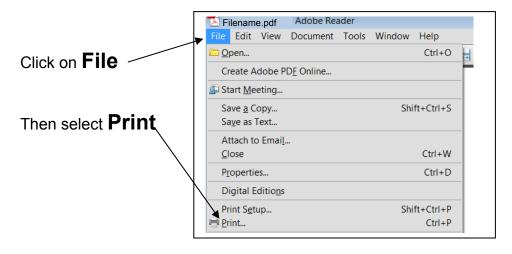
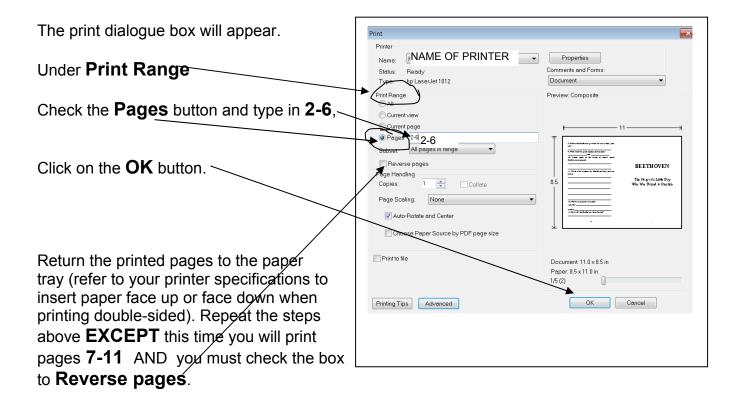
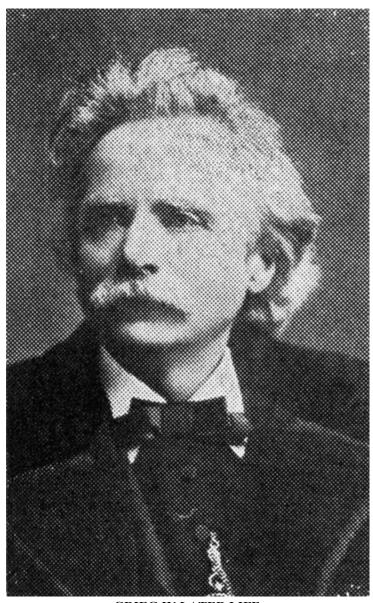
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GRIEG IN LATER LIFE

EDVARD GRIEG

The Story of the Boy Who Made Music in the Land of the Midnight Sun

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8. What famous song did Grieg dedicate to Mina Hagerup?				
9. Tell about Grieg's visit to Liszt in Rome.				
10. Name as many of Grieg's compositions as you can How many have you heard?				
11. Tell what you know about Grieg's personal appearance and disposition.				
12. When did Grieg die? How old was he?				
13. Who was Jenny Lind?				

EDVARD GRIEG

The Story of the Boy Who Made Music in the Land of the Midnight Sun



Edvard Grieg was born June 15th, 1843, near Bergen, Norway. This is the picture of a boy who was born in the north of the world. He loved his mother country and the music which the people sang.



GRIEG AS A BOY

But he had music, all his own, that sang and sang in his heart. It was happy music and sad; solemn and joyous.

Even when this little boy was in the primary school the music knocked at his heart's door as if it would say:

"Let me out into the world so that people may hear me."

When he was twelve years old he started out one morning as usual, but instead of taking

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

- 1. Grieg was born June 15th, 1843, near Bergen, Norway.
- 2. His father's ancestors were Scotch and went to Norway after the Battle of Culloden, in 1745.
- 3. It was Grieg's mother who gave him his first lessons.
- 4. One of his best friends—and one who did much for him—was Ole Bull, the great violinist.
- 5. Grieg studied at the Leipzig Conservatory.
- 6. His teachers were Moscheles, Hauptmann (who liked his music), Richter, and Papperitz.
- 7. Among Grieg's friends were Gade, Nordraak, Ibsen, Bjornson, and Svendsen.
- 8. He married Mina Hagerup, who was a fine singer.
- 9. Grieg composed for the piano, voice, violin, and for the orchestra.
- 10. Grieg wrote music to Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*, at the poet's request.
- 11. The Norwegian Government granted Grieg a pension so that he could be free to devote himself to composition.
- 12. He died September 3rd, 1907.

not only the music that kept singing in him, but he loved Norway and all its people.

