you looking at?

Don José: Down there is a woman who thinks I'm honest.

Carmen: What woman is that?

Don José: My mother.

Carmen: You make me sick. Go back to your mother.

Don José: (In a rage) Do not say that again. We will never separate.

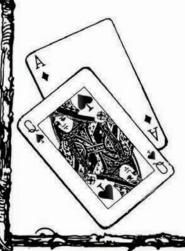
(Carmen turns her back on Don José and sits down with her two friends who are telling their fortunes with cards. Don José lies down beside them.)

Frasquita: Shuffle the cards... let them speak.

Mercedes: They tell of the future. Give us some news...Who will betray

us! Who will love us!

Frasquita: Me, I see love... Love without ending.



Mercedes: Mine, I see wealth... Gold, diamonds, and gems. He is wealthy but old.

Marriage then death. His fortune is mine.

Carmen: Give me those cards! Let me take my turn. (She shuffles the

cards.) Diamond! Spade! Death... oh no... Me at first and then him...

For both of us, Death! It is useless to escape one's fate. No matter how often

you shuffle, the pitiless card will repeat...

Frasquita and

Mercedes: Again and again... Love! Fortune! (They say together.)

Carmen: Death! Death! Again and again death! Always death!

(Dancairo and Remendado return.)

Dancairo: The way is clear.

Remendado: Be careful.

(The smugglers file out leaving Don José posted behind a rock.

There is the sound of a rock falling.)

Don José: Who is it?

(Escamillo enters.)

Escamillo: I am Escamillo, toreador of Granada. I am looking for Carmen,

the Gypsy girl I love. She once loved a soldier. I hear she is tired of him.

Don José: To take her away you must pay a price. Fight me.

Escamillo: So... You are the soldier... Let's get on with it.

(Escamillo and Don José start fighting with knives. The others return.

Carmen throws herself between them and grabs Don José's arm.)

Dancairo: (Takes Escamillo's arm.) Enough. You (to Escamillo) must go!

Escamillo: Before I go, I wish to invite everyone to the bullfight in Seville.

(Looking at Carmen) Whoever loves me will come.

(Don José lunges at Escamillo. The smugglers hold him back and Escamillo leaves.)

Don José: I warn you Carmen, do not torture me.







Micaela's Air Aria

(Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante)

Don José's mother sends Micaela to the mountains to find him. She sees Don José with the smugglers and hides in fear. Micaela sings this aria asking for God to hear her prayer to protect her and give her courage.



Remendado: (Sees something behind a rock... goes over, and brings back Micaela.)

Look who I found.

Don José:

Micaela... you must leave. Go back.

Micaela:

Come home with me, José. Your mother grieves.

Carmen:

Go on, go on. It is better this way. You never did belong to us.

Don José:

So you want me to leave you.

Carmen:

Yes, you had better go.

Micaela:

Please José... your mother is dying.

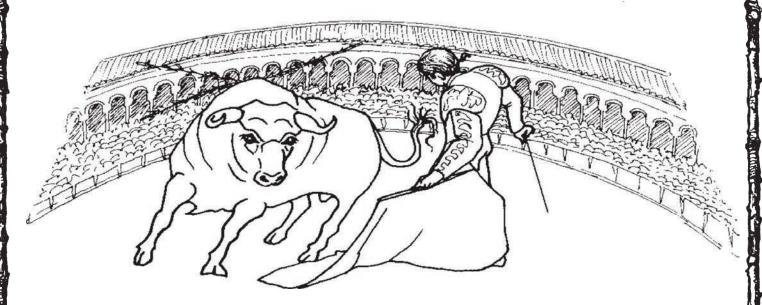
Don José:

Oh no! Yes, I shall go with you. (To Carmen) But, I shall be back.

You are mine! I will never let you go. (Don José and Micaela leave.)

ACT IV

Setting: Seville, on the day of the bullfight... outside the arena. Townspeople are walking and talking in small groups. Escamillo enters with the beautiful Carmen dressed in clothes that only a successful bullfighter could afford. Frasquita and Mercedes draw her aside.



Frasquita: Carmen, don't stay here.

Carmen: Why?

Mercedes: Don José. He is here, hiding in the crowd. (Don José appears stage left.)

Carmen: (Notices Don José)... Yes, I see him. I shall talk to him.

Frasquita and

Mercedes: Please be careful. (They say together.)

(Don José crosses towards Carmen, looking haggard and unkempt. He is a pitiable contrast to Carmen.)

Don José: Carmen, I forgive you. I love you. Let us start over again.

Carmen: I no longer love you.

Don José: (Grabbing her arm) Please... please... Carmen, do not leave me.

