

# The Frog Prince

## THE FROG PRINCE

Book and Lyrics by  
Douglas S. Jones. Music  
by Ron Barnett  
*Based on the classic tale  
by The Brothers Grimm*

## TEACHER RESOURCES

*The Frog Prince* and this study guide are produced in support of the teaching of the Virginia Standards of Learning in Language Arts, Theater Arts and Music.

## AT THE LIBRARY

***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

***The Frog Prince, Continued***

by Jon Scieszka

***The Frog Prince: Or Iron Henry***

by Jacob Grimm, Wilhelm Grimm, Christian Hager, Naomi Lewis

## ON THE WEB

**Storynory: The Frog Prince**

<https://www.storynory.com/the-frog-prince/>

The Frog Prince  
<https://freekidsbooks.org/frog-prince-classic-fairytale-picture-book/>

When 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 includes some of the following elements:

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

## 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.

## LESSONS FROM THE FROG PRINCE

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

## 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 left.

#### Frog Life Cycle

Label some of the stages with the words below:

Tadpole, Adult Frog, Egg, Froglet



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?

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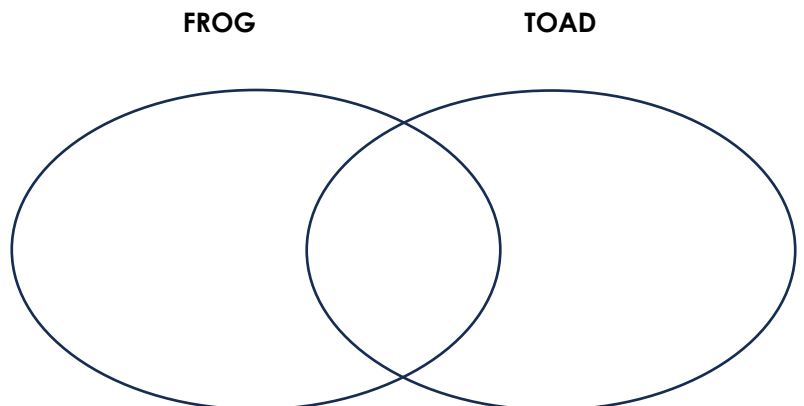
2. Have you ever noticed when something was different than it first appeared?

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### 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



## Virginia Repertory Theatre

114 W. Broad St.  
Richmond, Virginia 23220

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**(804) 783-1688**  
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*Virginia Rep  
Presents...*

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

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

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

**actor** a person who plays character in stage plays, motion pictures, television broadcasts, etc.

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

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

**director** 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.