

## The Frog Prince

Book and Lyrics by Douglas S. Jones.  
 Music by Ron Barnett

based on the classic tale by The  
 Brothers Grimm

### Audience:

Students in Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> grade

### Additional Resources:

Fairy Tales by the Grimm Brothers  
*This web edition of tales from the Grimm  
 Brothers features German and English  
 versions of the fairy tales, along with a  
 selection of illustrations from editions in the  
 public domain.*  
[http://germanstories.vcu.edu/grimm/  
 grimm\\_menu.html](http://germanstories.vcu.edu/grimm/grimm_menu.html)

[Frankly, I Never Wanted to Kiss  
 Anybody! The Story of the Frog Prince  
 as Told by the Frog \(The Other Side of  
 the Story\)](#)  
 by Nancy Loewen; Illustrated by Denis  
 Alonso  
 Picture Window Books, 2013

[The Frog Prince, Continued](#)  
 by Jon Scieszka  
 Puffin Books, 1994

[The Frog Prince: Or Iron Henry](#)  
 by Jacob Grimm, Wilhelm Grimm, Christian  
 Hager, Naomi Lewis  
 North-South Books, Inc., 2013



**W**hen a spoiled but lonely princess drops her golden ball into a wishing well, a noble frog retrieves it in exchange for her promise of friendship. The princess breaks her promise, and must face the music - in the process learning a valuable lesson about true friendship. In the end, the narrator tells us, "I'm not going to tell you they got married and lived happily ever after -- because maybe they didn't. Maybe they wound up not liking each other at all. But if you don't want to be alone forever, you have to start somewhere."

This colorful, humorous adaptation of the classic fairy tale was first recorded by the Brothers Grimm. Virginia Repertory Theatre's beautiful production of **The Frog Prince** showcases an amphibian ensemble created by internationally acclaimed puppet master Terry Snyder.

### Genre: Fairy Tale

The Frog Prince is a fairy tale. Fairy tales are types of folk tales that usually include some of the following elements:

- Magic
- Fantastical creatures (fairies, witches, etc.)
- Imaginary settings
- Happy endings

# Lessons from The Frog Prince

In *The Frog Prince*, Princess Irena learns some important lessons about the true meaning of friendship, and about the importance of keeping promises.

What are **3** reasons you think a person should keep his or her promises?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What are **3** things that you think make a good friend?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

In the story, Iron Henry says, "Have you ever wished on a star? Or blowing out the candles -- or breaking a wishbone? People say, make a wish. Make a wish. And you close your eyes tight...."

If you could have **3** wishes, what would they be?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Happily Ever After: Creative Endings

At the end of the play, the King, Princess, Prince, and Henry sing:

*A promise is  
A promise is  
A promise is  
A promise.*

*Careful how you make them.  
Careful how you break them.*

*If you're crabby, make amends.*

*Sometimes the way the story ends*

*Depends on how  
You treat your friends.*

*Depends on how  
You treat your friends.*

Imagine how the story of *The Frog Prince* could end. With your class, brainstorm some creative endings for this tale.

## Did you know...

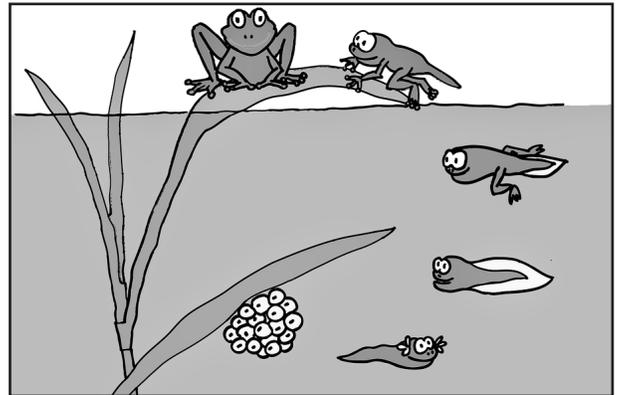
... that it is common for things to happen in threes in a fairy tale? It's true. Whether it is three wishes or three encounters, this pattern often occurs in fairy tales. For example, Cinderella is granted three wishes, Goldilocks meets three bears, and Jack steals three items from the Giant in *Jack & the Beanstalk*. Can you think of others?

# Exploring The Frog Prince

## Frog Characteristics and Life Cycle

Using the K-W-L chart below, record what you **Know** about frogs, and what you **Wonder** about them. Then conduct some frog research, and record what you **Learn** about frog characteristics. Bonus: Label some of the life cycle stages on the picture to the right.

| Know | Wonder | Learned |
|------|--------|---------|
|      |        |         |



## Journal and Discussion

The beginning of The Frog Song in *The Frog Prince* goes, "Why is it what you look at isn't ever what you see?"

1. What do you think the frog meant by that? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Have you ever noticed when something was different than it first appeared? \_\_\_\_\_

### Frogs and Toads

Classify the following characteristics according to whether each is a trait of a frog, a toad, or both:

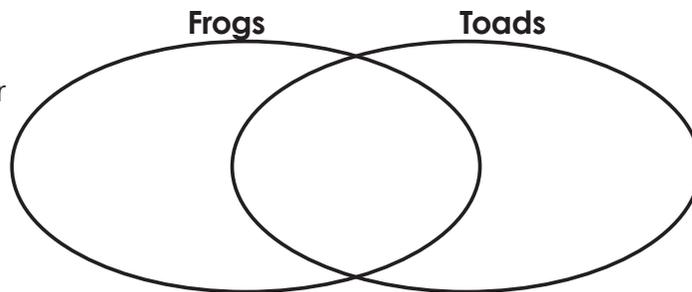
amphibian

live in or near water

dry bumpy skin

bulging eyes

shorter hind legs



diet includes insects

lay eggs in "chains"

webbed hind feet

lay eggs in clusters

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Virginia Rep Presents...

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Virginia Repertory Theatre  
Bruce C. Miller, Artistic Director  
Phil Whiteway, Managing Director

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### Theater Etiquette



#### **Clap, but know when to do so.**

You should clap after a play, act, or  
song, or right before intermission. If  
you loved the show, you can give a  
"standing ovation" at the end. That's  
when you stand up while applauding.

#### **It's quiet time (sort of).**

If the play makes you laugh or cry,  
that is fine, but you can chat with your  
friends afterwards. Be respectful and  
quiet so the actors can focus on their  
roles. Being quiet allows the rest of the  
audience to concentrate on the play.

## Behind the Curtains

Many people with different skills and talents work together to make a production such as *The Frog Prince* come to life. Can you match these theater jobs with their descriptions?

### set designer

a person who plays a role or character in stage plays, motion pictures, television broadcasts, etc.

### playwright

a person who creates the look of each character by designing clothes and accessories the actors will wear in performance.

### stage manager

this person's job is to pull together all the pieces and parts of a play – the script, actors, set, costumes, lighting and sound, and music to create a production.

### actor

this job focuses on using light to create effects that match the mood of various scenes in a performance.

### costume designer

this person is a writer of scripts for plays. The script tells a story through the actions and words of the characters.

### lighting designer

this person creates the physical surroundings of a play, including any scenery, furniture, or props used throughout the play.

### director

this person helps the director and helps organize the actors, designers, stage crew, and technicians throughout the production of a play.