Carmen: (Pulling away from him) I was born free, and I shall die free.

(Carmen walks toward the arena. The crowd is cheering Escamillo.)

Don José: (Maddened by the cheers for his rival, Don José stops Carmen and

turns her around to face him.) Do not go to the bullfight. Come with me.

Carmen: No, no, never. Here is your ring. (She pulls off the ring and throws it at him.)

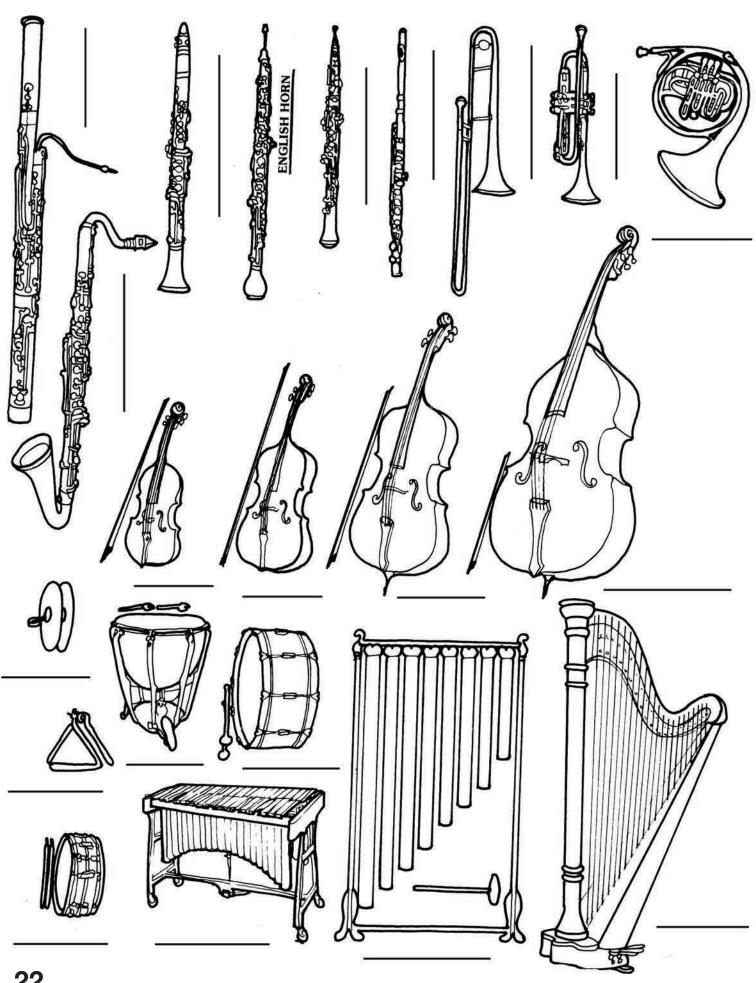
(Carmen starts to run away, but Don José catches her and stabs her with his knife.

Carmen slowly falls. Don José falls on his knees next to Carmen and puts his head in his hands.)

Don José: (In a very sad voice.) Carmen... Speak to me, my adored Carmen ...

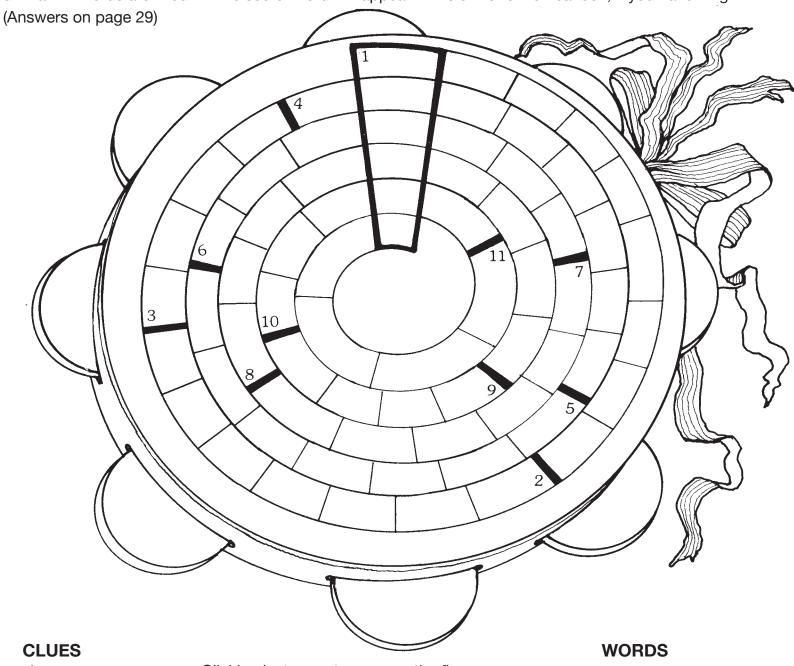
THE ORCHESTRA

An orchestra is comprised of musicians playing instruments to accompany the singers on stage. It contains sections of string, brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments. Identify the instruments below. We started for you and identified the "English Horn". (Answers on page 28)



