

# TEACHER GUIDE

## A Common Core State Standards Aligned Comprehension and Activity Guide

# THE Princess AND THE Page

*A mystical adventure about a pulls-no-punches princess  
and the power of her magical pen.*

A dark secret lurks in Keira's family. She comes from a long line of Word Weavers, who bring their stories to life when they use a magical pen. But for generations Word Weavers have been hunted for their power. That's why Keira is forbidden to write. When Keira discovers her grandma's Word Weaver pen, and writes a story for the Girls' World fairy-tale contest, she starts to wonder if anyone ever truly lives happily ever after. Inspired by the life and times of Gabrielle d' Estrées, a real French princess who lived during the 1500s, *The Princess and the Page* follows the mystical journey of a modern-day "royal" who goes from having a pen in her hand to wishing for the world at her fingertips.

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**E-book:** B01L2XH87Q



SCHOLASTIC



# Initiating Activities



Copy off this activity sheet for each student. Have them list five fairy tales and then ask their classmates to make a tally mark for each fairytale they like best. Finally, have them construct a graph of their choice representing their findings. *Extension:* Create a comparison of the results.

CCSS.Math.Content.3.MD.B.3

## Tally the Fairy Tale Activity

List your favorite fairy tales. Ask your classmates to make a tally mark beside their favorite tale from your list. Then create a bar, line, or pictograph based on your findings. Make sure you name the graph!

Fairy Tale Name	Tally Marks

# Pre-reading Questions and Discussions

1. Have you ever experienced regrets over a decision you made? If you were to go back and redo your choices, what would you change?
2. Who in your life has a major impact on you? Have there been times when you disagreed with their decisions?
3. What are the elements of a fairy tale? Brainstorm with a small group the traits of different fairy tales. Then combine similar traits to develop archetypes of a traditional fairy tale.
4. What is your favorite fairy tale? If you could enter it, what parts would you change? What parts would you most look forward to experiencing?
5. Do you speak another language? If you have, how has that helped you? If you haven't, how has that hindered you?

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.2, 3-7.9**



# Bonjour!



The setting for *The Princess and the Page* takes place in the Loire Valley of France at [Château de Chenonceau](#). Discuss with a friend your previous knowledge of France. Then fill in the KWL chart of what you know and are interested in learning. As you read through the story, fill in knowledge that you've gained along the way.

K (Know)	W (Want to learn)	L (Learned)



# Discussion and Activities for Chapters 1-5

**Essential Question:** How can an author show cause and effect relationships between events in a story?

**Comprehension Strategies:** Cause and Effect

**Cause and Effect** is a connection between two or more events in which one event brings about another. The event that happens first is the cause; the one that follows is the effect.

**Wondering:** What is the immediate effect of Keira writing a fairy tale with her grandmother's pen? Predict long term effects of her actions?

**Writing Activity:** Write about a time when you made a decision with disastrous consequences. How did you handle that situation? Would you have done things differently?



## Vocabulary

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Jagged          | 8. Prohibited   |
| 2. Proclaims       | 9. Silhouette   |
| 3. Inconspicuously | 10. Skeptic     |
| 4. Emanates        | 11. Dormers     |
| 5. Emblem          | 12. Mahogany    |
| 6. Antique         | 13. Scrutinizes |
| 7. Quizzical       | 14. scurries    |

# Questions for Chapters 1-5

1. What point of view is *The Princess and the Page* told from? Who's telling the story and how does that impact the story?
2. Why do you think Bella and Keira have become best friends? Compare and contrast the two using a Venn diagram.
3. Create a list of rules that the Harding household has. Next, create a list of rules in your own home. How are these lists similar or different?
4. Why do you think Keira is so against her mom's rule of only writing non-fiction and how does that affect her choices?
5. What character traits cause Keira to write a story that ended unhappily?
6. Thinking back to the elements of a fairy tale, which ones does Keira use?
7. Make a list of internal and external conflicts that are affecting Keira in this story. Then sort them from greatest to least impact on Keira's writing.
8. After reading these chapters, what is your prediction for what will happen in the story?

