

# RAPUNZEL

## RAPUNZEL

By Paul O. Zelinsky  
Theme: Fairy Tale  
Grade Level: K-4  
Running Time: 14 minutes

## SUMMARY

Rapunzel is a beautiful girl with long golden hair who is kept prisoner in a lonely tower by a sorceress because the girl's mother, when pregnant, ate the witch's forbidden rapunzel in her salad. Not until a handsome prince climbs up her hair does Rapunzel know true happiness.

## OBJECTIVES

- Children will become familiar with retelling a well-known fairy tale.
- Children will investigate relationships.
- Children will explore the feelings of good and evil.

## BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Talk with children about fairy tales they may be familiar with. Encourage children to discuss how the tales make them feel (frightened, happy, sad, angry, etc.)

Ask:

- What is your favorite fairy tale? Why?
- Which characters in the tales are good? Why?
- Which are bad?
- Which characters win out in the end?
- If you could be a character in a fairy tale, which character would you be? Why?

Discuss gardening with children. Encourage them to describe gardens they may have seen or gardens they may help tend to at home. Have children explain to their classmates the different kinds growing in these gardens and the

different smells, textures, colors, shapes, of the many fruits, vegetables, herbs, trees, etc. that may be growing there.

Have children think about the way it feels to walk through garden and be eye-witnesses to all that is growing from the earth.

Encourage children to imagine what their fantasy garden might look like.

Explain to children that some times fairy tales include a villain who does unkind things to the other characters in the stories. Have children describe the villain in the tales they are familiar with. Ask: How do you feel about the villains in the fairy tales you've heard? What makes the villains such unkind people? How do the other characters in the stories feel about the villains? What kinds of things would you say so that the characters could deal with the villains?

Share the book RAPUNZEL with children. Then ask:

- How can you tell that this story took place long ago?
- Does the story look as though it took place in our country or in another country? Why do you think so?
- How are the homes and buildings different from those in your neighborhood?
- What would you enjoy most about living at the time Rapunzel lived? What would you like least?
- What would you do if you were sent to live in a tower?

## AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Have children dramatize the story of RAPUNZEL. Provide props including a long rope that can be used to represent the Rapunzel herb, and dolls to represent Rapunzel's twins.

Allow children to refer to the book/video to help them paint a backdrop for their dramatization on sheets of cardboard or a large white sheet. As there are only five main characters in the story, you might have children take on the role of some of the objects and animals in the story, including the tower, trees, the horse, and so on.

Once children are comfortable with their roles and performances, have children share their dramatization with other classes.

Talk with children about Rapunzel's relationship to the sorceress and to the prince. Ask: How do you think Rapunzel feels about the sorceress? Why do you think she feels this way? How do you think she feels about the prince? What makes you feel good about people? What gives you a bad feeling? Who are the people that you enjoy spending time with and feel good about? Why have you named these particular people? What can you do when someone is treating you in a way you do not want to be treated? How can you show your caring for people you feel good about?

Have children create their own sequel to the story of RAPUNZEL. Encourage children to think about the way of life and the kinds of experiences that Rapunzel and her family might have once they are living in the prince's kingdom. Have children write or dictate their own contributions of the story of RAPUNZEL. When done, have children draw pictures out accompany their stories and display them on a classroom wall or bulletin board for all to enjoy.

## Other videos and films about fairy tales available from Weston Woods include:

THE FISHERMAN AND HIS WIFE by Wanda Gág  
GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS by James Marshall

RED RIDING HOOD by James Marshall  
THE TALE OF THE MANDARIN DUCKS by Katherine Paterson, illustrated by Leo & Diane Dillon  
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