But all the grown up folks of Edvard's world did not call his music rubbish. His mother loved music and played beautifully. It was from her that Edvard had his first lessons.

Then one day something wonderful happened. A great violinist named Ole Bull visited the Grieg family in the country. He was so kind to the little composer that the boy just loved him.



OLE BULL

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When Grieg bade good-bye to Liszt the famous pianist said to him:

"Keep on, you have talent and ability. Do not let anyone discourage or frighten you."

So sensitive was Grieg about music writing that he never allowed any one to watch him. So he had a little house built in the mountains where he could work at his leisure. This he called his "tune house." There was only one room in the house. In it was his piano and often when he was playing, the Norwegian peasants used to group themselves outside the door, sometimes joining in the singing, and then again dancing to their delightful folk tunes and dances.

As a boy in Leipzig he worked so hard he became ill and it was necessary for him to return home. From this illness he never fully recovered. All his life he was frail and unable to endure severe tasks.

In appearance Grieg was short and his hands were thin, but fine and strong for the piano, although one of them had been crushed in an accident. His eyes were deep blue and

It was all strange and new. Instead of hills and the waters of the fjords, there were tall, dark houses, gloomy streets, and such a lot of hurrying people.

But he soon grew used to it all and was busy as could be with lessons in piano and harmony. Just as in the earlier days in school, so in Leipzig, Edvard wrote music as it sounded in his heart. In the harmony lessons he could not make himself write plain chords to the bass which was given him as an exercise. He wrote the light, airy, lovely, fanciful tunes and rhythms that were singing within him. And just like the schoolmaster at home, the harmony teacher shouted at him, saying:

"No, that is all wrong!"

But you remember that Ole Bull understood the boy's music. While here in Leipzig there were many who understood it too.

Bit by bit Edvard made friends who loved to listen to his pieces. One of them was Niels Gade, a fine musician in Denmark, who was a friend of Schumann's, who one time, wrote a

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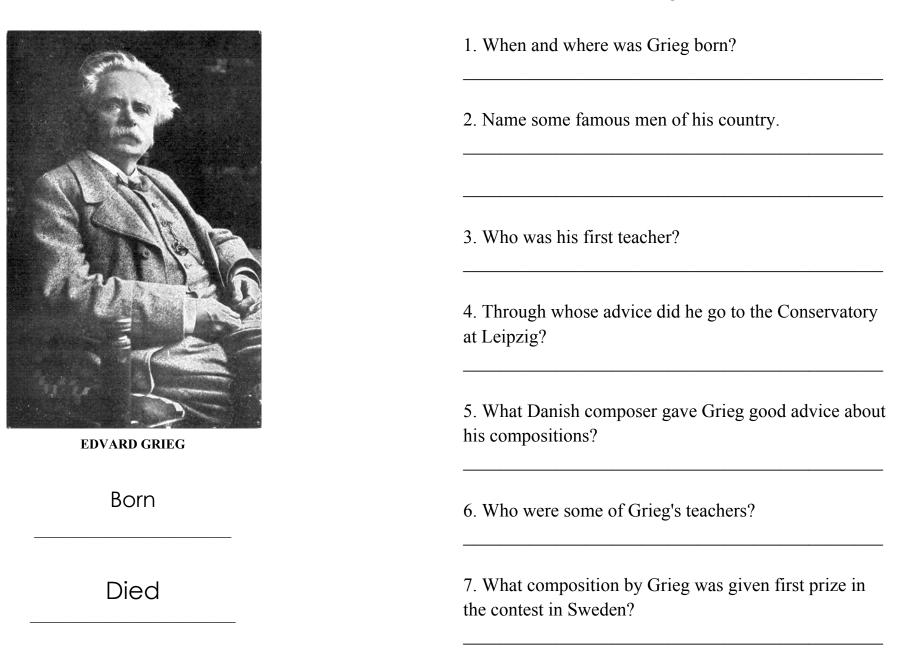
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Grieg Quiz



ii

his school books he took with him his musicwriting book which contained what he termed "Variation on a German Melody Op. 1."



