

LEVEL

7

Upper
Intermediate

Compass
Readers

Hunting for Stravinsky

Written by Mary Hertz Scarbrough

Illustrated by Craig Orback



Free Download

★ Contents ★

	Bicycles and Brains	4
	Preschool Performance	8
	Moving Fast	12
	Storm Clouds	16
	Flash Flood	22
	Flash Mob to the Rescue	26
	Glossary	32

Bicycles and Brains

Gabe showed up right on time at 8 a.m. He smelled the air. “Banana bread?” my best friend asked.

I handed him a piece of banana bread and finished mine.

“Your mom always makes my favorite things,” Gabe said.

Mom stuck her head out of her bedroom. She said, “I aim to please, Gabe! How exciting! The **finals** of the Stravinsky **Scavenger Hunt!** You boys should be proud of yourselves for making it so far. Good luck! Call me!”

“We will! See you!” I said. We left the house.

Her voice followed us. “Remember, David, look before you leap!”

That was my Mom’s usual advice because I did sometimes act first and think later.





Outside, the air was cool, but the sun warmed the back of my neck as we rode to the library. Today was the last day of the kids' scavenger hunt. The contest had started with about twenty **teams**, but now it was down to two teams. Gabe and I knew we would have to work hard to beat the other team, a brother and sister named Jackson and Jasmine. A crowd of twenty or thirty people was already at the library. A few were reporters.

Mayor Martinez wasted no time. "Welcome to the final day of our Stravinsky Scavenger Hunt! As you know, this is the last in a number of scavenger hunts honoring a different composer every month. These hunts are all leading up to one event, the opening of our new **concert** hall, which will have its first concert this weekend!

"This final scavenger hunt is special. Not only do all the **clues** focus on Igor Stravinsky, one of my favorite composers, it's also the only hunt that has been just for children. One of these **teams** will receive a prize and money for their college education," she explained. Then she introduced Jackson, Jasmine, Gabe, and me.

She said to the four of us, "Now remember, you may only use your bicycles and your brains. No cell phones, no rides, no money to pay for anything. Good luck!" the mayor said.

Preschool Performance

The mayor's helper handed Gabe an envelope with our first clue. Gabe tore it open. I looked over his shoulder and read aloud: "Stravinsky saw a famous Tchaikovsky ballet when he was a boy. This ballet is based on a **fairy tale**. Figure out what the fairy tale is. Then go tell it to children at the Little Learners **Preschool**."

Gabe, Jackson, Jasmine, and I hurried inside the library at the same time.

I found the answer within seconds of getting on a computer. "It's got to be *Sleeping Beauty*," I said.

"Let's check to make sure it's the right answer," Gabe said. "We don't need another **Star Spangled Banner** situation."

"No need to remind me," I said.

We almost lost in the last round because I was sure that Stravinsky had been arrested for his arrangement of the *Star Spangled Banner*. The story was untrue, although it had been repeated many times. Our wrong answer had slowed us down, and we had barely made it into the finals.

