



# The Paper Bag Princess

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- Teacher's Guide
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Common Core Standards-based for grades K-2

# The Paper Bag Princess *A Teacher's Guide*

A-Z Guided reading level: K

## Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify character traits of the main character.
- Compare and contrast the main character with traditional fairy tale princesses.
- Reflect on what kinds of characters are typically "brave" in the stories and movies they have been exposed to.

## Background

This book is a nontraditional fairytale in which the princess outsmarts the dragon, saves the prince, and then decides not to marry him because he is so shallow.

## Vocabulary in the text

- Fierce
- Tangled
- Unfortunately

## *Common Core ELA Standards:*

- Kindergarten
  - ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.3 With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.
  - ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.9 With prompting and support, compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in familiar stories.
- First Grade
  - ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.3 Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.
  - ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.9 Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories.
- Second Grade
  - ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.9 Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story (e.g., Cinderella stories) by different authors or from different cultures.

## Discussion Questions

### Before reading:

- What are some fairy tales you already know of? (Write answers on the board)
- What kinds of characters are usually in fairy tales? (Make a list as students answer: **Royalty** (king, queen, prince, princess) **Magical/talking animals, fairies, dragons, witches/sorcerers, evil stepmother/stepsisters**)
- What words come to mind when you think of fairy tale princesses?
- What about fairy tale princes?
- Let's think of some **adjectives** that describe some of these characters.

You can create a chart together as a class to refer to later- it might look something like the one below:

<b>Characters</b>	<b>Adjectives</b>
Princess	Beautiful, kind, caring
Prince	Strong, handsome, brave
Animals	Magical, helpful
Stepmother/sisters	Evil, wicked

## During the Read-aloud:

- (After reading page 1) How is Elizabeth similar to other fairy tale princesses? (She is beautiful, lives in a castle, has fancy clothes, is going to marry a prince)
- What is the problem in this story? (A dragon burns her castle and takes prince Ronald)
- How does Elizabeth manage to get past the dragon? (She tricks him into using up his fire and exhausting himself from flying around the world, so he falls asleep)
- Why don't Elizabeth and Ronald get married? (Ronald only cares about how Elizabeth looks.)

## After Reading:

- What are some adjectives that describe Elizabeth?
- What are some ways that Elizabeth is like other fairy tale princesses? How is she different?
- Can you think of any other brave girls you have read about? Can you think of any other brave boys you've read about? Do you think there are more brave boys or girls in books and movies? Why do you think that?

## Activity Ideas:

- Have students design a fancy shirt using a paper bag. Help them cut out neck and armholes and let them use markers and other art supplies like glitter glue or paint pens to make their paper bag prince/princess shirt.
- Create a Venn Diagram as a class comparing Elizabeth and another fairytale princess that your students know of. Then pair students up and have them create a Venn Diagram comparing/contrasting themselves and their partner.

## Extension: try reading these other non-traditional fairy tales:

- The True Story of the Three Little Pigs, by Jon Scieszka
- Prince Cinders, by Babette Cole
- Goldy Luck and the 3 Pandas, by Natasha Yim
- Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs, by Mo Willems
- Cinder Edna, by Ellen Jackson