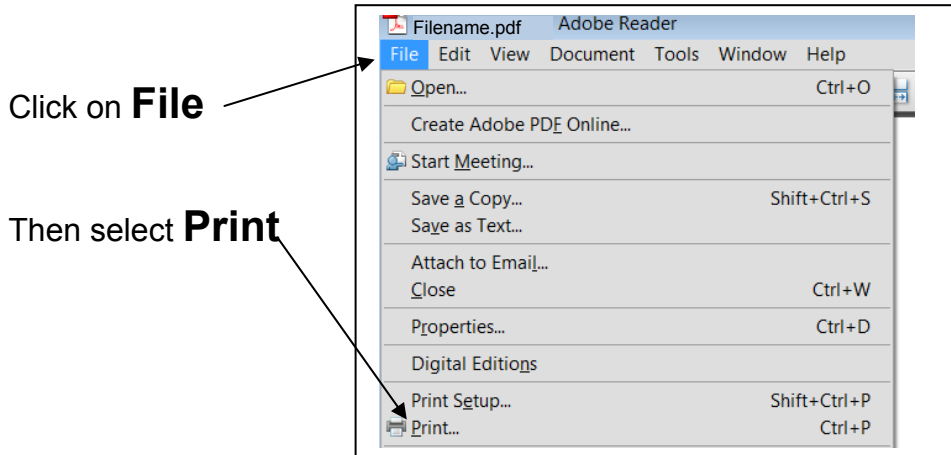


Printing Instructions when printing from Adobe Acrobat Reader.



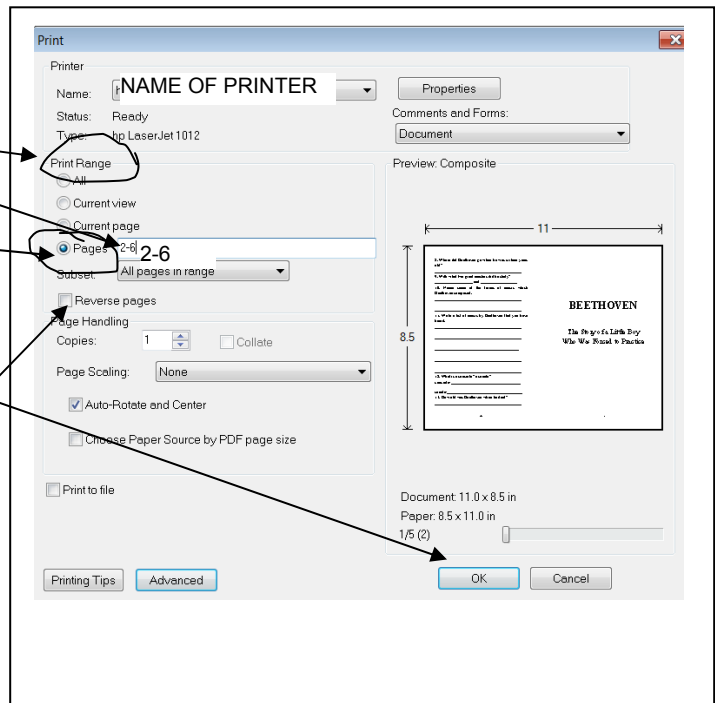
The print dialogue box will appear.

