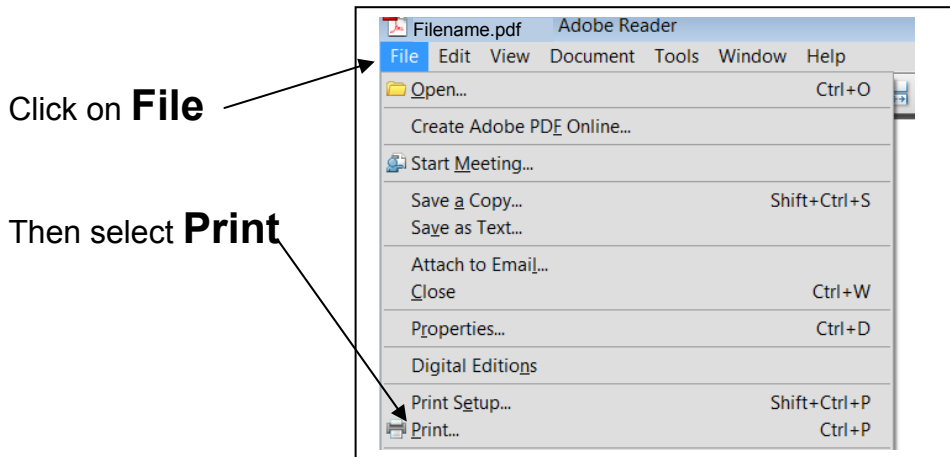


Printing Instructions when printing from Adobe Acrobat Reader.



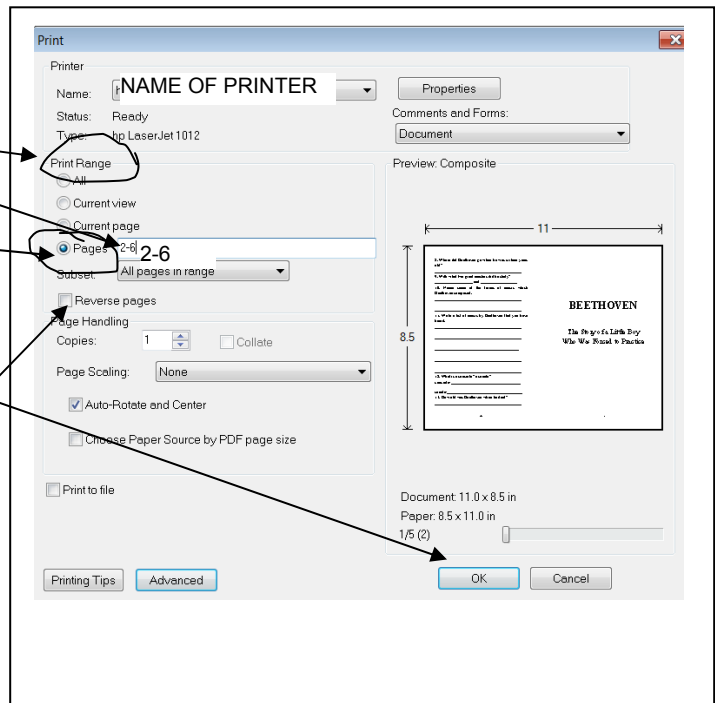
The print dialogue box will appear.

Under **Print Range**

Check the **Pages** button and type in **2-6**,

Click on the **OK** button.

Return the printed pages to the paper tray (refer to your printer specifications to insert paper face up or face down when printing double-sided). Repeat the steps above **EXCEPT** this time you will print pages **7-11** AND you must check the box to **Reverse pages**.



Your pages should come out of the printer ready to be folded in half and secured with three staples on the left margin.

All printers are different and this is a general guideline. You may need to experiment to desired end result.



Frederic François Chopin

Frederic François Chopin

The Story of the Boy Who
Made Beautiful Melodies

This book was made by

8. What led Chopin to want to leave Paris?

9. Why did he change his mind and remain there?

10. What great German composer discovered Chopin to be a genius?

11. What famous river flows by the City of Warsaw?

12. Name some of the kinds of music that Chopin composed?

13. What music by Chopin have you heard?

Frederic François Chopin

The Story of the Boy Who
Made Beautiful Melodies

As long as we live and keep in touch with the works of the great composers we shall love more and more the music of Frederic François Chopin.

It will be pleasant to learn from time to time something about him. We should like, for example, to know:

In what country he was born.

In what places he lived.

What kinds of music he composed.

Chopin was born on March 1st, 1810 in a little village in Poland not far from the City of Warsaw, beside which flows the famous river Vistula.

Chopin's father, a Frenchman by birth, was a schoolmaster. The boy's mother was a native of Poland. From the time when he was a little boy, the future great composer loved his mother's country and the people just as much as he loved the dear mother herself.

The father knew that his little son was musical, so he took the greatest care to have him taught by the best teachers.

Read the following facts about Chopin. Then, using your own words, write a story about him on pages 13 and 14.

