



NAME _____ DATE _____

The Cat and the Mouse COPLAND "The Cat and the Mouse"

WRITE YOUR OWN STORY



"The Cat and the Mouse" was one of the earliest pieces of music written by well-known American composer Aaron Copland. In fact, it was the very first piece of music he ever published! Buddy tells us how old Aaron Copland was when he wrote this piece—do you remember his age? _____

Have you ever watched the cartoon "Tom and Jerry?" In this piece of music, the composer makes the piano sound like a cartoon chase between a cat and a mouse. It's as if you're watching the cartoon with your ears! He does this in a few different ways. Let's figure out what they are! You will then write your own story of a cat, a mouse, and the chase using all information you gathered from the music.

WHAT DO YOU HEAR?

Use the music to answer these questions below.

Where do you think the cat and the mouse are? In the house, in a barn, or maybe outside?

Is the cat lazy or sneaky? What do you think it looks like? Is it a kitten or a full-grown cat? Does it have a name?

What does the mouse look like? Is it very fast and energetic, or scared and hiding? Does it have a name?



What are the cat and the mouse doing before they see each other? Who do you think started the chase?

Why does the cat start chasing the mouse?

Based on the music, how do you think it ends? Why?

TIME TO WRITE!

Now it's your turn to tell the story of the cat, the mouse, and the chase! Think about how you described the cat and the mouse and the setting of the story. Using your imagination and your answers from the above, write a short story with:

- A clear beginning, including an introduction to the characters and setting,
- A middle section describing the action of the story,
- And an ending, telling how any conflict is resolved.



CLIBURN KIDS

A series of 20 horizontal lines for writing.