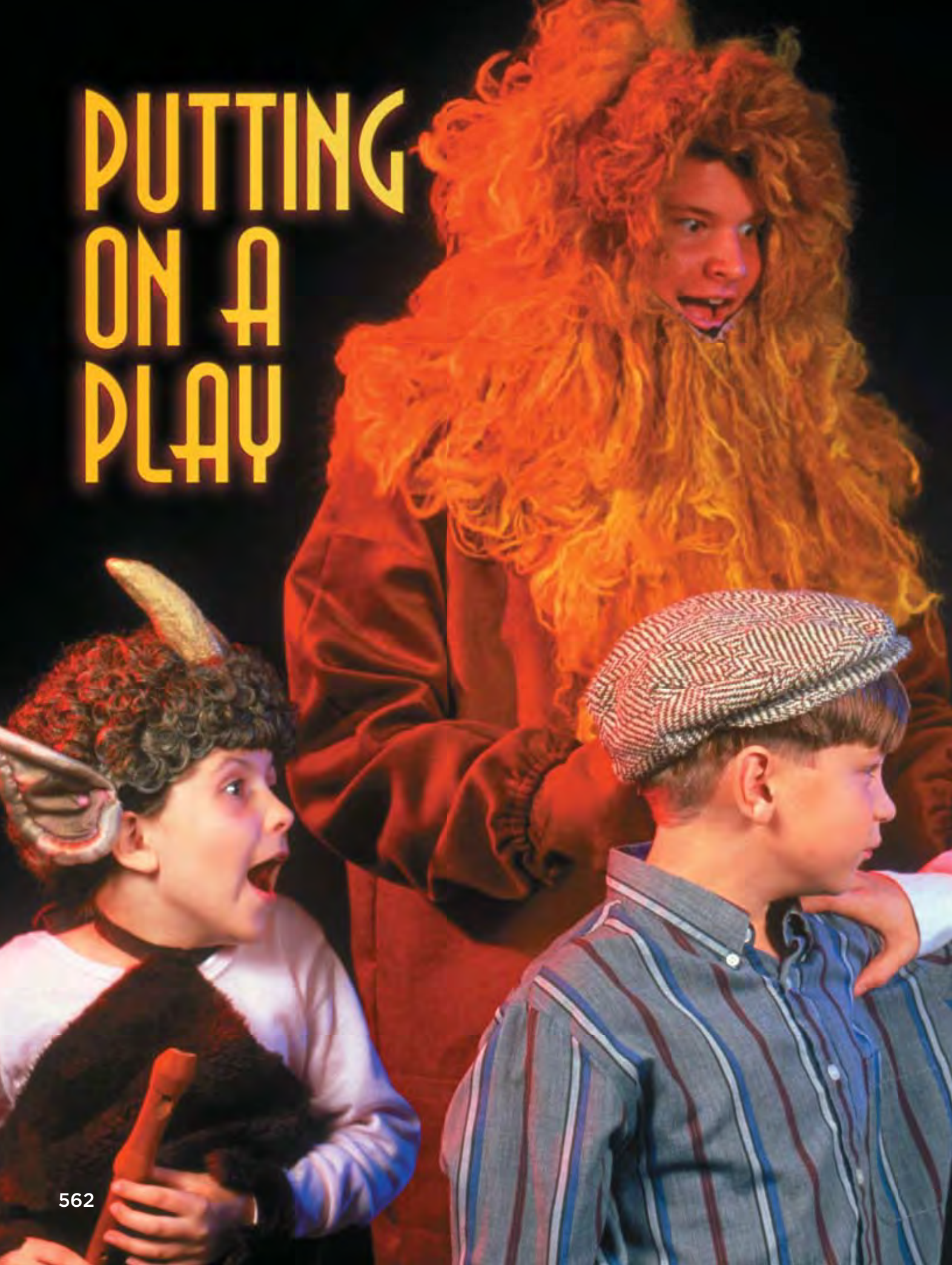


PUTTING ON A PLAY





Talk About It

Make up a story about the play these kids are performing. What is it called? What happens?



