

The Fish Princess

by Teresa Castillo



A king lived in a castle by the sea. His daughter was gentle and kind. She loved the sea. Each day she swam for hours.

This made the king angry. "A princess always looks beautiful! She shouldn't look wet!" he roared. "She wears gold rings. She laughs and sings. She sits and sews. She doesn't act like a fish!"

The princess tried to explain. However the king wouldn't listen. "Promise me you'll stop all this swimming," he said.

"I can't promise that," she said.

So the king locked her in the tower. "You'll stay here until you can!"

"I wish I *were* a fish," the sad princess cried. In a flash, she became a fish. She leaped from the tower. She splashed into the sea and swam away.

Days passed, then weeks. The king was sorry. His daughter was gone. One day he went walking. "How wrong I was," he sighed. "I should have let her be herself."

A fish was nearby. It heard the king. Splash! It changed back into the princess. And the king and the princess were happy ever after.

COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

- 1 The king learned
 - a** to let people be themselves.
 - b** that a good princess doesn't act like a fish.
- 2 The princess swam for hours because
 - a** she loved the sea.
 - b** her father told her to.
- 3 The king locked his daughter up because she
 - a** wanted to become a fish.
 - b** wouldn't do what he wanted.

- 4 After the princess said she wanted to be a fish, she
 - a** turned into a fish.
 - b** was locked in the tower.
- 5 The king knew he had been wrong because he
 - a** didn't like fish very much.
 - b** missed his daughter.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B the king's daughter
the parents' children

Add an *'s* to *king* to show that he owns something. The mark (') is an apostrophe. Add only an *'* to *parents* to show that more than one parent owns things.

Add an *'s* or an *'* to each word to show ownership. Write the word.

- 1 princess
- 2 king
- 3 daughter
- 4 father
- 5 parents

C Read the words you wrote. Which one best fits in each sentence below? Write the word.

- 6 The daughter of the king liked to swim. The _____ daughter swam every day.
- 7 The princess lived in a castle that belonged to her father. Her _____ castle was near the sea.
- 8 The princess never asked her parents for money. She wanted her _____ love, not their money.



LEARN ABOUT WORDS (continued)

- 9 The king thought that his daughter wished to be a fish. His _____ wish was really to be herself.

- 10 The only friends the princess had were fish. The _____ friends lived in the water.

THINK ABOUT IT

- D** The princess's **laughter** was as **bright** as a **bell**.

This sentence helps you understand how the princess's laugh sounded. The phrase "as bright as a bell" is a figure of speech. It is a different way of saying that the princess's laugh was very clear and happy.

Choose the word from the first two sentences that best fits in the blank.

- 1 The sky is high. The ground is low.
The castle towers were as high as the _____.
- 2 A dolphin is fast. A turtle is slow.
The princess could swim as fast as a _____.
- 3 The sun is bright. The fog is dull.
The princess's hair was as bright as the _____.

- 4 A storm is dark. A rainbow is bright.

The king's eyes were as _____ as a storm.

- 5 A jungle is noisy. A library is quiet.

The castle was as quiet as a _____.

- E** Most verbs add *-ed* to show that something happened in the past.

Yesterday the fish *splashed* a little. Today they *splash* a lot.

Read each sentence. If it could be happening now, write *now*. If it happened in the past, write *past*.

- 6 The king promised many things to his daughter.
- 7 They both love the sea.
- 8 The princess and the fish swim every day.
- 9 The king locked her in the tower.
- 10 The princess walked to the castle.