

The Frog Princess

by Eric A. Kimmel

illustrated by Rosanne Litzinger

Summary

In a Tlingit (KLINK –it) village there was a very beautiful and much sought-after daughter of the village headman. She wanted nothing to do with the suitors who approached her until one from the Frog People invited her to join him in his world.

Ideas for Classroom Use

Discussion Questions

Encourage the children to find examples from the story to document their answers.

- > *What is a suitor? Why do you think the many suitors who approached the headman's daughter weren't good enough for her?*
- > *Describe some differences between life above ground for the daughter and her life in the water with the Frog People.*
- > *How do you think you'd feel if you were the daughter's parents (on land) and learned through a traveler that she had become one of the Frog People?*
- > *At the end of the story, what special powers did the frogs in the hidden lake have? Explain how you think that happened.*

Responding to the Text

Social Studies

The Tlingit (KLINK-it)

On a map of the northwestern United States and Canada, find the area of Alaska where the Tlingit people still live. Compare how you live and how children of the Tlingit live. Are their lives so very different from yours?

You might want to learn about the two largest clans or moieties within the Tlingit nation – the people of the Raven or Eagle moieties. The illustrator, Rosanne Litzinger, used this information in creating the beautiful illustrations for this text.

An excellent resource to share with your children is entitled, *Children of the Tlingit* by Frank Staub. It is full of photographs of Tlingit children at home, at play and at work in their villages in southeastern Alaska.

Comparing *The Frog Princess* to various versions of *The Frog Prince*

Find various illustrated versions of *The Frog Prince* to share with your children. Read the stories, study the illustrations, and list similarities and differences. Which versions do your students like the best? Ask them to explain their choices.

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Art

Making Frog Masks

Children can make their own Frog Prince or Princess masks to use in retelling the story or creating a new story of their own.

Check out the following website for an easy, printable frog mask that can be decorated by children to make it their own:

www.angelfire.com/dc/childsplay/masks_frog.htm

Other frog activities to share with your students are provided on this website as well.

If you are lucky enough to find frog-shaped paper plates at your nearby discount store, you can simplify the mask-making process even more. Just adorn the plates and attach elastic so they can be worn by children.

Ron and Marsha Feller at The Arts Factory provide books and templates for teaching children how to make incredibly detailed masks with children. The Frog Prince mask they teach you how to make is no exception. See it at:

www.fellersartsfactory.com/sample%20pages/royalfrogLG.html

Their mask making book is entitled, *Paper Masks and Puppets* – an excellent classroom resource.

Science

Study Frogs

Using the internet or some of the following great research books on frogs, find out why frogs have such long fingers (are they really called fingers?) and bulging eyes? Why are they useful? Why do frogs depend on them?

Children LOVE to learn about and observe frogs. You might obtain some frogs for your classroom from a local pet store or hobbyist who enjoys raising and caring for amphibians.

***Be especially careful if your children want to catch frogs and put them in a classroom aquarium. When frogs or anything wild are taken from their natural habitat, they don't live long. It is best to observe frogs for a day or two and then return them to the wild in the same place where they were captured. If children do catch and/or touch wild frogs, make sure they wash their hands extremely well before and afterwards.

Two non-fiction frog books to might share with your children are *Frogs*, by Gail Gibbons and *All About Frogs*, by Jim Arnosky.