Find out more about plays at www.macmillanmh.com

The Frog Prince

by Marcia Stevens

Vocabulary

selfish exasperated
bumbling specialty
cranky famished
commotion



Thesaurus

Antonyms are words that have opposite meanings.

Cranky and *cheerful* are antonyms.



Narrator: There once was a beautiful princess whose favorite amusement was a golden ball. One day the princess tossed the ball too high, and it landed in the well. As the princess cried over her lost treasure, she heard someone ask a question.

Frog: Why are you so miserable, beautiful princess?

Narrator: The princess looked around and saw only a frog.

Princess: My favorite golden ball fell into the well.

Frog: I can retrieve it for you, but first, you must agree to one condition. You must promise to take me home and be my friend.

Narrator: The princess had no intention of being friends with a frog, but she promised anyway. When the frog brought her the ball, the princess snatched it from him and scampered home.

Frog: What a **selfish** princess. I'm certain that she has forgotten her promise. I'll just hop over to the castle to remind her.

Narrator: The frog hop-hop-hopped through the meadow and knocked on the heavy door of the castle.

Princess: What are you doing here, you **bumbling** frog?

Frog: My, aren't we **cranky**? And as for bumbling, *I* wasn't the one who dropped the ball in the well. I am here to remind you of the promise you made.

Narrator: The princess slammed the door in the frog's face with a big BANG.

King: I heard a door slam. What's all the **commotion**? If you made a promise you must honor it.

Narrator: The princess was **exasperated** but obeyed her father. So, the king, the princess, and the frog enjoyed dinner together. It was mutton stew, the cook's **specialty**.

Frog: I was **famished**, but now I'm full. Thank you for dinner. Kindly show me to my bed now.

Narrator: The princess did as she was asked, but the frog looked sad.

Frog: You have welcomed me into your home, but I can tell that you don't want to be my friend.

Narrator: The princess blushed, for what the frog said was true. She bent down to kiss the frog, but ended up kissing a prince.

Frog: I am a prince who was turned into a frog, and your kiss turned me back. Thank you, dear friend!

Narrator: The prince and princess were wonderful friends from that day on and lived happily ever after.

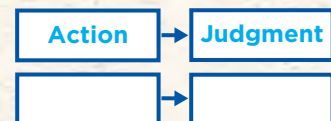


Reread for Comprehension



Evaluate

Make Judgments Readers learn about the characters in a story by evaluating what they say and do. These actions, plus what you know from your own experiences, can help you make judgments about characters.



A Make Judgments Flow Chart can help you understand the characters you read about. Reread the selection for the actions of the characters and add them to the chart. Then use their actions, along with your own experiences, to make judgments about the characters.

Comprehension

Genre

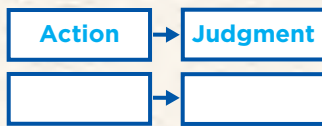
A **Play** is a story told entirely through dialogue and intended to be performed.



Evaluate

Make Judgments

As you read, use your Make Judgments Flow Chart.



Read to Find Out

Who is the evil character, and what will the happy ending be?

Ranita

The Frog Princess

by Carmen Agra Deedy
illustrated by Renato Alarcão



SETTING

Long ago in Mexico. The Viceroy's hunting lodge in Chapultepec forest.

PLAYERS

FELIPE, the Viceroy's rotten son

PEPE, Felipe's mistreated servant

RANITA, a little frog with a mysterious past

VIEJA SABIA, a wise but **cranky** old woman

VICEROY, the representative of the Spanish throne

VICEROY'S WIFE

COOK

MAN ONE

MAN TWO

SERVANT ONE

SERVANT TWO

MAN THREE

EXTRAS: Members of hunting party, servants attending dinner, noblemen and ladies



Scene 1

In a forest clearing, men are frantically searching the ground. From a nearby stone well, Ranita watches but remains unnoticed.

