Ludwig van Beethoven's Fifth Symphony is the most famous symphony of them all. Its first four notes, three shorts and a long, sound the main theme of the symphony. According to one story, Beethoven was asked the meaning of this opening theme. He is supposed to have said: "It is Fate knocking at the door." This symphony seems to be about the struggle of human beings against fate. And it seems to be saying that through struggle human beings can achieve victory over the forces of nature and tyranny.

The first movement develops the theme and is repeated at different levels of the scale. People who claim that this theme is a call to victory over tyranny point to a fascinating coincidence. Beethoven finished writing his Fifth Symphony in 1808, decades before the invention of the telegraph. Yet his three short one long theme is also the international Morse code symbol for the letter "V" — for Victory!

The first movement of the Fifth Symphony develops the theme with great energy and speed. The second movement is much slower, gentler and more like a song. At the end of the second movement is another call to victory. The third movement repeats the opening theme, signaling that triumph is at hand. The fourth and final movement is a celebration of victory.

Beethoven was losing his hearing as he completed this symphony. Surely he knew what it meant to struggle against fate!

Directions: Find the words listed below in the word search puzzle. Words may be spelled left to right, right to left, top to bottom, bottom to top, and slanted in all directions. Use a pencil to darken each letter in every word. Then place the unused letters in the blanks at the bottom. Be sure to bring the letters down in order, left to right, line by line, from top to bottom.

BEETHOVEN  FATE  TRIUMPH  MORSE
FIFTH  KNOCKING  VICTORY  CODE
SYMPHONY  DOOR  FORCES  TELEGRAPH
THEME  STRUGGLE  NATURE  TYRANNY

| SYMPHONY  | FOUKRLVL | OTTELEGRAPHNEIE | DERNESROMGSORCL
| OTOTINGTREICHUTG | OAUEUMPMTAKTOG | RFDMTECFELIARU
| EOBRAHPITIONNYR | CNTICFTORGYOT | FORCESYNNARYTVS
| ERFBEETHOVENATE |

From its first __ __ __ __ notes,
Three shorts and one __ __ __ __,
To its slow second movement
Gentle as a __ __ __ __,
Then, again, the __ __ __ __ __ __ state
The __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ of

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SYMPHONY NO. 94, "SURPRISE"
by Franz Joseph Haydn

The surprise in Franz Joseph Haydn's "Surprise" Symphony takes place in the slow second movement. There is a sudden loud chord, which Haydn supposedly said "will make the women jump." Actually, it probably made many people jump back in the 1790s when Haydn wrote this work. Concerts then were much longer than concerts today. It was not at all unusual for people to fall asleep. Haydn — a composer with a sense of humor — wanted to wake them up!

The symphony's first movement begins with a slow introduction, but then the pace picks up with a theme played by the violins. The second movement also begins slowly and goes into variations of the children's song "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Then, in the sixteenth bar of this movement, strings, winds, horns, trumpets, and tympani suddenly blast Haydn's little joke on the sleepy members of the audience. The third movement is a folk dance, while the last movement repeats the earlier themes.

Franz Joseph Haydn has sometimes been called "the father of the symphony." Altogether he wrote more than 100 of them. Before Haydn, the symphony had been an opening piece for an opera. He gave the symphony its modern form and structure. Haydn greatly influenced two other great symphony composers: Mozart and Beethoven.

Directions: Fill in the missing word or words to complete each sentence below. Then complete the sentence in bold by placing each numbered letter on the blank with the same number.

1. Haydn wanted his "surprise" to wake up __ __ __ __ __ members of the audience.

2. Concerts in the 1700s were much __ __ __ __ __ than concerts today.

3. Haydn influenced __ __ __ __ __ and __ __ __ __ __ __ __.

4. Haydn gave the symphony its modern __ __ __ and structure.

Haydn has been called the __ __ __ __ of the __ __ __ __ __ __.

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SYMPHONY NO. 5, "FROM THE NEW WORLD"
by Antonin Dvorak

Antonin Dvorak was born in Czechoslovakia — then called Bohemia — in 1841. During his three-year stay in the United States, at age 51, Dvorak wrote his Symphony No. 5 in E Minor, subtitled: "From the New World." Those words have led to confusion about the symphony.

Dvorak was not trying to write "American" music. He meant the subtitle as meaning "greetings from the New World" to his friends back in Europe. Ever since the Fifth Symphony was first performed in 1894, however, people have been claiming to hear American songs in it. In the first movement, for example, is a theme that sounds like the Afro-American spiritual "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot." And in the second movement is a melody many people know as "Goin' Home." Some people claim to hear native American melodies in the third movement.

Dvorak may have been influenced by American songs, but Symphony No. 5 is definitely a European work. The Afro-American spiritual and the folk music of Dvorak’s homeland share much in common. The American song "Goin’ Home" did not appear until several years after Dvorak wrote his Fifth Symphony. The song is his melody and someone else’s lyrics. Finally, Dvorak himself said that he used no black or native American melodies in this work. It is simply a great symphony in the European tradition.

Directions: If a statement is true, circle the letter in the True column. If a statement is false, circle the letter in the False column. Use the circled letters, in order, to fill in the first set of blanks. Use the letters you did not circle, in order, to fill in the second set of blanks.

1. Dvorak was born in 1841.  
   True  False  
   A    E

2. Dvorak moved to Czechoslovakia at the age of 51.  
   True  False  
   U    M

3. Dvorak’s Symphony No. 5 is written in A Minor.  
   True  False  
   R    E

4. Dvorak spent three years in the United States.  
   True  False  
   R    O

5. The melody of "Goin’ Home" is heard in the second movement.  
   True  False  
   I    P

6. People claim to hear "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" in the third movement.  
   True  False  
   E    C

7. Dvorak said he used native American melodies in his symphony.  
   True  False  
   A    A

8. Folk music of Dvorak’s homeland shares much in common with Afro-American spirituals.  
   True  False  
   N    N

While some claim to hear ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ songs in it, Dvorak’s Symphony No. 5 is in the ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ tradition.

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SYMPHONY NO. 41, "JUPITER"
by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart ranks as one of the greatest musical geniuses in history. Yet in some respects he lived a very unhappy life. His main problem was that he could never earn enough money. By 1788, he was doing anything he could to earn a living: teaching, performing, and writing popular dance music. He sometimes wondered where he would find money for his next meal.

Surprisingly, Mozart’s money problems did not stop him from composing great music. In 1788, during one of the worst times of his life, Mozart wrote his last three symphonies. All of them are regarded as outstanding works. The last of them, Symphony No. 41, is considered one of the finest ever composed.

Mozart’s Symphony No. 41 was named “Jupiter” after the Roman god who reigned supreme over all other gods. It is a study in contrasts. In the first movement, Mozart contrasts very strong musical elements with much gentler ones. The second movement is a song, less filled with contrast, slower and sadder than the first movement. The third movement is a minuet in which Mozart again contrasts forcefulness and gentleness.

The fourth and final movement is regarded as one of the greatest in any symphony. Mozart combined several themes in what is called “counterpoint,” using one against the other, but bringing them all together in a finale worthy of the name “Jupiter.”

Directions: Use facts about Mozart’s Symphony No. 41 to fill in the crossword puzzle below.

Across
2. One theme used against another
4. Third movement is a _____.
5. All themes come together in the _____.
7. Symphony No. 41 is a study in _____.

Down
1. Roman god for whom symphony is named
3. Mozart wrote _____ symphonies in 1788.
4. Mozart had _____ problems.
6. Symphony No. 41 was Mozart’s _____ symphony.