Under **Print Range**

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

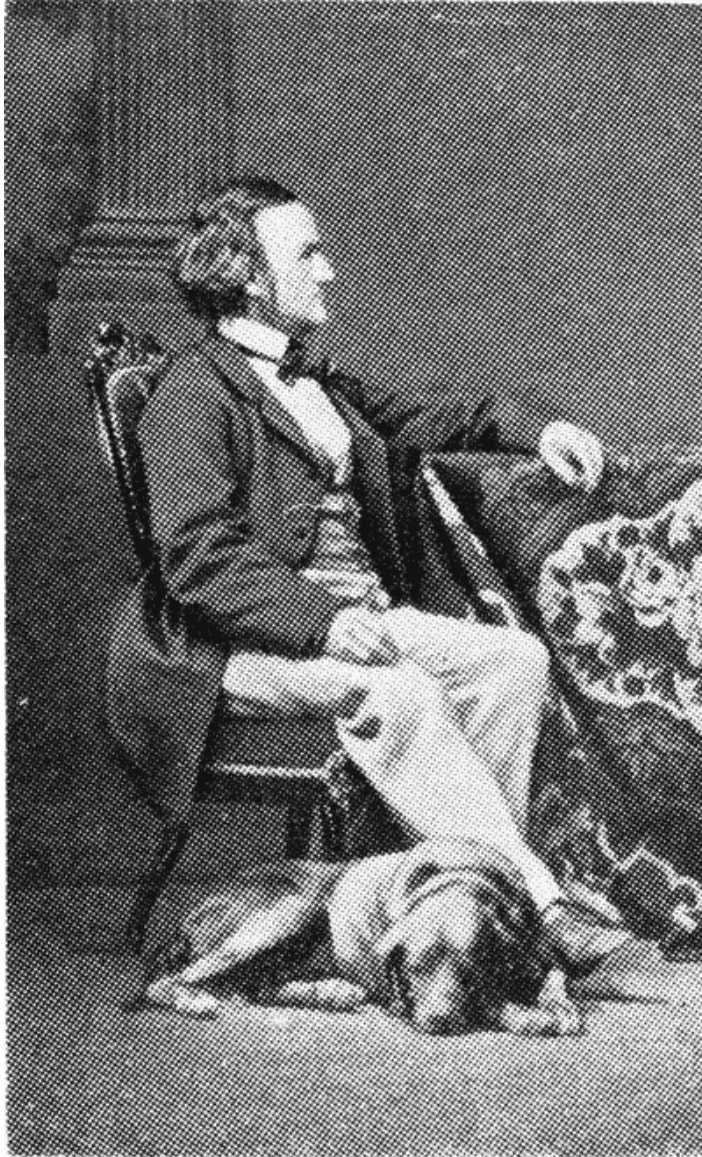
Click on the **OK** button.

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.



WAGNER AND HIS DOG.

RICHARD WAGNER

The Story of the Boy
Who Wrote Little Plays

This book was made by

7. What happened to Beckmesser in the contest with Walter?

8. What sort of characters occur in the operas written by Wagner?

9. What is the name of the house in which Richard Wagner was born?

10. Tell some of the things Wagner did when he was a boy.

11. Who composed *Oberon*?

15. What other opera did this composer write?

16. When and where did Wagner die.

RICHARD WAGNER

The Story of the Boy Who Wrote Little Plays

A very odd house used to stand in the quaint old Saxon City of Leipzig. This house was called the Red and White Lion. I suppose no one ever really saw a lion that was red and white, but nevertheless that was the name of the house. It was in this house that Richard Wagner was born on May 22nd, 1813.



WAGNER'S BIRTHPLACE

Since that time, music has changed a great deal. When Wagner was born, much of the music that was being written had to follow certain patterns or models just as architects follow certain patterns in building a house. Now composers feel a great deal freer because they know that they can make their own style of music. Wagner helped to set music free from the old barriers. This does not mean that music

Read these facts about Richard Wagner. Then, using your own words, write a story about him on pages 13 and 14.

1. Richard Wagner was born on May 22nd, 1813.
2. Wagner composed operas.
3. His operas are full of wonderful characters such as gods and goddesses, giants, and other strange beings.
4. As a boy Richard Wagner went to a classical school.
5. He was always fond of music.
6. He could translate Greek when he was only thirteen years old.
7. Even as a little boy he said: "I intend to become a poet."
8. He wrote plays and he read the plays of Shakespeare in English.
9. As a boy he studied the piano and was fond of the music of von Weber.
10. Among the books that Richard Wagner read as a boy were the story of *Die Meistersinger* and the story of *Tannhäuser*.
11. When he became a composer he wrote an opera upon each of these stories.
12. Richard Wagner loved animals.
13. Richard Wagner died at Venice on Feb. 13th, 1883.

any talent for music until he was almost a man. All that he thought of was writing plays. When he did study, he was so bright and worked so hard that he learned in less than a year more than many learn in a lifetime. Here is a picture of Wagner's mother, who cared for him so tenderly.



WAGNER'S MOTHER

When we read the stories of Charles Dickens we make many friends. There is Little Nell, Paul Dombey, Sam Weller, Oliver Twist, and a host of others.

Writers like Dickens bring all sorts of people before us. *But few composers can do such a thing.*

Yet there are some who do this, and one of the greatest is Richard Wagner. In his operas there are people as real and as interesting as those in the stories of Charles Dickens.

