

Talk About It

What are the features of a fairy tale? Why do you think fairy tales are still popular after hundreds of years?



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Fairy Tales

Vocabulary

dismiss	descended
intentions	accompany
despair	delicacies
bridle	consented

Homophones

Homophones are words that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings. For example, the homophones *bridle* and *bridal* sound alike but have very different meanings.

A Real Princess

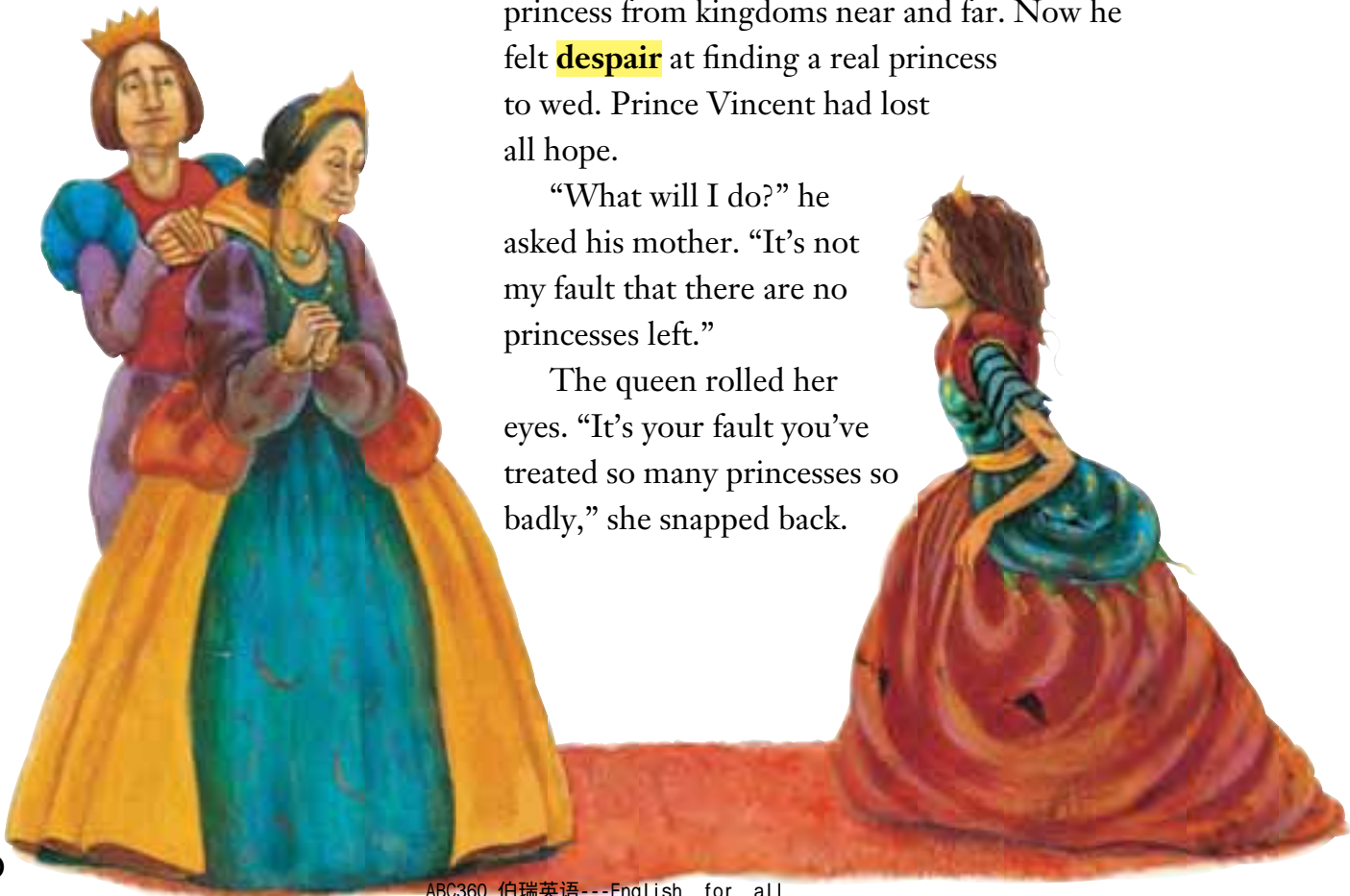
by Tonya Schaeffer

Once upon a time there was a prince named Vincent. He was about to turn 30 years old. This was an important age. If he didn't marry a princess by his birthday, the king's advisors would **dismiss** him from the court. They would send the prince away, and he would never be able to become king.

Prince Vincent's **intentions** did not include losing the crown. However, over the years, he had broken the heart of every princess from kingdoms near and far. Now he felt **despair** at finding a real princess to wed. Prince Vincent had lost all hope.

"What will I do?" he asked his mother. "It's not my fault that there are no princesses left."

The queen rolled her eyes. "It's your fault you've treated so many princesses so badly," she snapped back.



Just then a young lady approached the castle. Her **bridle** had broken. The harness would not go over her horse's nose.

The girl entered the great hall after she **descended** from the great staircase. She introduced herself as Princess Araya from Zelnorm. When Prince Vincent saw her torn and muddy clothes, he sighed. "This cannot be the princess who will solve my problem," he said to his mother. "In fact, I doubt she's a princess at all," he said.

The queen thought for a moment. "I know how to find out," she said. "However, if it turns out she *is* a princess, you must promise to marry her."

"Done!" Prince Vincent said. He was sure his mother was wrong.

Now the queen had a plan. First, she asked a servant to **accompany** Araya to the dining room. There the princess was fed rare **delicacies** from faraway lands prepared by the royal chef. Then the queen gave orders to get the best room ready.

"I want seven feather-filled mattresses on the bed," she demanded. "Place a small pebble at the bottom of the pile. Only a true princess will be able to feel it."

The next morning the queen asked Araya how she had slept.

"I didn't sleep at all!" Araya said. "I saw a homeless mother and child standing by the castle gate, so I took them two mattresses. When I saw other needy townfolk nearby, I gave away the other mattresses. My father, King Paul, will repay you."

The queen was speechless. Prince Vincent, however, was not. He finally saw the real beauty of Princess Araya and asked her to be his wife. She **consented** to his request, and the two of them became the kindest rulers in all the land.



Reread for Comprehension



Summarize Sequence

A Sequence Chart helps you summarize information by listing events or actions in the order that they take place. Use your Sequence Chart as you reread "A Real Princess" to figure out the sequence of events.

