



Froggy Girl

WORKSHOPS

STORY:

Froggy Girl

COUNTRY:

Croatia

AGE:

7 - 9

MATERIALS:

Blank papers, pencils, crayons, linen, pumpkin, stick, candles, cardboard.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Explain the meaning and values of a fairy tale.

Illustrate the fairy tale, make a rebus story.

Dramatize the fairy tale.

METHODS:

Guided story reading, listening, storytelling, expressive reading, getting-to-know-you games, drawing, puppet improvisations, puppet show.

Exhibition.

AUTHORS:

National and University Library in Zagreb
Zagreb City Libraries, Branch Selčina

Froggy Girl

There once lived a husband and a wife, who almost reached old age but were still childless. Desperate for a child, they always used to pray to God for one. Once they went to celebrate a feast day, where they once more prayed to God to grant them a child, if only a little *froggy*. Upon return home, the wife felt she was pregnant, and nine months later gave birth to a... what!? A froggy! Nonetheless, Froggy was their pride and joy. The little one was always out in the vineyard, and she would seldom come home. As the old man was always busy working in the vineyard, his wife used to bring him lunch there every day. But she grew old and one day she started to complain, 'I cannot move a limb, let alone take the meal to my husband; my legs won't hold me up anymore.' Their froggy daughter, now fourteen, had just come from the outside and said, 'Mother, I can see you are old, you cannot walk nor bring my father a meal. Let me take the lunch to him.' Mother replied, 'My dear froggy daughter, how could you take the meal to him when you cannot carry it; why, you don't even have arms to hold the pot.' Froggy girl said, 'Oh but I can manage; you just have to mount the pot on my back and tie it to my legs. Don't worry.' 'So, try then, see if you can do it,' mother said, then loaded the pot up onto froggy's back, tied it to her legs and sent her off. Froggy girl boldly carried the pot, but when she reached the garden door, she could not open it nor jump over to her father, so she called to him.

Father came, took the pot off her and ate lunch. Then Froggy girl asked him to pick her up and put her on a cherry tree. When he did so, she sang, her voice echoing all around so beautifully as if it were the fairies' song.

It came to pass that the king's son came nearby to hunt in the forest and overheard her song. When the singing ceased, he approached the old man, asking him who was it that sang so lovely. The old man said he wouldn't know; he sees and hears no-one but the ravens flying over him. 'Oh, tell me, whoever it is; if it's a lad, he'll be my companion, if it's a girl, she'll be my sweetheart,' implored the prince. But the old man feared to reveal the truth and kept saying he did not know. And so, the king's son went back home. The next day Froggy again brought her old father lunch, again he put her on the cherry tree, and again she sang heavenly. And so, again the king's son came to hunt nearby just to hear the song and to see the singer. Froggy was singing up on a cherry tree and the whole valley resounded with her song. The song ending, the king's son again asked the old man who was the singer. The old man told him he wouldn't know. 'And who brought you your lunch?' asked the prince. 'I did,' answered the old man, 'When I came home yesterday, I was so tired that I could not eat, so today I brought lunch with me.' The prince said, 'That song thrills my heart. Old man, you must know who is that singing, tell me; if it's a lad, he'll be my companion, if it's a girl, she'll be my sweetheart.'

Finally, the old man spoke, 'I would tell you, but it would embarrass me and make you cross with me.'

The prince was persistent, 'Have no fear, just tell me.' So, the old man told him it was a froggy singing, and that she was his daughter. 'Tell her to come down.' Froggy got off the tree and sang once more. His heart jumping with joy, the young man told her, 'Be my sweetheart. Tomorrow, the two of my brothers' sweethearts shall come to the castle. The one brother to whom his sweetheart brings a more beautiful flower the king shall turn over the kingdom. Will you come too, as my sweetheart, and bring the flower of your choosing?' Froggy replied, 'I will be there as you wish, but you are to send a white rooster for me to ride on.' He went home and sent a white rooster for her. She turned to the Sun for help, asking for a dress made of sunshine. The next day, she took the dress made of sunshine with her and straddled the rooster. When she reached the guards at the city gate, they would not let her in, but after she threatened to complain to the king's son about them, they gave in. As soon as she was inside the city, the rooster turned into a white fairy, and Froggy became the most beautiful girl in the world, in a dress of sunshine. The flower she had chosen was an ear of wheat, and so she walked on into king's palace.

