

A Wayne Scott • *LifeHouse Theater-On-The-Air* Production

The Princess and the Pigs

An Original Adaptation by
Melissa Schwartzkopf

Based on the Tale "King Thrushbeard" by the Brothers Grimm

Curriculum Guide

LIFE HIGHLIGHTS THE BROTHERS' GRIMM 1785 – 1863

- 1785.** Jacob Ludwig Carl Grimm is born January 4, 1785, in Hanau, Germany,
- 1786.** Wilhelm Carl Grimm is born February 24, 1786, in Hanau, Germany,
- 1791.** The Grimm family moves to Steinau.
- 1802.** Jacob begins his study of law at the University of Marburg.
- 1803.** Wilhelm begins his study of law at the University of Marburg.
- 1806.** Jacob and Wilhelm, influenced by folk poetry, begin to collect folktales (*Märchen*).
- 1812.** The Grimm brothers publish volume one of *Kinder- und Hausmärchen* (*Children's and Household Tales*), containing 86 numbered folktales.
- 1814.** Volume two of *Kinder- und Hausmärchen* appears in print, pre-dated 1815, adding 70 stories to the previous collection. It, along with subsequent editions, later become the best known and most influential book ever created in the German language.
- 1816, 1818.** The Grimms publish two volumes of *Deutsche Sagen*, a collection totaling 585 German legends.
- 1819.** Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm receive honorary doctorates from the University of Marburg.
- 1829-1830.** The Grimms resign their positions as librarians in Kassel and accept positions at the University of Göttingen as librarians and professors.
- 1859.** Wilhelm Grimm dies December 16, 1859, at the age of 73.
- 1863.** Jacob Grimm dies September 20, 1863, at the age of 78.

THE PRINCESS AND THE PIGS - CONTENT AND REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What Grimm's fairy-tale is the "Prince and the Pigs" adapted from?
2. Why is King Atreo hosting a great feast?
3. How did Princess Mirabel react to the suitors?
4. Why does King Elrick go to see King Atreo the following day?
5. Who is Pauvel?
6. Why does King Elrick take on the persona of Pauvel?
7. What does Pauvel ask Mirabel to do, before he leaves for the city?
8. What other jobs does Mirabel do?
9. Why does Mirabel go to King Elrick's castle?
10. How does Mirabel look when she meets King Elrick in his castle? How does she treat him?
11. What lesson does King Elrick learn from his experience?

THE PRINCESS AND THE PIGS - CONTENT AND REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What Brothers' Grimm fairy-tale is the "Prince and the Pigs" adapted from?
A: King Thrushbeard
2. Why is King Atreo hosting a great feast?
A: To help his daughter, Princess Mirabel, find a worthy husband.
3. How did Princess Mirabel react to the suitors?
A: She insulted and made fun of all the noble men.
4. Why does King Elrick go to see King Atreo the following day?
A: He was humiliated by Mirabel at the party, and has returned to demand an apology.
5. Who is Pauvel?
A: He is King Elrick, in disguise as a poor beggar.
6. Why does King Elrick take on the persona of Pauvel?
A: To trick Princess Mirabel, and to punish her by teaching her a lesson about humility.
7. What does Pauvel ask Mirabel to do, before he leaves for the city?
A: He tells her she must take care of the pigs.
8. What other jobs does Mirabel do?
A: She learns how to cook, she tries to make baskets, and she makes clay pots.
9. Why does Mirabel go to King Elrick's castle?
A: She goes to work as a kitchen maid.
10. How does Mirabel look when she meets King Elrick in his castle? How does she treat him now?
A: She is dressed as a servant, covered in flour. She treats him with respect.
11. What lesson does King Elrick learn from his experience?
A: That he was also acting unfair, by not being willing to give Mirabel a chance and forgive her.

THEME VERSE

Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. -Matthew 23:12

FUN FACTS

- The Grimms' first collection of folktales was not published during their lifetime.
- The Brothers' Grimm penned many well known fairytales, including Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, and Rapunzel.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

1. In what ways were Princess Mirabel and King Elrick similar in the beginning of the story?
2. Describe the types of friends that Princess Mirabel had. How do you think her “silly” friends influenced how she behaved? Now contrast those friends to her new friends she met in the village.
3. In what ways does Mirabel’s attitude change through the story? Do you think she was happier at the beginning of the story, or at the end?
4. Who are Hammy, Freckles and Midnight? What is the significance of Mirabel naming the pigs?

BIBLIOGRPHY

National Geographic: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/grimm/index2.html>

Ashliman, D.L. *The Grimm Brothers' Homepage:*
<http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/grimm.html#chronology>