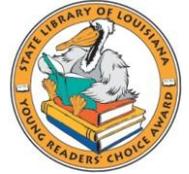




State Library
of Louisiana



Educator Discussion Guide

FROGKISSER!

by Garth Nix

Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Nominee 2019-2020

Grade 6-8

Submitted by Emily Bucher

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Princess Anya does not live a typical royal lifestyle. Living in a castle with a lovesick sister Morven, a distracted careless stepmother, and an evil step-stepfather Duke Rikard, Anya has her hands full! She is launched into an adventure-filled quest to keep a promise to her sister by saving Prince Denholm who has been an unlucky recipient of the Duke's malicious transformation spree. In order to change Prince Denholm from frog prince back to human prince, Anya must gather witches' tears, feathers from a cockatrice's tail, blood from a retired druid, and many more complicated ingredients for the *Fairly Reliable Transmogrification Reversal Lip Balm*. This challenging quest will take Anya and her lovable talking sidekick dog Ardent on the journey of a lifetime hoping to save not only the prince, but her whole land. Garth Nix introduces readers to many unforgettable characters and throws in a few recognizable fairy tale friends along the way! *Frogkisser!* is a beautifully written exciting tale, with laugh out loud moments, that is sure to have readers quickly turning each page to see where Anya's Quest takes her!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Garth Nix is a children's and young adult fantasy writer with over 30 titles and 5 million copies sold in many languages. With much experience in the literature world as a bookseller, agent, editor, publicist, and more, Nix's success as a writer is apparent through the many accolades he has received. He has been listed on the *New York Times* bestseller list for his *Old Kingdom* series, as well as on *Publishers Weekly* and *USA Today*. His most recent title *Frogkisser!* is in the works to become a major motion picture!

Bibliographic information received from author's website: <http://www.garthnix.com>

Date Accessed: October 1, 2018

BOOK AWARDS

YALSA 2018 Best Fiction for Young Adults

VOYA Magazine Best Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror 2016

2018 Locus Award for Young Adult Book, finalist

2018 Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature, nominee

Kirkus Reviews, starred review

School Library Journal, starred review

PREREADING ACTIVITIES

Fairy Tale Research

To familiarize and reintroduce oneself with many classic fairy tales, read *The Frog Prince*, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, *Robin Hood*, and other classics written by The Brothers Grimm and Charles Perrault.

Fairy Tale/Fantasy Comparison

Garth Nix's *Frogkisser!* is described as 50% fairy tale and 50% fantasy. Using a Venn diagram or another similar comparison graphic, compare these two literature genres pointing out their similarities and differences.

Female Empowerment

Frogkisser! is centered around a strong female protagonist. Think about female leaders in history and discuss or write about what qualities they possess that make them strong, empowering women.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does Duke Rikard seem to treat Princess Morven differently than Princess Anya?
2. Anya seems suspicious of Duke Rikard's introduction of Prince Maggers to Princess Morven. Why is Duke Rikard introducing Prince Maggers and why do you think Anya finds him unusual?
3. Tanitha advises Anya to "Always eat the food in front of you first, before looking for more." What do you interpret this statement to mean? What is a saying (idiom) that your family uses?
4. Knowing that Shrub is a practicing thief and desires to become better at this mischievous task, do you think Anya should make a deal to help Shrub? Why or why not?
5. How do you think Anya feels about Gerald the Herald's news of the Duke sending people to find her for reward, dead or alive? How would you react to hearing this news of yourself?
6. Anya explains that when using sorcery, the sorcerer usually gets cold symptoms like sneezing. Why do you think using sorcery has these effects on its users?
7. The Good Wizard says that all wizards' work has flaws. Why do you think this is?
8. Do you think becoming a sorcerer or a wizard would be better? Why?
9. What do you think of Anya's visions from the reflecting pool? Why did she see the story of The Dog with the Wonderful Nose? Why did she have a vision of a group of women cooking/preparing something? Why did she have a vision of Rob the Frogger referring to "her"?
10. The Good Wizard provides Anya with a choice of an envelope that contains a magnificent gift that will aid her on the journey. Which envelope gift do you think would be most useful on the Quest?
11. What do you think will happen when Duke Rikard arrives to Brokenmouth Hill upon the witches' summons and Anya is not there?
12. The ingredients to create the Transmogrification Reversal Lip Balm are difficult to come by. Why do you think this is?

