



CEC READING LIBRARY • GRADE 3 • R3 CHALLENGE

The Frog Prince

15 Chapters

Day 1–15

Q2 W14–W18

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 1: The Golden Ball

VOCABULARY princess, golden, well, dropped

Once upon a time, a beautiful princess lived in a castle with a garden full of roses. Her favorite thing in the world was her golden ball, which sparkled like a little sun. One sunny afternoon, she sat by the old stone well and tossed it high into the air. But this time, the ball slipped out of her hands. **★ She dropped her ball, and it fell into the deep well.** Plop! The princess gasped. Her precious golden ball disappeared into the dark water. Her heart was beating fast, and she wondered if anyone would help.

THINK What does "sparkled like a little sun" tell you about the ball?

Chapter 2: Too Deep to Reach

VOCABULARY deep, reach, gift, tears

The princess sat by the well and cried bitterly. The well was far too deep for her to reach the bottom, and the water looked as black as ink. The golden ball was a special gift from her father, and she did not know what to do without her treasure. "Please, please," she whispered, "I want my ball back!" **★ She dropped her golden ball into the deep dark well.** Her tears fell into the water like little raindrops. Even the birds in the trees seemed to be listening to her sad little voice.

THINK What does "as black as ink" show about the well?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 3: Alone by the Well

VOCABULARY helpless, alone, splash, dark

The princess could not stop crying by the well. She cried for a long time, and the well was dark, with no way to reach the bottom. She felt helpless and alone in the garden, and even the roses seemed to droop in the evening light.

★ **She dropped her ball into the well and cried.** Then, from deep inside the well, she heard a tiny splash. Someone was about to come and help her. But the garden stayed quiet, and the cold wind made the roses shake.

THINK What do the drooping roses suggest?

Chapter 4: A Talking Frog

VOCABULARY frog, splash, surprised, hope

While the princess was crying, she heard a splash. A small green frog climbed up from inside the well. ★ **A frog came up and asked why she was so sad.**

"Why are you crying, pretty princess?" he croaked in a deep, funny voice. The princess was so surprised that a frog could talk that she forgot to cry. The frog offered to help her get the golden ball back, and she felt a tiny spark of hope in her heart. He had a funny voice, like a tiny trumpet, and his bright eyes shone in the shadows.

THINK What does "she forgot to cry" show?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 5: What the Frog Wanted

VOCABULARY dive, deep, return, anything

The frog sat on the edge of the well and smiled. ★ **A frog came up and spoke to her about the golden ball.** "I can dive deep and bring it back," he said. But the frog wanted something in return. The princess listened carefully to the little frog, and his big eyes blinked slowly. She was willing to do anything to get her ball back. She thought about it for a moment, looking down into the dark water, and wondered what a frog could possibly need.

THINK What does "in return" mean?

Chapter 6: The Lonely Frog

VOCABULARY lonely, friend, offered, strange

The frog had lived alone in the dark well for a long time. No frogs, no fish, and no friends ever came to visit him, so he was lonely and wished for a friend more than anything. ★ **A frog popped up and offered to help her get the ball.** "In return," he said softly, "please be my friend." The princess thought it was strange, but she wanted her ball. She needed to make a decision right away. He told her he had lived alone for a very long time, with only the echo of his own voice to talk to.

THINK What does the frog's request show about his feelings?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 7: The Promise

VOCABULARY promise, friends, eat, play

The frog asked the princess to make a special promise. "I want to eat with you and play with you every day," he said. The princess really wanted her golden ball back, so she nodded. "Yes, yes! We will be friends," she said. ★ **She made a promise to be the frog's friend.** The frog happily jumped into the well. Splash! But did the princess really mean her promise? The wind whispered through the garden as the water grew still again.

THINK What does the last question make you think?