The king first approached his eldest son's sweetheart, asking her what kind of flower had she brought? She showed him a dog rose. The king came up to his second son's sweetheart asking her what kind of flower

had she brought? She showed him a carnation. The king turned to his youngest son's sweetheart and, seeing her hold an ear of wheat, spoke to her, 'You have brought the best and most useful flower of all, which proves you know there is no life without wheat and that you will reign with great competence. What need we have of other flowers and of loftiness?! Marry the youngest of my sons, whose sweetheart you are, and to him I shall give my kingdom.' And so Froggy became the queen.

ACTIVITIES

Workshops with small puppeteers:

Activity 1:

Guided reading of the fairy tale Froggy Girl (with explanations of unknown terms), dramatization of the fairy tale. The facilitator reads the fairy tale and discusses it with the members of the puppeteer group. She/he explains all the unknown terms to make sure all children understand them. Once the children are familiar with the fairy tale, they begin to dramatize it guided by facilitator.

Example of a dramatized text:

FROGGY GIRL

There once lived a husband and wife, who almost reached old age but were still childless. They always prayed to God for a child. Eventually they went to a parish fair and once more they asked God:

OLD MAN AND OLD WOMAN: Dear God, have mercy on us, grant us a child, if only a Froggy!

They returned back home, and indeed the wife felt she was pregnant, and nine months later she gave birth but to what? A froggy!

They returned back home, and indeed the wife felt she was pregnant, and nine months later she gave birth but to what? A froggy! Nonetheless, they were happier with her than with nothing. Froggy was always out, in the vineyard and seldom came home. Husband was busy working in the vineyard, and his wife brought him lunch every day. But as she grew old one day she complained:

OLD WOMAN: I can barely move a limb, let alone take lunch to my husband each day so far away. It's getting harder and harder. My legs are no good, they are old!

The Froggy, now fourteen, heard that and she loved and respected her old parents.

FROGGY: Mother! I see that you are old and you can't walk any more or bring my father lunch. Give me that lunch, I'll go!

OLD WOMAN: My dear Froggy daughter, how could you take lunch when you cannot carry it; why, you don't even have arms to hold the pot!

FROGGY: I will manage! Mount the pot on my back and tie it to my legs. Don't worry!

OLD WOMAN: Well try it; see if you can do it.

She loaded the pot onto Froggy's back, tied it to her legs

and sent her to her father. Froggy carried and carried, but when she reached the fence of the garden where her father was, she could not open it or jump over.

FROGGY: Father! Father! Come and help me!

Oh, how surprised her father was when he saw who brought him lunch! Overjoyed, he put his Froggy on a cherry tree and she started signing. Her voice was echoing all around so beautifully, one would say that fairies were singing. A prince passed by when going hunting and he overheard the song. He wanted to know:

PRINCE: Who is singing so beautifully?

The old man said he did not know, because he did not see or hear anyone but the ravens flying over him.

PRINCE: Oh, tell me anyway, whoever it is! If it's a lad, he'll be my friend, if it's a girl, she'll be my sweetheart.

But the old man was ashamed and afraid and he repeated:

OLD MAN: I don't know.

The next day Froggy brought her old father lunch again and he put her on the cherry tree again, and she started singing... and lo, the prince came again to hunt nearby

on purpose, just to hear the song and see who was singing. And Froggy was singing from the cherry tree and the whole valley resounded. When the song ended, the king's son approached the old man and asked him:

PRINCE: Please... who is that singing?

OLD MAN: I don't know.

PRINCE: And who brought you lunch?

OLD MAN: I did, I did, I went home on my own, and I was tired... I could not eat then, so I brought it with me.

PRINCE: That song thrills my heart. Old man, you must know who is singing, tell me; if it's a lad, he'll be my friend, if it's a girl, she'll be my sweetheart.

OLD MAN: ... I... I would tell you, but I'm embarrassed and you would be cross with me.

PRINCE: Have no fear, just tell me.

So he told him that it was Froggy singing, and that she was his daughter.

PRINCE: Let her come down from the tree!

(Froggy came down and started singing...music...)

PRINCE: Be my sweetheart. Tomorrow, my brothers' sweethearts will come. The king will give the kingdom to the one, and her fiancé, who brings the most beautiful flower. Come as my sweetheart, and bring the flower of your choosing.

FROGGY: I will be there as you wish, but you are to send a rooster from the castle for me to ride on.

He left and sent a rooster she asked for. She went to the Sun asking for a sunshine dress.

(Sun appears.)

The next morning Froggy straddled the rooster and took the sunshine dress with her. But when she reached the town guards...

