

# The Princess and the Pea

book by Ron Barnett and Dawn Westbrook; music, lyrics by Ron Barnett

**Audience:** Students in grades K-5

## Curricular Connections:

Folk Tales, Language Arts, Literary Classic, History, Science, Music, Puppets, Reading, Self Esteem, Tales of Other Lands, Character Development

## Additional Resources:

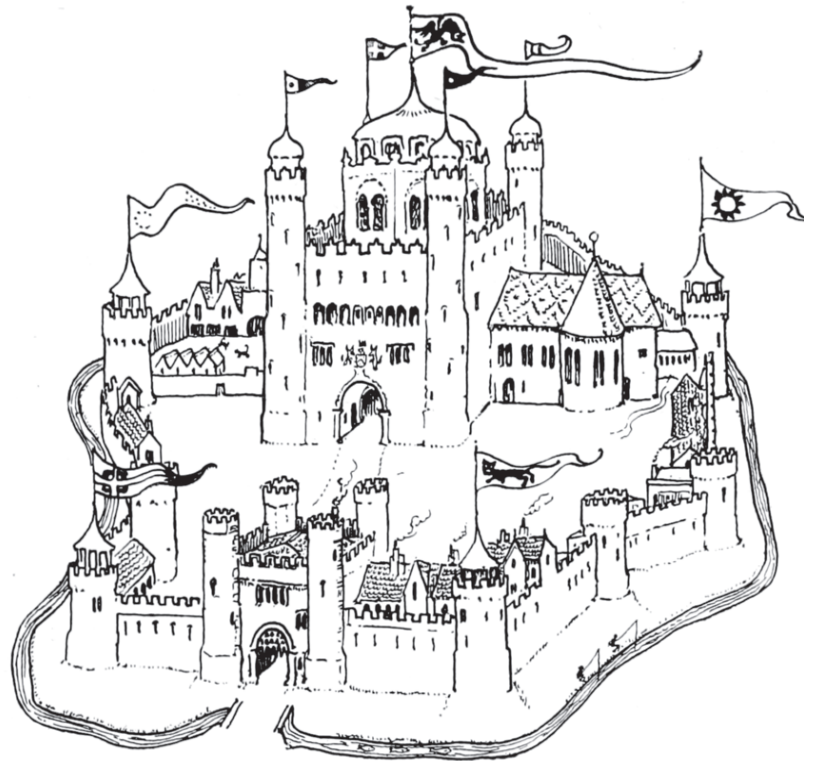
[An Illustrated Treasury of Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tales: The Little Mermaid, Thumbelina, the Princess and the Pea and Many More Classic Stories](#)  
by Hans Christian Andersen

[Believe Me, I Never Felt a Pea!: The Story of the Princess and the Pea as Told by the Princess](#)  
by Nancy Loewen (Author), Cristian Bernardini (Illustrator).

[Hans Christian Andersen](#)  
biographical information from Denmark.dk  
<http://denmark.dk/en/meet-the-danes/great-danes/writers/hans-christian-andersen>

[The Princess and the Pea](#)  
Audiobook in the public domain from LibriVox

[The Very Smart Pea and the Princess-to-be](#)  
by Mini Grey



Source: Wikipedia Commons.

This beloved Hans Christian Andersen tale comes to life in this fun and funny musical retelling by Virginia Repertory Theatre. In it, the protagonists (Princess, and Prince Noodle) have to overcome Queen Demean's evil scheme to marry her son (Noodle) to a princess he doesn't love. Though Princess is not actually a princess, she passes the improbable - and impossible- tests put forth by the queen. As the play's ending reminds us:

*It's an old, old story  
It's the way of the world  
What compares to the glory  
Of boy meeting girl  
It was true back then  
And it's truer today  
Love will always find a way.*

# Noodle and Princess

Noodle was delighted that Princess had no idea he was a prince when they met. He said, "You mean, you have no earthly idea where you are? Or whose house this is? Or who I am?"

Later, when Princess found out Noodle was actually a prince, she was upset with him. He responded, saying, "Okay, okay, it started out as a little game. Because I love games. I thought it was fun that you didn't know who I was. I thought maybe I had a chance for someone to like me for who I was and not for what I was."



What do you think Noodle means by this?

If you were a prince, or a princess, would you want people to know?

What is the difference between **what** a person is, and **who** a person is?

Write your ideas about this in the space below.