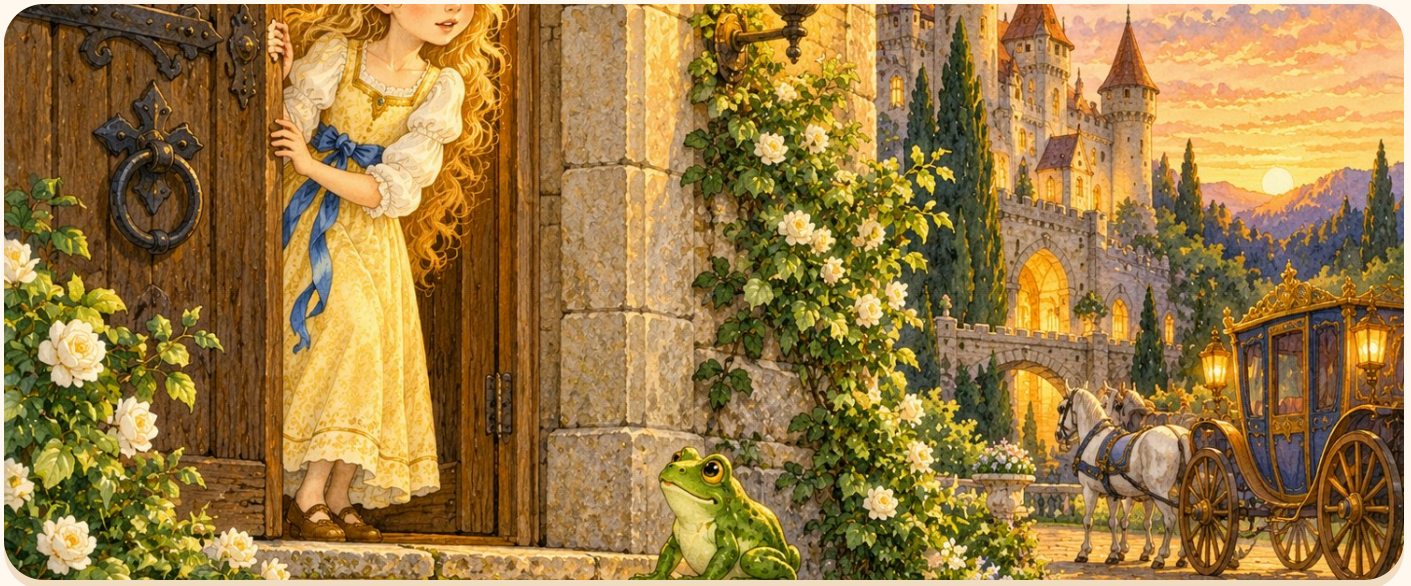
Chapter 8: She Forgot

VOCABULARY deal, grabbed, forgot, called

The princess agreed and made a deal with the frog. ★ **She promised to be his friend if he found the ball.** The frog dived deep into the well and came back with the golden ball. The princess grabbed it and ran to the castle. She forgot all about her promise. "Wait for me! Wait!" cried the frog, hopping as fast as he could. The frog called after her, but she did not look back. When the sun went down, she ran happily across the lawn and never looked back at the well.

THINK Why do you think the princess did not look back?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 9: Knock, Knock, Knock!

VOCABULARY knocked, dinner, king, word

The princess took her ball and ran back to the castle. She forgot her promise, but the frog followed her there. ★ **She promised to be his friend for her ball back.** At dinner time, the frog knocked on the castle door. Knock, knock, knock! "Open the door, princess!" he croaked. The king listened to the whole story. He was firm. He told his daughter, "A princess must keep her word." The princess had to let the frog come inside. The whole castle went quiet, and the servants peeked from behind the doors to see what would happen.

THINK What does "keep her word" mean?

Chapter 10: Dinner with a Frog

VOCABULARY polite, thankful, kindness, warm

The frog entered the castle and hopped up to the dinner table. The princess did not like it at first. He even hopped onto her little golden plate! But the king reminded her about keeping promises. ★ **The frog helped her understand the meaning of kindness.** He was polite and thankful for every small thing, and slowly, the princess began to feel warm toward the frog. The frog sat on a golden plate, ate her dinner with a small spoon, and made everyone at the table laugh.

THINK What does the golden plate moment add?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 11: Days Together

VOCABULARY cheerful, together, friendship, smile

Days passed, and the princess started changing her heart. The frog was always kind, polite, and cheerful. They played together in the garden, and the frog always won! ★ **The frog helped her keep the promise she had made.** He showed her what real friendship means. For the first time, the princess smiled at him, and she knew she was becoming a better person. Each day she noticed something new and good about him, and the castle felt warmer and happier.

THINK What does "changing her heart" mean?

Chapter 12: True Friends

VOCABULARY friends, promise, grateful, magical

The princess and the frog became true friends over time. They played together and talked every single day. They shared stories, laughed at silly jokes, and watched the stars come out. ★ **The frog helped because she kept her promise to him.** The princess learned that keeping promises brings real friends, and she was grateful to the frog for teaching her this lesson. Something magical was about to happen because of her kindness. Soon the frog was no longer just a promise to keep; he was a real friend she did not want to lose.

THINK What does "Something magical was about to happen" do for the story?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 13: A Bright Light

VOCABULARY light, changed, prince, spell

One evening, the princess said something kind from her heart. "I am so glad you are my friend," she said softly. Suddenly, a bright light surrounded the little frog, and his body changed right before her eyes. ★ **He became a prince, tall and handsome.** The princess could not believe what was happening. The magic spell was finally broken by her true kindness. The light was so bright that the princess had to close her eyes, and the room was filled with a soft sparkling sound.

THINK Why do you think kind words broke the spell?

Chapter 14: The Witch's Spell

VOCABULARY witch, cursed, kingdom, chance

The prince explained that a witch had cursed him long ago. Only true kindness could break the magic spell. ★ **He became a handsome prince thanks to the princess.** Her genuine friendship had melted the witch's dark magic. The prince was from a kingdom far away. He bowed low and thanked the princess for giving him a second chance. Everyone in the castle cheered, and the king smiled proudly at his daughter.

THINK What does "melted the witch's dark magic" suggest?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 15: Happily Ever After

VOCABULARY celebrated, kindness, promises, magic

The prince and princess became the best of friends. The whole kingdom celebrated the magical transformation with fireworks, music, and a giant cake shaped like a golden ball. ★ **The frog became a prince because of kindness and love.** The princess learned that keeping promises is very important. She also learned that kindness can create real magic. They all lived happily ever after in the castle, and the golden ball? They played with it together every day. The prince and princess walked in the garden every day, always keeping their promises to each other.

THINK What is the story's message?