FROM THE NORWEGIAN BRIDAL PROCESSION

His schoolmates were very proud to see the music of their companion Edvard. But alas! While they were looking at it and talking about it, whom do you think came creeping up behind them?

Why, the schoolmaster, to be sure.

He gave little Edvard a rough shaking up and told him how severely he would be punished if ever again he brought such nonsense to school.

Poor old schoolmaster! He did not know what Edvard Grieg would one day mean to the land and people of Norway. For Edvard loved

THE STORY OF EDVARD GRIEG

Written by

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4

Ole Bull had traveled the world over playing the violin. He looked over Edvard's compositions and made the boy play them to him. You can see him nodding his head in pleasure as he listens. His fine eyes are lighted up. He tells the boy composer that his music is quite good, but that there is a lot for him to learn yet. So he must study earnestly and make many sacrifices.

Then Ole Bull sits down and talks with Father and Mother Grieg. It is a serious talk. Finally, when the talk is finished, Ole Bull takes the wondering boy by the hand and says to him:

"You are going to Leipzig to study and become a fine musician."

So Edvard Grieg left his home city, Bergen, its mountains, its fjords, its people, his father and mother, and traveled south through Norway, across the water and into Germany. No doubt he was a lonesome boy. Life had become serious all at once and there was much to be done. and were full of life and kindness.

Grieg was usually happy and full of fun. But sometimes, he was sad and melancholy like his own music.

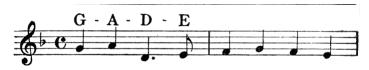
Some day you will learn the names of many of his compositions. Among them, *The Birds*, *In Spring Time*, *Arietta*, the *Peer Gynt Music*, the *Piano Sonata*, the *Piano and Violin Sonata*, and lots of lively Norwegian dances and tunes.

Three great names stand out more than all others in the musical history of Scandinavia. You have learned two, Edvard Grieg and Ole Bull. The other is the beautiful Jenny Lind, known as "the Swedish nightingale," who was loved not only for her wonderful voice but for her kindness and noble nature. She was born in Stockholm in 1820 and died in England in 1887.

THE END

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

Northern Song on the letters on Gade's name. It begins like this:



GADE'S MUSICAL NAME

And Edvard too once wrote a fugue on the letters G-A-D-E.

So inspiring was his music study that Edvard worked very hard. He composed a great deal of music which slowly made friends for him. Robert Schumann was one who spoke kindly of the young Norwegian and his music. And so he grew and improved. Because he was true to his talent, he made many friends not only in Leipzig but throughout Europe.

You will learn some day the names of many of the people who became friends of Grieg. There were Rikard Nordraak, and later on Franz Liszt. Grieg became one of the group of great Norwegian artists in which Henrik Ibsen and Bjornstjerne Bjornson were prominent. Indeed, Grieg wrote the music to Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*. One of the great pleasures

Grieg's life was Bjornson's *Patriotic Poem* to his own music.

One day Grieg showed Gade a composition called *In Autumn* which Gade did not like. "It is too Norwegian," he said. This pleased Grieg, although Gade told him to go home and write something better.

One day later a prize was offered in Sweden for an orchestral composition. Grieg's *In Autumn* won the prize. And Gade was one of the judges!

Grieg married Mina Hagerup, to whom he dedicated his famous song: *I Love Thee*. But the mother of his bride did not think highly of him.

"He is a nobody," she said, "who writes music that no one cares to listen to."

But people were beginning to listen. After a concert in Christiania, entirely of Norwegian music, the Government gave Grieg a small pension and he went to Rome.

Here he had a fine meeting with Liszt who asked Grieg to play. Then Liszt took Grieg's manuscript and played it at sight.

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