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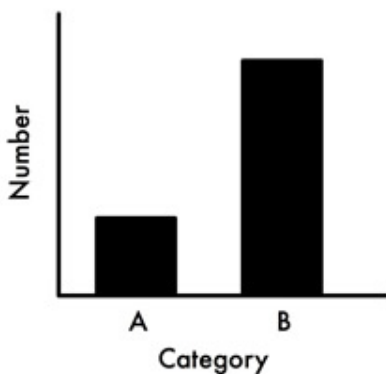
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## Graph Your Class!

In *The Princess and the Pea*, Noodle and Princess shared a favorite color (blue) and a favorite food (spaghetti).

Choose one of these (favorite food or favorite color) and take a poll in class. On a separate piece of paper, graph the results. What was the most popular answer? Who in your class gave unique answers?

# Garden Pea Day

In the play, the King said, "I feel a proclamation coming on. I hereby proclaim today 'Garden Pea Day,' to be observed by working in one's personal garden."

Discover how sunlight affects the growth of peas, and turn your classroom into a garden with this simple experiment.

You will need:

**Dried peas**

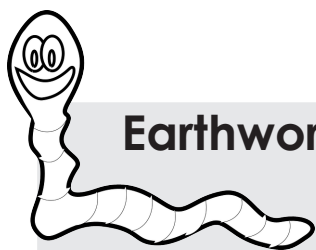
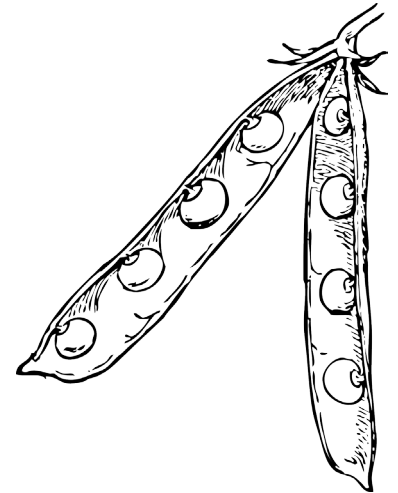
**Clear plastic cups**

**Paper towels**

**Water**

Procedures:

1. Fold six paper towels in half, then in half again.
2. Slide each paper towel into a cup.
3. Wet each paper towel.
4. Tuck a dried pea between two layers of the wet paper towel in each cup.
5. To **test** the effect of sunlight on pea growth, place two cups in direct sunlight, two cups in indirect sunlight, and two cups in darkness (such as a drawer or file cabinet).  
**Hypothesize:** Which do you think will grow fastest?
6. Over time, **observe** the peas. Wet the paper towels each day.
7. Record what you see in a **daily observation log**.
8. Draw a **diagram** of a pea plant, and **label** its parts.
9. Record your **conclusions**. How did sunlight affect the growth of your pea plants?



## Earthworm Facts

- Earthworms form little burrows and help fertilize the soil with their castings.
- A worm has no arms, legs, or eyes.
- There are approximately 2,700 different kinds of earthworms.
- In one acre of land, there can be more than a million earthworms.
- Baby worms hatch from cocoons smaller than a grain of rice.
- Worms can eat their weight every day!

Learn more at: <http://extension.illinois.edu/worms/facts/>

**Virginia Repertory Theatre**

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*Virginia Repertory Theatre Presents...*

**The Princess and the Pea**

book by Ron Barnett and Dawn Westbrook; music, lyrics by Ron Barnett

Virginia Repertory Theatre  
Nathaniel Shaw, Artistic Director  
Phil Whiteway, Managing Director

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**Theater Etiquette**



**Clap, but know when to do so.**

You should clap after a play, act, or song, or right before intermission. If you loved the show, you can give a "standing ovation" at the end. That's when you stand up while applauding.

**It's quiet time (sort of).**

If the play makes you laugh or cry, that is fine, but you can chat with your friends afterwards. Show the actors respect and quiet they need to focus on their roles. Being quiet allows the rest of the audience to concentrate on the play.

**Behind the Curtains**

Many people with different skills and talents work together to make a production such as *The Princess and the Pea* come to life. Can you match these theater jobs with their descriptions?

**set designer**

a person who plays a role or character in stage plays, motion pictures, television broadcasts, etc.

**playwright**

a person who creates the look of each character by designing clothes and accessories the actors will wear in performance.

**stage manager**

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.

**actor**

this job focuses on using light to create effects that match the mood of various scenes in a performance.

**costume designer**

this person is a writer of scripts for plays. The script tells a story through the actions and words of the characters.

**lighting designer**

this person creates the physical surroundings of a play, including any scenery, furniture, or props used throughout the play.

**director**

this person helps the director and helps organize the actors, designers, stage crew, and technicians throughout the production of a play.