



## The Snow Queen

### Sheet 7: musical exercises - the garden of *the Snow Queen*

In *Die Schneekönigin*, Gerda encounters a flower girl on her journey, who has a colorful garden. In this garden grow roses, elderberry bushes, snowdrops and mimosas, all of which have their own fairy tale. The flower girl has always wanted a little friend like Gerda and would like to persuade Gerda to stay with her.

#### The choir of mimosas

The mimosa choir sings the fairy tale 'The Princess on the Pea', also by Hans Christian Andersen. Here is a part of the libretto:

'Do not touch us,  
deep inside us,  
there is a delicate princess.  
Her sleep is disturbed  
Because the pea presses  
Now the prince obsesses  
With having her as wife.  
How good is to feel so tender!'

Tip for teachers:

Read the fairy tale "The Princess and the Pea" with your class. The fairy tale is about a young girl who feels a small pea through many layers of mattresses and thereby proves to be a true princess.

Mimosas are also very sensitive plants, which are wonderful for experiments. Have your students carefully touch the tender leaves with a wooden stick. What happens? Likewise, the plant will react with temperature or draft change. At the end of the school year, the students can take their plant home with them. At home, you will find that the mimosa goes to sleep and only in the morning unfolds its leaves again. If you take good care of the mimosa, it will live forever!



## Activity 6: Music and nature - Inventing your own sounds

In the fairy tale of the Snow Queen, Gerda experiences all four seasons. This is typical for romantic fairytales, as nature and its different seasons symbolize different emotional worlds.

In order to explain to the children how the composition process of a new opera works, Gerda's search for Kay can be reconstructed in an independently developed sound journey.

After reading the story, the pupils are given the task of devising their own music for the individual stations of Gerda's journey. What is the atmosphere at each location? Which instruments could fit the respective locations? In small groups, the pupils are given the task of developing a common sound for the respective place or the journey to the place. In addition, individual sections of the trip, such as the carriage ride or the ride on the reindeer to Lapland, can be transformed into sounds.

The following sections of the journey are recommended for a setting:

- Flight and crash of the trolls with the magic devil mirror
- Sleigh Ride (Kay tries to get on the sleigh of the Snow Queen)
- Gerda's Boat trip and beginning of spring in the garden of the flower girl
- Carriage ride with the trolls, stopping the carriage and shooting of the robber girl
- Ride on the reindeer Bäh to Lapland, blizzard
- World of the Snow Queen / Ice Palace