Here is a list of operas by Richard Wagner and the year in which they were completed:

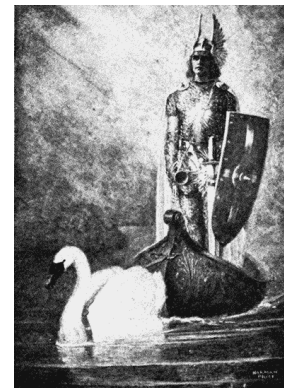
The Fairies (1833)
Das Liebesverbot (1836)
Rienzi (1842)
The Flying Dutchman (1842)
Tannhäuser (1845)
Lohengrin (1847)
Das Rheingold (1869)
Die Walküre (1870)
Siegfried (1869)
Tristan and Isolde (1865)
Die Meistersinger (1867)
Die Götterdämmerung (1876)
Parsifal (1882)

Here is how this great composer wrote his name.

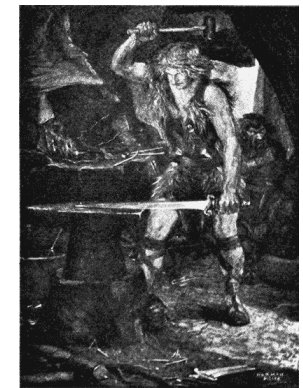


Nor was Wagner satisfied with making characters who were merely people. There are in the operas by Richard Wagner, gods and goddesses, giants and Rhine maidens, and Nibelungs.

Many of them have strange names. These names are easy to remember because they are strange: Wotan and Donner are gods. Freia and Erda are goddesses. Fafner is a giant. Flosshilde is a Rhine daughter. Mime and Alberich are Nibelungs.



LOHENGRIN



SIEGFRIED

Oh, they are wonderful company these gods and goddesses who tell their story and adventure in the operas of the Nibelungen Ring. Here is Siegfried forging his Magic Sword Nothung.

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Richard Wagner

Born

Died

Wagner Quiz

1. When and where was Wagner born?

2. What kind of music did Richard Wagner compose?

3. Can you name some of the musicians who lived when Richard Wagner was a boy?

4. In what opera by Richard Wagner is *The Prize Song*?

5. Who sings *The Prize Song*?

6. What kind of a man is Beckmesser?

There is Walter, who sings the *Prize Song* in *Die Meistersinger*, and Eva, whom he loves. And in the same opera there is Beckmesser, the fussy old schoolmaster kind of a man. And Hans Sachs, the cobbler.

Then there is a scene in which Walter and Beckmesser sing in contest. Beckmesser begins. He stutters, stammers, and struggles through his song. And finally, like a school-boy who does not know his lesson, he breaks down.

Then Walter comes to sing the lovely *Prize Song*; a melody that just sings itself into the heart of everyone.



WALTER'S PRIZE SONG

It is no wonder that with such lovely music Walter wins the contest and the hand of Eva. Jolly old Hans Sachs is so happy over it all that he sings a rollicking song and everybody joins in with him as the curtain goes down.

THE END

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

Now, as we have said, when we learn of so great a man we always wonder what sort of a boy he was. Well, when this boy was nine years old he went to a classical school. One of his teachers at least must have been very fond of him, and he must have been fond of his teacher, for when Richard was only thirteen years old he translated from Greek into German twelve books of the *Odyssey* for this teacher.

"I intend to become a poet," he used to say. He read *Romeo and Juliet* in English. Then he wrote a play in which were *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, and forty-two other characters. All of these died or were killed in the fourth act and were brought back as ghosts in the fifth! Robert did not just write he played the piano too.

Richard was very fond Carl Maria von Weber, a composer who lived nearby and passed the Wagner house almost every day. Richard always ran to the window to watch him coming. Weber was the composer of *Der Freischütz* and of *Oberon*.

Wagner was also very fond of animals. His favorite dogs are buried in the garden of his home at Bayreuth, where Wagner is also buried.

Wagner called his home at Bayreuth "Wahnfried," which really means "Fancy Free."



WAGNER AS A BOY

When he was sixteen years old, Wagner read about the contest of *Die Meistersinger*. He also read a poem called *Tannhäuser*. He kept these stories in mind until he became a man and then he wrote an opera about each.

Wagner was a great composer of operas or music dramas but also wrote symphonies and a few works for chorus and orchestra.

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