Man One: *(Frustrated)* Keep looking! If we don't find that golden arrow—

Man Two: —we'll be on *tortillas* and water for the next month!

(Men, grumbling, all agree.)

(Enter Felipe.)

Felipe: *(Loud and demanding)* Well? Have you found my golden arrow yet?

Man Three: Not yet, Señor!

Felipe: *(Sweetly, hand over heart)* It was a gift from my dear mother. *(Turning suddenly and hissing)* Find it or I will feed you to the jaguars—starting with my **bumbling** servant, Pepe. It's his fault I missed my mark. Now, out of my sight, all of you!

(Men exit hurriedly.)



Felipe: (*Stomping foot and whining*) I want my golden arrow back!

Ranita: (*Sitting on top of well, holding the golden arrow*) You mean, *this* golden arrow?

Felipe: (*Joyously*) My golden arrow! You found it! You—(*Stops cold*)—you're a frog.

Ranita: You were expecting a Mayan princess, perhaps?

Felipe: (*Rolls eyes*) Well, I wasn't expecting a talking frog!

Ranita: (*Sighs*) I'm under a spell. I don't like to talk about it.

Felipe: (*Pauses to think*) Not my problem. Hand over the arrow.

Ranita: (*Plink! Drops it back down the well*) Hmm, looks like it's your problem now.

Felipe: N-n-noooo! (*Threateningly*) What have you done, you foolish frog?

Ranita: If I am so foolish, how come I am the one with the arrow while you are the one standing there talking to a *rana*, a frog?

Felipe: I would squish you right now—(*Sniffs*)—but you are only a frog.

Ranita: (*Warningly*) You want that golden arrow?

Felipe: (*Suspicious*) In exchange for what?

Ranita: A promise.

Felipe: (*Relieved*) Oh, is that all?

Ranita: A promise is a very serious thing.

Felipe: (*Coughing*) Yes, yes, of course—go on.



Make Judgments

What judgment can you make about Felipe's character? Does he take promises seriously?



Ranita: IF I rescue your golden arrow, you must promise to let me eat from your *plato*, sleep in your *cama*, and give me a *beso* when the sun comes up.

Felipe: (*Just stares*) Eat from my plate? Sleep in my bed? KISS you? *That* is disgusting!

Ranita: No promise, no golden arrow.

Felipe: (*Crossing his fingers behind his back*) I promise.

(*Ranita fetches the arrow. Felipe bows and runs off.*)

Ranita: *Espera!* Wait! I can't hop that fast! (*Hangs her head and begins to cry*) He's gone. Now I'll never break this evil spell.

(Enter wise woman, leaning on two canes.)

Vieja Sabia: It doesn't feel very good, does it?

Ranita: *(Blows nose)* Please, no lectures today, old woman.

Vieja Sabia: My name is *Vieja Sabia*.

Ranita: Sorry, *Wise Old Woman*. *(Sadly)* You've already turned me into a frog. Isn't that enough?

Vieja Sabia: You wouldn't be a frog if you hadn't refused to give me a drink from this well, so long ago.

Ranita: I was a **selfish** child then. I have paid for that, haven't I? I have learned what it is like to be alone and forgotten.

Vieja Sabia: Perhaps you have . . .

Ranita: *(Brightening)* Then, you will turn me into a girl again?

Vieja Sabia: No. But I will take you as far as the Viceroy's hunting lodge. You must make the leap from there.

(Exit Vieja Sabia and Ranita.)





Scene 2

Hunting lodge with Viceroy, his wife, noblemen and women, all seated at long banquet table. Servants scurry in and out with bowls of food.

Servant One: *(Placing bowl of soup before Viceroy)* Sopa, Señor?

Viceroy: *(Exasperated)* Sí, sí. Where is Felipe?

