



Stage 6

The Frog Prince

Storyteller Notes

Part of the fun of telling this story is the appeal of the central character: don't be afraid to portray this princess larger than life, whether she is sobbing loudly, throwing a tantrum or trying to wriggle out of trouble!

This story requires plenty of stepping in and out of character, from princess to queen to frog. Make use of 'story space' to help you: notice, for example, how the frog appears as a hand shape which can hop, swim and still hold a golden ball; but, if I am speaking as the princess, the frog can also appear in story space, held in the palm of my hand. There are plenty of levels to play with too: try to look up as the frog speaking to the princess, or the princess to the queen, but down when the dialogue is going in the other direction! More notes on story space can be found throughout these videos, especially in *The King and His Wish* and *East of the Sun, West of the Moon*.

Another advantage of story space, as in *The Magic Paintbrush*, is that it can create magic: here the transformation of the frog into the prince is achieved by beginning with the hand shape for the frog, using the other hand to shape the growing legs and arms, and finally using both hands and eyes to frame where the prince now stands.

This story uses a solid object too: the orange for the golden ball, demonstrating to children how an everyday object can be changed within a story. Don't draw attention to it by pointing it out: simply pick it up and use it as the thing it's supposed to be – as with the chair's transformation in *Finn MacCool and the Giant's Causeway*.

Written by Amy Robinson

Amy is a professional storyteller. Previously a primary school teacher, Amy now tours schools and theatres in the UK with her storytelling colleague, Chip Colquhoun. Find out more at www.snailtales.org