The Frog Prince

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
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.

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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
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.