Viceroy's Wife: *(Wistfully)* Dear boy. He is probably feeding the birds.

Servant Two: *(Aside)* To the cat.

Servant One: *(Muffles laugh)*

(Enter Felipe.)

Felipe: I am **famished**. What a day I've had today. First, I lost my golden arrow—

(Shouting from the kitchen can be heard.)



Felipe: (*Louder*)—then I met this ridiculous, demanding—
(*Enter Ranita, running from the kitchen chased by cook and servants.*)

Felipe: (*Slack-jawed*)—frog.

Cook: You hop back here! (*To servant*) Stop her, right now!

Servant One: (*Tries to catch frog*) Aaaaayyyy! She's a slippery one!

Servant Two: Oooooeoooo! She bit me!

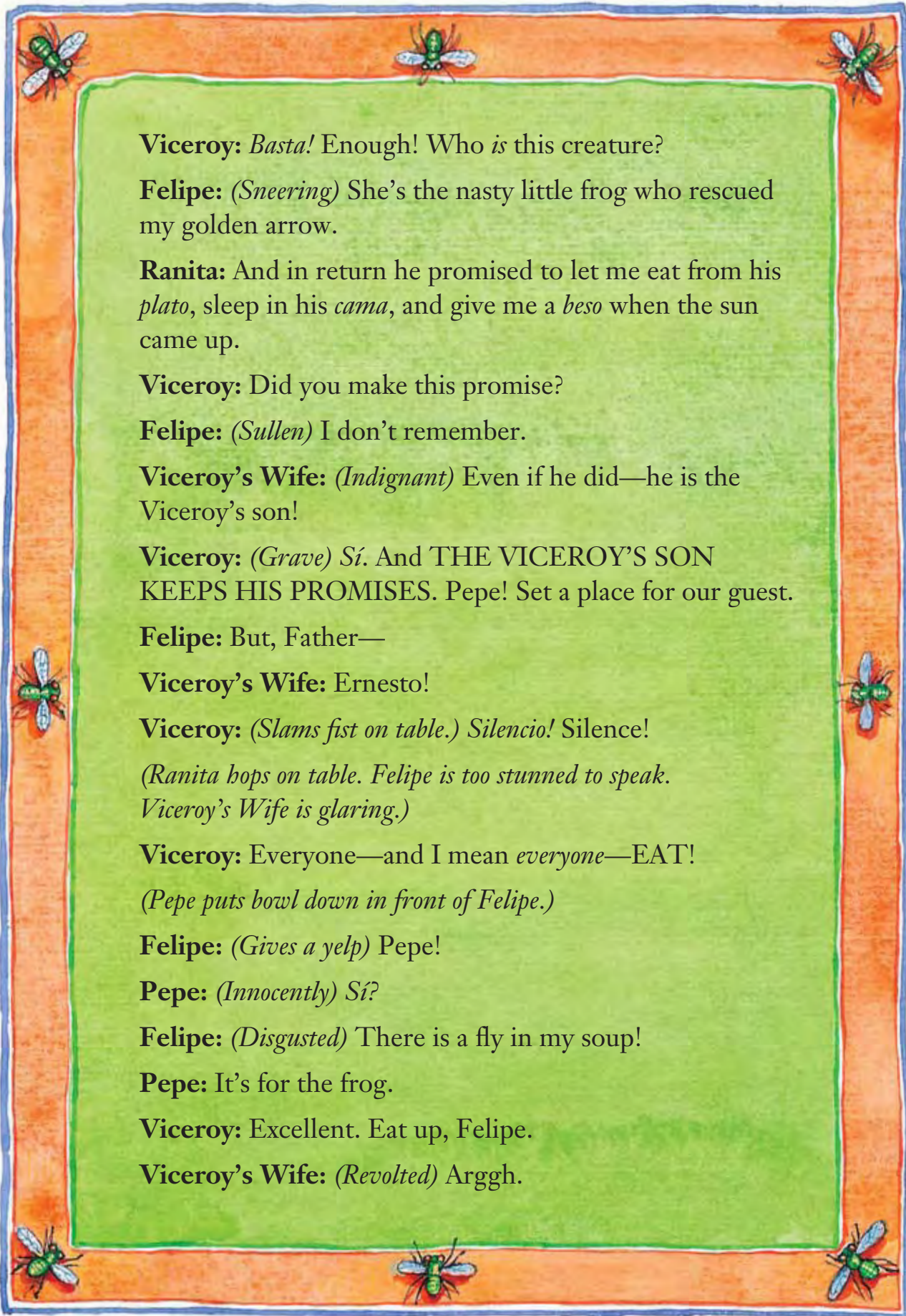
Cook: Get her, Pepe. (*Pepe catches Ranita under the table, smiles, and lets her go. A **commotion** follows as the cook and servants chase Ranita.*)