GUARDS: Stoop! You cannot go in!

FROGGY: Let me in! I shall complain to the king's son if you don't let me in!

(The gates open)

And they let her in. As soon as she was inside the town, the rooster turned into a white fairy, and Froggy became the most beautiful girl in the world! In a dress of sunshine and with an ear of wheat in her hand she walked into king's palace.

(Palace, the king sitting on his throne.)

KING: What flowers have you brought me?

The eldest son's sweetheart showed him – a rose. The second son's sweetheart gave him – a carnation. And when the king turned to his youngest son's sweetheart and saw her holding an ear of wheat he told her:

KING: You have brought us the best and most useful flower: this shows that you know there is no life without wheat and that you will know how to rule. What need do we have of other flowers and haughtiness?! Marry my youngest son, whose sweetheart you are, and I shall leave my kingdom to him.

And so Froggy became the queen.

Activity 2:

Children draw characters of the fairy tale on the paper and make puppets (use pumpkin for characters, cardboard for castle).

Activity 3:

Children perform puppet improvisations according to the text of the fairy tale and their own dramatization. They use puppets made on the workshop to tell the fairy tale (role division, selection of narrator and help during change of scenes).

Activity 4:

Puppet play (children perform the play many times for in the library, school, etc.)

Workshops with children:

Activity 1:

For the introduction, the facilitator/librarian is trying to find out whether the children know what fairy tale is. They are discussing it and children give their definitions.

- What is fairy tale?
- What is typically for the fairy tale?
- What kind of characters can we usually find in the fairy tale?
- How do characters usually look like in a fairy tale? The good ones/the bad ones?
- What's a difference between a legend and fairy tale?
- What is your favorite fairy tale? Why?

Getting-to-know-you games: the facilitator asks the children to tell something about themselves (what they do well, which talent do they have, e.g.: I sing well, I draw beautifully) in order to help them recognize Froggy Girl's talent.

Activity 2:

a) Storytelling of the fairy tale Froggy Girl (a special atmosphere can be made by dimming the lights, lighting candles, playing music, etc., which contributes to greater attention when listening and concentrating on text).

Questions for analysing the fairy tale:

- Who are the main characters in the fairy tale?
- What did the husband and wife wish?
- For what did they pray to God for?
- To whom did the woman give birth to?
- Were they happy?
- Whom does Froggy represent?
- Was Froggy a good child?
- What was her talent?
- Do you have some special talent?
- How was Froggy rewarded for her goodness?
- Why did the king choose Froggy among other girls?

b) The fairy tale can be presented to the children by the puppet play Froggy Girl performed by puppeteer group that has already participated in a series of workshops. Children analyse the fairy tale and actions of the characters answering to the questions asked by puppeteers.

Activity 3:

Expressive reading of parts of a fairy tale for which children create illustrations. Children sit at desks in groups and draw / paint a picture based on the text they were given (for each group facilitator prepares a text with blanks into which they have to insert a picture – e.g. **The husband and wife** were already old and had no **children**.).

Example of the text for making the rebus fairy tale:

FROGGY GIRL

A husband and wife grew old but had no **children**. They went to a parish fair and the woman prayed for **a child**, if only a **froggy**. Her wish was granted and she gave birth to **a froggy**. The **husband** was always working in the vineyard, and **the wife** brought him **lunch**. When the wife became feeble, **Froggy** brought lunch to her father. She asked **her father** to lift her up on a **cherry tree** and she sung like **a fairy**. **A prince** passed by the vineyard when going hunting. He heard the song and asked **the old man** who sung so beautifully. **Father** lied that he did not know. He lied for three days and finally admitted that it was a **Froggy** singing who was his daughter. When he took her off **the cherry tree**, **the prince** told her to come to **the castle** to be his sweetheart, but to the king she must bring **a flower** that she deemed the most beautiful. **Froggy** rode up on a white **rooster**. When they entered **the royal town**, **the rooster** turned into **a fairy** and

Froggy into the most beautiful girl. The eldest prince's girlfriend brought a rose, and the second son's girlfriend brought a carnation. The king married the Froggy girl to his youngest son and bestowed the kingdom to him because he liked the ear of wheat the best since one can make bread from it and thus feed the people. So Froggy girl became the queen.

The results are children's works combined in the order of the events of the fairy tale (children's picture book or a rebus story for the fairy tale Froggy Girl).

Activity 4:

Exhibition of children's works in library or school.