On Christmas Eve, families travel to the Stahlbaum’s house for a holiday party.
The house is beautifully decorated for Christmas.
Clara and her brother Fritz are eager to greet their guests.
The Stahlbaum’s friends and their families enjoy a happy celebration full of dancing and mingling that is only ever so often interrupted by Cousin Phineas causing mischief among the guests.
Clara’s Godfather Drosselmeyer, a jolly toymaker, arrives to the party, bringing magic tricks and wonder.
He presents two life-size dancing dolls dressed as West Hartford’s historic figure, Noah Webster, and a Blue-Backed Speller Ballerina Doll, to entertain the guests.
He then presents gifts to all the children at the party surprising Clara and Fritz with two beautiful wooden Nutcracker dolls of their very own.
Clara and Fritz’s friends enjoy using the Nutcrackers to crack nuts and share a treat until Cousin Phineas breaks Clara’s newly beloved gift.
Drosselmeyer fixes the broken wooden doll and Clara, Fritz, and their friends enjoy dancing with their new toys.
Clara's grandfather, an eager dancer, takes the spotlight with his frantic, but loving, wife, and they share a holiday jig.
The party guests leave saying goodnight to the Stahlbaum’s, and Mr. and Mrs. Stahlbaum send Clara and Fritz off to bed.
Drosselmeyer appears casting his magic touch to Clara’s Nutcracker doll that had been left under the Christmas tree.
Clara, remembering where she left her beloved doll, returns to the party room.
Clara falls asleep beneath the light of the Christmas tree with her doll in her arms. She then begins to dream.
In Clara’s dream, two angels enter the room and sprinkle their magic dust on the Christmas tree.
When the clock strikes midnight twelve mice appear!
They tease Clara in hopes to steal her Nutcracker.
Fritz enters finding Clara very upset, and Clara frantically explains the strange happenings that have taken place. Fritz agrees to help Clara search for a reasoning behind these strange phenomena. Just then, Drosselmeyer appears and the Christmas tree begins to grow to twice its size!
Drosselmeyer tells Clara that there will be a battle and helps prepare them by transforming their nightclothes into battle ready outfits.
The Nutcracker, now life-size to Clara and Fritz, enters with his wooden toy soldiers to fight off the Mouse King and his mice minions.
The battle ends with the Mouse King defeated and Clara’s Nutcracker doll badly wounded.
Clara, unconsolable, is surprised when Drosselmeyer enters and fixes her Nutcracker doll once again. This time, however, Drosselmeyer transforms the Nutcracker into a handsome Cavalier. Clara’s Cavalier thanks her for her help in the battle and invites her to accompany him on a journey. Clara accepts his offer and bids farewell to her brother Fritz.
She is then guided by the Cavalier into the Land of the Snow.
Clara and her Cavalier are greeted by the Snow King and Queen.
Along with many dancing snowflakes in a winter wonderland.
The Snow King and Queen then send Clara and the Cavalier to the wonderful Land of the Sweets.
Clara and the Cavalier are lead by angels, who direct them to a dreamy land of gumdrops, candy canes, and sweets.
The two are welcomed into the Land of the Sweets by the friendly Dew Drop Fairy, who asks about their travels to her kingdom.
The Cavalier tells the Dew Drop Fairy about his daring battle with the Mouse King and how Clara’s belief, and a little magic, brought him back to life.
The Dew Drop, impressed with both of their courageous efforts, rewards Clara and the Cavalier with several ethnic dances and gifts.
Chinese dancers present them with the gift of tea.
Arabian dancers offer them delicious coffee.
Spanish dancers present a gift of chocolate and dance with flare.
Mirliton dancers bring their flutes and play beautiful music.
Russian dancers impress Clara with their high energy and tricks.
Mother Ginger and her Gingerbread Cookies dance for Clara and the Cavalier...
while trying to avoid the hungry foxes!
The Dew Drop Fairy then calls her flowers and flower petals to dance a beautiful waltz in the Land of the Sweets.
Clara’s ultimate dream is granted by the Dew Drop Fairy who leads Clara to a magical box.
Once inside, she is transformed into the Sugar Plum Fairy.
Her Cavalier greets her,
And together they dance among the glistening stars.
Before Clara leaves, all those who dwell in the Land of the Sweets bid her farewell
And soon fade away.
Clara awakens to Fritz in excitement that it is finally Christmas morning. Clara, drowsy and confused, realizes that her journey was all but a dream. She runs to her Nutcracker and gazes into its eyes remembering her incredible adventures, that she surely will never forget.
The End.