



# RAPUNZEL

AUTHOR: RACHEL ISADORA

ILLUSTRATOR: RACHAEL ISADORA

[See a video of the book read aloud here: Rapunzel](#)

**\*\* REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! \*\***

## OVERVIEW

### ABOUT THE BOOK

“Caldecott Honor winner Rachel Isadora’s gorgeous collages breathe new life into this classic tale, capturing Rapunzel’s striking beauty and the lush African setting. A new home for this story, with wonderful details such as Rapunzel’s long dreadlocks and the prince’s noble steed, a zebra. Readers will delight in the vibrant illustrations, thrill at the appearances of the frightening sorceress, and chime in with the familiar line, Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair, as they follow this well-loved tale.”

*Amazon*

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

“Rachel Isadora is an American illustrator and writer of children's books and she is most famous for *Ben's Trumpet*. The more than 150 children's books Isadora has written and illustrated span a wide variety of topics, including ballet and dance, American urban culture and family life, life in Africa, and traditional fairy tales. Isadora was a professional ballet dancer before an injury led to a change of careers. In addition to freelance writing and illustration, Isadora shows and sells oil paintings, many of which reflect her love of dance, as well as her experiences living in Africa and New York City.”

*Rachel Isadora*

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

## THE READ ALOUD

### BEFORE READING

Use these questions before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- Whisper to your neighbor what you notice about the girl on the cover of the book.
- What clues does the cover indicate about the setting?
- Give a thumbs up you have ever read the story or seen the film Tangled?
- Introduce the title and author.

## RAPUNZEL

### TOPICS & THEMES:

- Africa
- Fairy tales
- Folk tales
- Myths (and their morals)
- Diverse cultures

### *Tips for every book!*

### POWER PHRASES:

*I WONDER...*

*I NOTICE...*

*TELL ME MORE...*

### DIGGING DEEPER:

*“Tell me more, why do you think that?”*

*“How do you know that?”*

*“Why do you think they feel like that?”*

*“Interesting, did you ...”*

- Does anyone know what kind of fiction Rapunzel would be called?
- I wonder what all fairy tales have in common?
- Listen and see if this is similar to the story Rapunzel.

## DURING THE STORY

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*Use these questions while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.*

- (p.2) I wonder where this story is set?
- (p.6) How will the sorceress feel about them taking her Rapunzel?
- (p.8) Do you think they will give away their first-born child?
- (p.12) How do you think Rapunzel feels locked up in the tower?
- (p.16) I wonder what the Prince will do with this new information?
- (p.20) What do you think the sorceress will think of the Prince?
- (p.26) How do the illustrations show how the Prince felt?
- (p.30) I noticed that the illustrations changed, what do they represent?

## AFTER READING

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*Use these questions while after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.*

- How was this story different from the original Rapunzel book?
- What were some similar and different elements of each version?
- Are there parts of the story that could happen in real life?

## BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

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- If you could be in a fairytale what which one would you be in? Why?
- What role would you like to play?
- Are there other fairy tales that have magic spells?
- How do all fairy tales end?

## COOPERATIVE LEARNING

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- As a class have the children complete an A-Z Topic Summary, take it in turns to say a word that describes Rapunzel for each letter of the alphabet, e.g. amazing, brave, courageous etc.
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## SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

### 1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

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*Use these questions before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:*

- Conduct a picture walk and let each child find their favorite page and tell why.

- Why did the author, Rachel Isadora decide to retell this story in Africa?
- What challenges did Rapunzel and the Prince face after they were thrown from the tower?
- I wonder what happened to the sorceress after Rapunzel and the Prince left?

**Suggested Optional Activity:**

- Retell the story without the Prince stopping by to save Rapunzel. Each child will contribute a sentence and come up with a different ending.

**2. WRITING ACTIVITY**

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*Use these questions while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.*

- Write your own story, "If I was Trapped in a Tower". Include a beginning, middle and end as well as a problem and solution.

**3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY**

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*Use these questions while after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.*

- Imagine that Rapunzel decided to cut her hair off, but wanted her hair to be used for something good. Draw a picture with an explanation below, explaining what Rapunzel's hair could be used for!

**COMMON CORE LINKS**

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL. 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.7.