Make Judgments

Why do you think Pepe let Ranita go?





Viceroy: *Basta!* Enough! Who *is* this creature?

Felipe: (*Sneering*) She's the nasty little frog who rescued my golden arrow.

Ranita: And in return he promised to let me eat from his *plato*, sleep in his *cama*, and give me a *beso* when the sun came up.

Viceroy: Did you make this promise?

Felipe: (*Sullen*) I don't remember.

Viceroy's Wife: (*Indignant*) Even if he did—he is the Viceroy's son!

Viceroy: (*Grave*) *Sí*. And THE VICEROY'S SON KEEPS HIS PROMISES. Pepe! Set a place for our guest.

Felipe: But, Father—

Viceroy's Wife: Ernesto!

Viceroy: (*Slams fist on table.*) *Silencio!* Silence!

(*Ranita hops on table. Felipe is too stunned to speak. Viceroy's Wife is glaring.*)

Viceroy: Everyone—and I mean *everyone*—EAT!

(*Pepe puts bowl down in front of Felipe.*)

Felipe: (*Gives a yelp*) Pepe!

Pepe: (*Innocently*) *Sí?*

Felipe: (*Disgusted*) There is a fly in my soup!

Pepe: It's for the frog.

Viceroy: Excellent. Eat up, Felipe.

Viceroy's Wife: (*Revolted*) Arggh.

Scene 3

(Felipe's bedroom)

Felipe: *(On bed)* I refuse to sleep next to a FROG. Pepe!!!!!!!

Pepe: *(Enters immediately)* Sí, Señor?

Felipe: *(Snappish)* What took you so long? Hurry—tell my father I can't do this. *(Desperate)* Tell him I'll get warts.

(Enter Viceroy.)

Viceroy: *(Annoyed)* With any luck, you will get one on your oath-breaking tongue, boy.

Felipe: *(Whining)* Father—

Viceroy: You made a promise, Felipe. *(To Pepe)* Help him keep his word, eh, Pepe?

(Exit Viceroy.)



Felipe: *(Throws pillow at Pepe. Falls on bed and begins to wail.)*
AAAAAAAYYYYYYYY!

Pepe: *(Blows out candle and sits in chair.)* *Hasta mañana . . .*
until tomorrow. Sweet dreams, Felipe.

Felipe: *(Growls)* I will dream of roasted frog legs.

Ranita: I'm telling.

Felipe: Bug breath!

Ranita: Big baby!

Pepe: *(Sighs)* It's going to be a long night.



(Next morning)

Ranita: *(Cheerful)* *Despierta*, wake up! It's "beso time!"

[Felipe rubs eyes, sees Ranita, and shrieks.]

Felipe: *(Whimpers, clutching his blanket)* It wasn't a bad dream, after all. Forget it, frog! I am not kissing you!

Ranita: *(Stubbornly)* You promised.

Felipe: Well, *(Smiles slowly)* I've just had a better idea.
(Kicks chair to wake his servant) Pepe!

Pepe: *(Groggy)* Señor!