1. Frederic François Chopin was born in Poland.
2. His birthday was March 1st, 1810.
3. Most of his life was spent in Warsaw and Paris.
4. His father was French; his mother Polish.
5. At the age of nine he made his first public appearance as a pianist.
6. Many distinguished people including Liszt, Berlioz, Meyerbeer, and Heine welcomed him to Paris.
7. His first weeks in Paris were discouraging; his first concert poorly attended. He wanted to return to Poland.
8. His friends urged him to remain in Paris.
9. Chopin was described as one who spoke little, especially among strangers.
10. Some of the music forms which he wrote are the nocturne, waltz, mazurka, impromptu, concerto, polonaise, and etude.
11. Schumann was one of the first to declare Chopin a genius.
12. Chopin worked hard but was in ill health in his last years.
13. Chopin once went to England and Scotland.
14. Chopin was very fond of Bach and urged his pupils to practice Bach pieces every day for the mental drill as well as the drill for the fingers.

These he had played in public to the great delight of all who heard him, but especially of his countrymen.

You see, Chopin's going to Paris was a strange journey. The boy was leaving his mother's country and going to the land of his father. Like Joseph Haydn, who went away at the age of six, Chopin never lived at home again.

But he did not reach Paris a stranger. The world of music had heard of him and some of its great ones welcomed his coming.

Let us always think of these men who knew each other well as a family.



LISZT



BERLIOZ



MEYERBEER



HEINE



CHOPIN

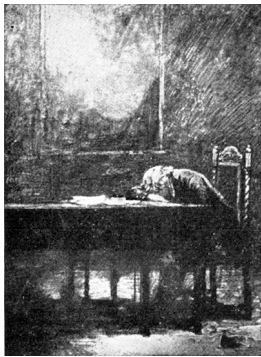
Liszt was a great pianist.

Berlioz was a famous composer for the orchestra.

Meyerbeer was best known as an operatic composer.

This led him to travel to many places away from Paris for his health.

Chopin was devoted to Poland, the beloved land of his birth. Here is a picture of the great composer who has fallen asleep at the keyboard quite possibly dreaming of a glorious future for Poland.



CHOPIN SLEEPING AT THE PIANO

Once he went to England and to Scotland. He played in London and was highly praised for the beautiful way he performed his own music.

While it is true that Chopin was ill in the last years of his life, we must notice that he kept right on with his work. He played and composed just as he always had done. Chopin died in Paris, October 17th, 1849.

people were present at his first concert and for quite a while he had no pupils.

Indeed, it was all so discouraging that he made up his mind to return to his beloved Poland.

His friend, Franz Liszt, begged him not to go. Others, too, urged him to stay in Paris. One friend, who met him in the street as he was about to leave, advised him as did the others to stay in Paris.

But no, he was going home.

"But," said this friend, "first come with me to visit a true lover of music."

So Chopin went with him to the house of Baron Rothschild. Here he played, he so charmed the company with his music that many of them begged him for the privilege of lessons.

And so, all in a moment, his troubles blew away, as troubles often do.

Do you wonder what kind of a man the little Polish boy became after he found success in Paris?

One person said about him:

"Chopin talks little, and rarely about music.

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Chopin Quiz



Frederic François Chopin

Born

Died

1. In what country was Chopin born?

2. In what two great cities did he live?

3. In what year was Chopin born?

4. When did Chopin first appear in public?

5. What two works had he already composed when he set out for Paris?

6. Who were some of the people who welcomed Chopin to Paris?

7. Name some of the great cities in which he played.

Heine was a great poet whose verses were set to music by many song composers.

Berlioz was the only one of the group who was born in France.

During his boyhood Chopin played frequently in public, journeying to some of the great cities of Europe, among them Vienna, Berlin, and Munich.

Therefore, when he played in Paris it was as an artist. Here, as at home, he charmed everyone by the beauty of his music and the loveliness of his touch.

He possessed the true piano hand. It was somewhat narrow. The fingers were long and tapering. It seemed at once strong and vigorous, yet delicate and sensitive.

Indeed, Chopin's music is of just these qualities. It is strong in its nobility, delicate in its sentiment.

One would think that to arrive in Paris and to be welcomed by the great ones would make everything easy.

But it was not so for Chopin. Only a few

THE END

Turn the page to review interesting facts about Chopin and complete two fun activities.

But when he does speak of music one must listen to him."

Another said:

"He is reserved and quiet, especially among strangers, but among his friends he is witty and full of sly humor."

But his thoughts were not for words, they did not weave the pretty phrases of idle talk. They were busy making nocturnes, waltzes, mazurkas, impromptus and many other kinds of music that we shall learn to love as we hear them.

Music was Chopin's true speech. The world soon learned to love what he said in it. And it always will love it.

See how beautifully he wrote his music.



CHOPIN'S AUTOGRAPH

There was neither telephone nor telegraph in those days. Yet it did not take long for another composer, Robert Schumann, who lived far away in Germany, to learn that a genius by the name of Chopin lived in Paris.

The post carried to Schumann a copy of Chopin's first printed music. This was a theme taken from Mozart's Opera *Don Juan*, which Chopin arranged with variations for the piano.

When Schumann played it to his friends everyone exclaimed: "How beautiful it is!"

Then someone said:

"Chopin—I never heard the name. Who can he be?"

So we see that his thoughts printed as music flew like winged messengers to carry news of him to others in distant places. And people not merely asked: "Who can he be?" but they found out who he was, and kept passing the news on and on until finally it has reached us!

Chopin was never a robust person, though he was well and busy most of his life. But in the last years he suffered from illness.

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