PUZZLE IN THE ROUND FIND THE SECRET WORD

To solve the puzzle, first match each clue on the left with the proper words on the right. Then write the correct word on the lines numbered 1 thru 11. Begin with word 1 and fill in the puzzle starting at position 1. Continue until all 11 words are filled in. The secret word will appear in the six letter vertical box, if you have it right.



| CLUES | | WORDS |
|-------|--|-------|
| 1 | Clicking instruments worn on the fingers | |

| 1 | Ulicking instruments worn on the fingers used in Spanish dances. |
|---|--|
| 2 | City in Spain where opera takes place |
| 3 | Number of acts in this opera |
| 4 | Spanish dance |
| 5 | Don José's job; another word for dragoon |
| 6 | High singing voice of a woman |
| 7 | Carmen threw this to Don José |
| 8 | Name of the toreador |
| 9 | Lowest singing voice of a man |
| | |

10. _____ Composer of the opera Carmen 11. _____ Country where opera takes place

| Escamillo |
|-----------|
| Bass |
| Bizet |
| Soprano |
| Four |
| Spain |
| Castanets |
| Flower |
| Seville |
| Soldier |

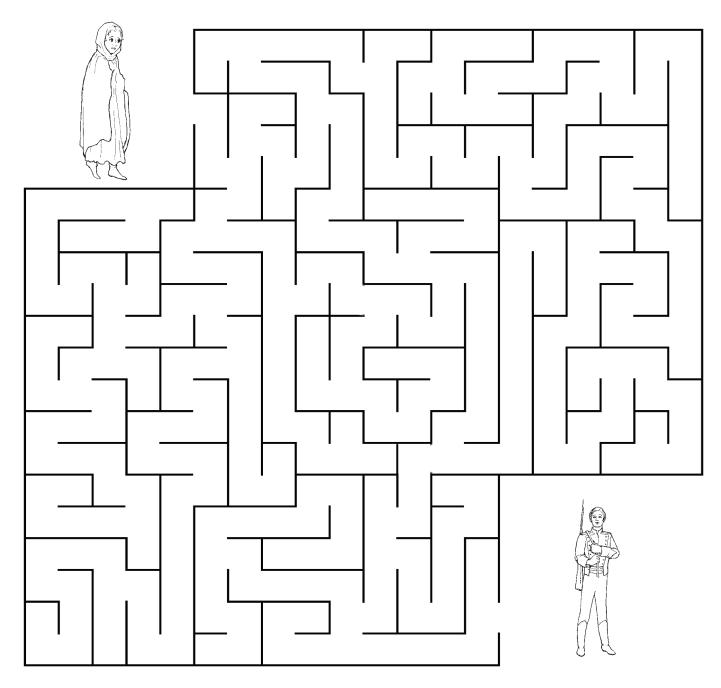
Habanera

MICAELA'S MAZE TO THE GYPSY CAMP

Micaela was asked by Don José's mother to go to the mountains to find and bring him home. Don José was with Carmen in the Gypsies' camp. The term "Gypsy" often refers to people who do not have a permanent home. They originated in India nearly one thousand years ago. From there the Gypsies wandered to Persia, Greece, Egypt and eventually to Europe. By 1447, they had settled in Spain where they became know as Gitanos. They speak a form of Spanish called Caló. Much of Spanish music and dance has been influenced by the Gitanos. They are often credited with having created the Flamenco dance.

In the opera *Carmen*, the Gypsies are portrayed as fighters and smugglers. But it is wrong to think that all Gypsies live that way. Their lifestyle may be different from ours, but they are people with a romantic history of being happy and free and have close-knit families. Today, they are found almost all over the world and live much like we do.