13. Where do you think Frog Prince Denholm has disappeared to (p. 295)?
14. What should Anya do with no army for protection against Duke Rikard and his evil army coming? What do you think about Anya putting everyone in danger? Should Anya surrender herself to protect others? Why or why not?
15. Why is Shrub acting strange, and why isn't the Lip Balm working to transform him?
16. Where have the Royal Dogs gone?
17. What is your opinion of Anya's decision to give Duke Rikard a fair trial? What do you think of his sentencing?
18. Do you think Anya will make a good ruler of Trallonia?
19. How do you think Anya feels about her nickname "Frogkisser," and how do you think her opinions about it have changed over the course of the novel?

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

Language Arts:

Fairy Tale Adaptation

Students choose a classic fairy tale and write their own adaptation, including elements of a fairy tale in their writing. Students can choose one fairy tale to adapt or choose multiple to weave together as demonstrated in *Frogkisser!*

Open Mind Portrait

Students choose a character from *Frogkisser!* to draw a portrait of. On the opposite side of the portrait, students draw and write thoughts that the character would have based on key points from the novel. Use the following webpage for complete lesson plan:

<http://rhsliteracystrategies.weebly.com/open-mind-portrait.html>

Reader's Theater

Students choose a memorable scene from *Frogkisser!* and act out the scene with a group of classmates.

Math:

Recipe Conversions

In *Frogkisser!*, Anya's Quest entails finding the ingredients for the recipe of the Transmogrification Reversal Lip Balm. Challenge students to create a variety of batch sizes by halving, doubling or tripling the amount of lip balm to be made. Students will have to rewrite the recipe with the new conversion amounts of ingredients provided.

Social Studies:

Map Making

The land of Trallonia is a fantasy land created by author Garth Nix. Have students draw a map of Trallonia based on descriptors from the text. Students can take inspiration from fictional maps from Gregory Maguire’s map of The Land of Oz from *Wicked* or Jeanne Duprau’s map in *The City of Ember*. Extend students creative map-making skills by having them create a map of a fantasy land.

Art:

Illustrating Characters

Students take inspiration from character and setting descriptions to create illustration plates for the novel. Students should capture noteworthy events from the novel to portray in illustrations.

Vocabulary:

Theoretical	Emanate	Desultory
Pique	Quiescent	Respite
Usurp	Perturbed	Dubious
Imminent	Intrepid	Recalcitrant
Inexorably	Putrescent	Pallid
Pungent	Noxious	Coalesce
Ardent	Transmogrify	Idiom

RELATED WEBSITES

Garth Nix

<http://www.garthnix.com/books/childrens-fantasy-books/frogkisser/>

Visit Garth Nix’s personal website to learn about *Frogkisser!*, where you can purchase the novel, and other titles written by Nix.

Lit Joy Crate

<https://litjoycrate.com/blog/2018/04/litjoy-love-the-best-fantasy-books-for-middle-graders-ages-8-13/>

If you liked *Frogkisser!*, visit this webpage to find other great fantasy and supernatural stories you’ll love.

Booktopia

<https://www.booktopia.com.au/blog/2017/04/11/garth-nixs-frogkisser-adapted-animation-review-podcast/>

Learn more about *Frogkisser!* by listening to a podcast interview with Garth Nix as he discusses the novel and the plans of transforming the Land of Trallonia into an animated movie! The podcast is provided by Soundcloud and is free of charge.