The Sleeping Beauty

Script, Music & Lyrics by
Richard R. Giersch

Enjoy this Theatre IV production of the classic fairy tale, The Sleeping Beauty. In it, a curse is bestowed upon Princess Nichole by a fairy who thinks she has been snubbed when King Louis forgets to invite her to Nichole’s christening. While the other fairies bestow Nichole with gifts such as charm, grace, modesty, patience, and beauty, the evil Elvira puts a spell on Nichole which will come to pass on the eve of her 17th birthday. A palace servant, Philippe, proves he is a ‘true prince’ when he saves the princess Nichole from the evil curse.

The play also features a reluctant king, Louis, who pines for a life as a juggler in the circus, and Madame Sophie, his mother, who is briefly turned into a frog by the evil Elvira.

Set in the beautiful French palace of Versailles in the 18th century, this tale of love, responsibility, greed, and jealousy also features its fair share of humor, music, and even a little juggling!
Using this sheet as a guide, lead students in a discovery lab experience about force and motion as they relate to juggling.

Prediction: Why do you think it is difficult to learn to juggle?

Materials:
Two tennis or racquet balls for each group of students

Procedures:
1. Take turns trying to “juggle” the two balls.
2. Talk with your group about what you observe:
   a. What is making the balls move?
   b. In what direction or directions are the balls moving?
   c. Do the balls change direction? If so, why do you think they are changing directions?
   d. Are there different ways to juggle the balls that allow you to juggle without dropping a ball?
3. Use the space below to illustrate the path of the balls through the air when a person juggles.

Observations (Draw the paths of the balls juggled. Label your drawing with arrows showing the balls’ motion / direction):

Conclusion: When someone juggles balls in the air, what force(s) are at work? Explain.
The fairies Elvira and Annabelle both cast spells during The Sleeping Beauty. Which words in each of these spells rhyme? With a partner, write a rhyming evil spell and another that breaks it!

**Elvira’s Spell for Sophie**
Eye of blow toad
Ear of a doggie
Turn this woman
Into a froggie!

**Annabelle’s Spell for Sophie**
A chicken’s lips
A coyote’s paw
Change this frog
Into a Ma.

**Bonus:** Annabelle’s spell didn’t quite undo Elvira’s. What was “left over” from Elvira’s spell on Sophie?

Your Spell #1:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Your Spell #2:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

The other wood fairies bestowed upon Nichole beauty, charm, patience, grace, modesty, and wit. These are all good traits! If a woodland fairy visited you, what character trait would you want her to bestow upon you? Explain.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
**Plotting the Action!**

When an author writes a book, or a playwright writes a play, they develop the plot of the story by creating a conflict, building the conflict to a climax, then ending the story with a resolution to the conflict. Analyze the action in the play, *The Sleeping Beauty*, on the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Climax: ______________________________</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conflict to be resolved:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>________________________</td>
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<td>________________________</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plot: the author’s overall plan; the main events that make up a story</th>
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**Define the Terms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conflict</strong>:</td>
<td>the problem that the characters struggle to solve in a story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Climax</strong>:</td>
<td>the point of highest dramatic interest or a major turning point in the action (as of a play)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plot</strong>:</td>
<td>the author’s overall plan; the main events that make up a story</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Extend it!**

Use what you have learned about plotting the action of a story to write your own! Create your own plot triangle to record some ideas about the conflict, action, climax, and resolution in your own story.
Set a Setting

In literature, writers emphasize setting in various ways - through events, action, and description. Some settings are unimportant; others are extremely important in understanding the entire story. In a play, the setting is portrayed not only through events and action, but through props, costumes, and set design.

Think about *The Sleeping Beauty* and record ideas about its setting below. Then use the space at the bottom of the page to illustrate a setting that you would like to write about.

**Props / costumes / set design**
- that showed the PLACE
- that showed the TIME

**Written description of the setting:**

_-----------------------_
_-----------------------_
_-----------------------_
_-----------------------_

**My Setting**
When you are in an audience at *The Sleeping Beauty*, or any play, pay attention to the following:

**Cue**
1) Command given by stage management to the technical departments.
2) Any signal (spoken line, action or count) that indicates another action should follow

**House Lights**
The auditorium lighting, which is commonly faded out when the performance starts.

**Blackout**
The act of turning off (or fading out) stage lighting

**Curtain Call**
At the end of a performance, the acknowledgement of applause by actors - the bows.

**Build / Check**
Build is a smooth increase in sound or light level; check is the opposite - a smooth diminishment of light or sound.

**Fade**
An increase, decrease, or change in lighting or sound.