Felipe: You are sworn to obey me in all things, *sí?*

Pepe: *(Confused)* *Sí*, Señor.



Felipe: (*Smug*) KISS . . . THE . . . FROG.

[Pepe shrugs and kisses Ranita's cheek.]

(No longer a frog, Ranita is now a beautiful Mayan Princess.)

Felipe: (*Dazzled*) I—but who? (*Bowing*) Allow me to introduce myself, I am—

Ranita: —the Spanish Viceroy's Rotten Son. And I am . . . the Mayan Emperor's Lucky Daughter.

(Felipe and Pepe fall on their knees.)

Ranita: I have been enchanted for 200 years.

Felipe: (*Looks up*) You've been a frog for 200 years? What's so LUCKY about that?

Ranita: I'll tell you. As a princess, I could have ended up the wife of a spoiled brat like you. Instead, I found myself a prince . . . (*Takes Pepe's hand*) a prince of a husband, that is.

(Pepe kisses the Princess's hand, while Felipe has a screaming tantrum.)





Epilogue

The same clearing in the forest as in Scene 1

Felipe: (*Kicks a stone*) If they think I'm going to their ridiculous wedding . . . ha! May they have a dozen ugly tadpole children!

(Enter Vieja Sabia.)

Vieja Sabia: *Agua!* Water from the well, my son, before I die of thirst.

Felipe: (*Snarling*) I'm no water boy. I'm the Viceroy's son! Get your own water, you old *cucaracha!*

Vieja Sabia: (*With gentle concern*) Cockroach? It's very rude to speak to your elders that way. Has no one taught you manners?

Felipe: (*Puzzled*) No.

Vieja Sabia: (*Smiling wickedly*) Well (*pointing finger at Felipe*), that is my **specialty**.

*(**POOF** Felipe the Frog hops onto the top of the well.)*

Vieja Sabia: (*to audience*) And now you know how the Frog Prince ended up in that well.

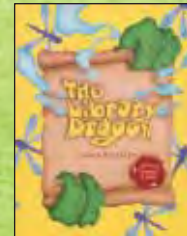


Once Upon a Time . . .



Carmen Agra Deedy came to the United States from Cuba in 1960, after a revolution made it dangerous for her family to live there. Hoping for a more peaceful life, Carmen and her family settled in Georgia. Carmen has not forgotten her Cuban heritage. She combines it with the heritage of the southern United States when writing her stories.

Other books by Carmen Agra Deedy



Renato Alarcão was born, raised, and currently lives in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Among his many art projects was the creation of 13 murals around Paterson and Passaic, New Jersey, all done with a team of artists and local teens.



Author's Purpose

Why did Carmen Agra Deedy write the play *Ranita, the Frog Princess*? Was her purpose to explain, inform, entertain, or persuade? How do you know?



Find out more about Carmen Agra Deedy at www.macmillanmh.com



Comprehension Check



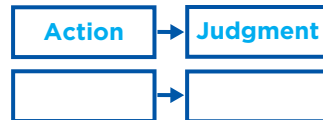
Summarize

Summarize *Ranita, the Frog Princess*. Tell what Ranita’s problem was and how it was solved.



Think and Compare

1. What kind of person is the Viceroy? Look for clues about his character and put them in your Make Judgments Flow Chart. Use the clues to make a judgment about the Viceroy’s character.



Evaluate: Make Judgments

- Reread Scene 2 of *Ranita, the Frog Princess* on pages 574-575. How does the Viceroy’s wife feel about Felipe? How do the servants feel? **Analyze**
- How would you respond to the deal that Ranita offered Felipe? **Apply**
- Did Felipe deserve the punishment he received for being **selfish**? Give reasons for your answer. **Evaluate**
- Read “The Frog Prince” on pages 564-565. How is this story like *Ranita, the Frog Princess*? How are the stories different? Use details from both selections in your answer. **Reading/Writing Across Texts**