Micaela showed great courage in going alone to the Gypsy camp. Help her find Don José, by following the path through the mountains. (Answer on page 29)



CARMEN WORD SEARCH

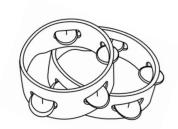
The following words may be found in the puzzle. The names read forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally. They are always in a straight line and never skip letters. We have started you off by circling CARMEN. (Answers on page 29)

CARMEN **BIZET MEZZO-SOPRANO** SEVILLE **MICAELA** DRAGOON **TOREADOR SMUGGLER GYPSY ESCAMILLO** DON JOSÉ **HABANERA CASTANET TAMBOURINE** TJMJWLYSSDPFUP DOVESONETORP OBRM(CARMEN)AT NMJEEMMAZJIUME AVAOASBNIOSHUR RTNEHDCDBSEOGFO PENNYNOAAEULGLO ONEILGCRMVLYLAG SATRRDEYMICAELA OTYUUNRMBLLORAR ZSGOACENTLYLIMD ZAMBOURINEOMOBR ECAMESAELPLOVE MHAADHELPUCHEAP YPOTYSPYGCHGBMB

25

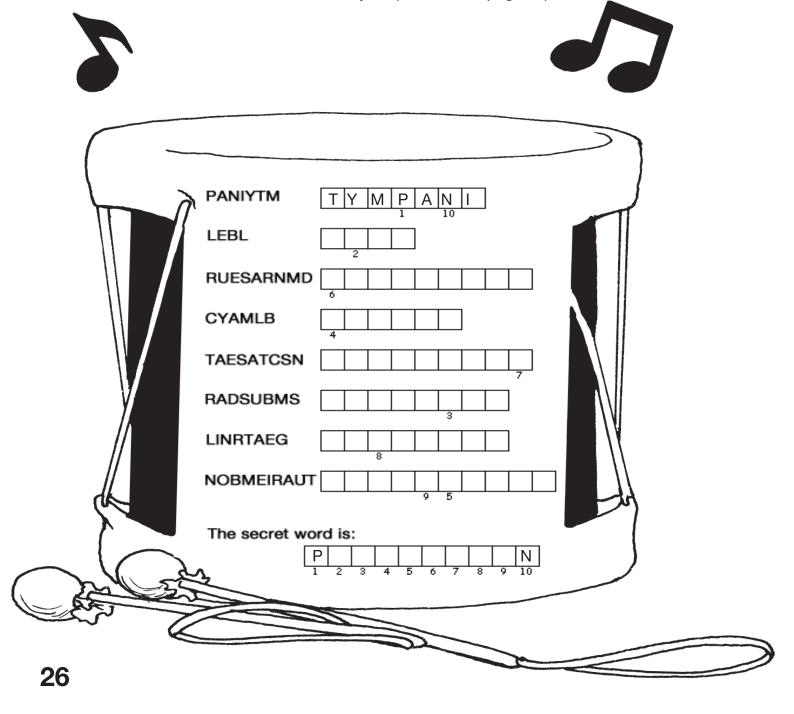
PERCUSSION

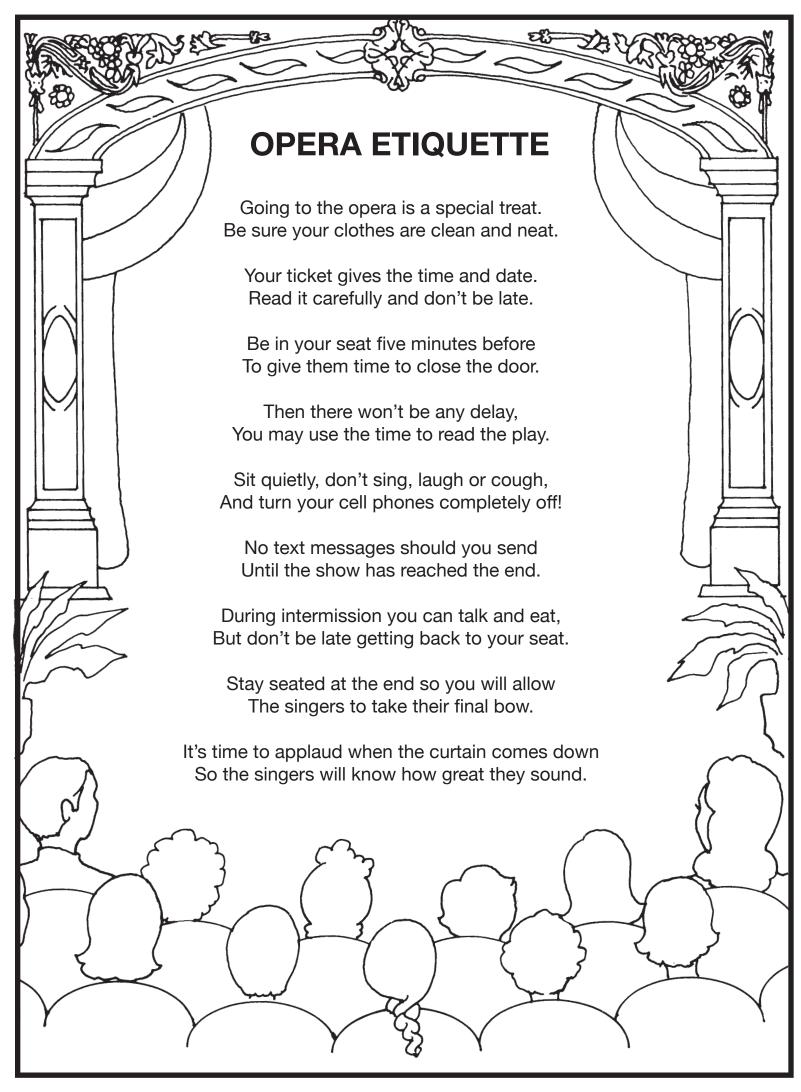
Percussion instruments are played by being struck or shaken. They are the oldest instruments in the world. Your hands and your feet are types of percussion instruments that you can use anytime. With your hands, you can clap and snap your fingers. With your with your feet, you can tap or stomp. The **percussion** section is often called "the kitchen" because of its variety of instruments.



Bizet was a genius in conveying situations, personalities and feelings with his music. In *Carmen*, he does this very effectively with percussion. **Snare drums** signal the changing of the guard. A **bell** is rung to tell the factory workers to come back to work. When Carmen sings the "Habanera", she accompanies herself with **castanets**. Members of the Gypsy camp play **tambourines** and dance. In *Carmen's* "Fate Theme", two short raps on the **tympani** predict the tragedy to come. Other instruments used to express emotions include the **cymbal**, **bass drum** and **triangle**.

A list of percussion instruments are in the puzzle below. Unscramble each of the clue words. Then find the secret word by copying the letters in the numbered cells to cells on the last line with the same number. We did the first one for you. (Answers on page 29)





SOLUTIONS

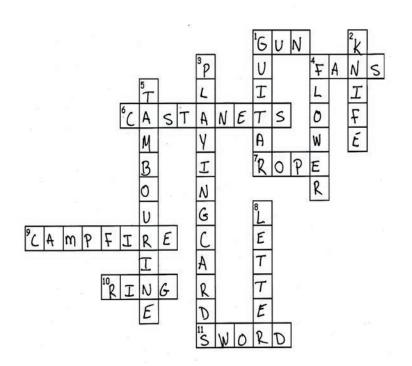
COUNTRIES - Page 2



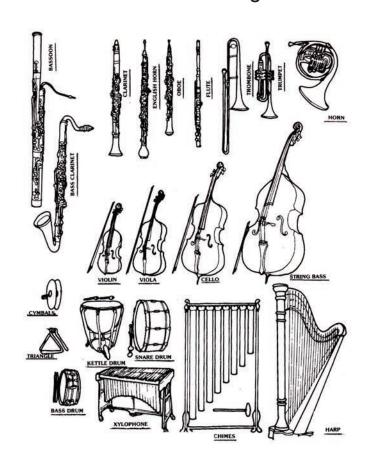
HIDDEN INSTRUMENTS - Page 6



CARMEN CROSSWORD- Page 10

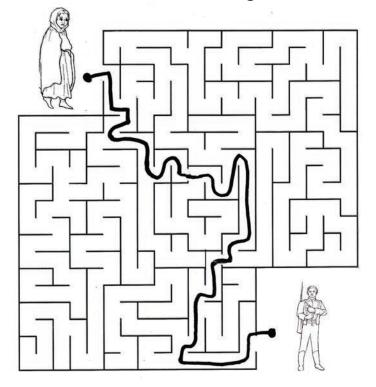


ORCHESTRA- Page 22



SOLUTIONS continued

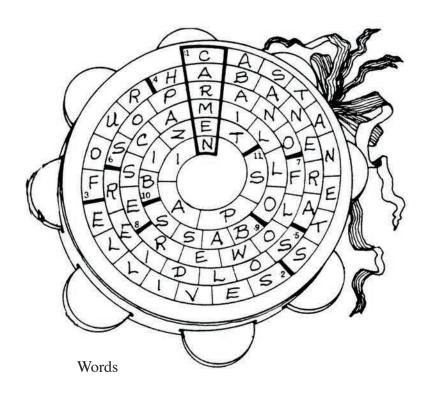
Micaela's Maze - Page 24



WORD SEARCH - Page 25



PUZZLE AROUND - Page 23



Castanets
 Seville
 Escamillo
 Four
 Bass
 Habanera
 Soldier
 Soprano
 ARMEN

PERCUSSION CHALLENGE - Page 26