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.2, 3-7.3, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 4.9, 4-7.10, 5.1, 5-6.5, 5.6, 6-7.1, 6-7.2, 6.5, 6-7.9, 6-7.10**



# Discussion and Activities for Chapters 6-10

**Essential Question:** How does an author develop a character's personality through the use of writing elements?

**Comprehension Strategies:** Analyze Character

**Character analysis** is the combination of personality traits, thoughts, description, and speech patterns that determine how a character acts and reacts.

**Writing Activity:**

In chapter 7, Ms. Teppernat tells Keira to "Channel her inner Cinderella." Think about why this task was so difficult for Keira due to her personality. Now choose one character from *The Princess and the Page* and draw or find a picture of the type of shoe that would represent that character. Finally, write a paragraph describing why that shoe represents that character and is a symbol of their strengths and weaknesses.

**Draw or paste a picture of the character's shoe:**

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Character Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# Vocabulary

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Unscathed   | 7. Clavichord   |
| 2. Solemn      | 8. Fiasco       |
| 3. Prestigious | 9. Sludge       |
| 4. Palette     | 10. Coincidence |
| 5. Insolent    | 11. Baffled     |
|                | 12. Renaissance |

# Questions for Chapters 6-10

1. On page 45, why is Mrs. Harding, Keira's mom, so determined to blame the events from the previous night on a storm? Do you think she's right?
2. What was your first impression of Ms. Teppernat? What words or phrases formed this impression? Did your impressions change as the novel progressed?
3. What about Ms. Teppernat's schedule causes Keira to worry? Do you think Keira can do what is expected of her?
4. In the schedule Ms. Teppernat hands to Keira, what fairy tales are represented?
5. What do you think the WW symbol represents? Why do you think it shows up in certain places?
6. What are the nicknames that Keira gives to Madame and Ms. Teppernat? Explain how those names symbolize their characters.
7. What task does Ms. Teppernat assign Bella to do? How do you think this will impact Bella's stay at the castle? Do you think this could create a rift between Keira and herself?
8. In your own words, explain how the fairy tale and real life realms are connected. What is a symbol that could be used to show the two?
9. What is special about Gabrielle? What clues does Keira uncover that make her believe that she's dreaming of the same character from her fairy tale?
10. If you were with invited to Gabrielle's party, what questions would you ask her?

# Discussion and Activities for Chapters 11-16

**Essential Question:** How is reality and fantasy reflected in the events of the story?

**Comprehension Strategies:** Reality and Fantasy

**Reality** has events that deal with things that are true to life while **fantasy** has characters, settings, or events that could not happen in real life.

**Activity:** Throughout the story, Keira is pulled into a fantasy realm of her own creation and then back to the real world. When she first enters the fairy tale realm, she doesn't realize it. But then characters, events, and the setting give her clues. Cite examples of this that you have found so far within the story. Brainstorm with a partner other stories, poems, movies, or songs that have a fantasy realm connected to the real world and create a graphic organizer showing your results.

**Writing Activity:**

In *The Princess and the Page*, Keira changes history through her magical pen. Pick one historical event and write a story based off that event, but change the ending to be something that you make up. With a highlighter, go back through and highlight the sections that are fantasy.



## Vocabulary

1. Reverence
2. Exorbitant
3. Vivid
4. Rope
5. Skeptical

6. Reverence
7. Transformed
8. Sleuthing
9. Prowling
10. Skitters

# Questions for Chapters 11-16

1. Setting is a key component to the story. What role does the setting of this chapter have and how is that important? Give specific examples from the text.
2. In the beginning of chapter 11, Keira is determined to talk to Madame. Why?
3. Madame is against the ball on Friday. Why do you think this is so?
4. When cook says: “Dark zings are afoot in Chenonceau”, what do you think cook means by this?
5. When Keira thinks, “There are dark secrets tucked away in the cobwebbed corners of this castle. And I apparently am one of them”, what does she mean by this?
6. Keira is tempted to use her special pen to give her the answers to the mystery at the castle. Why doesn’t she use it? What do you think would happen if she had?
7. Why do you think Cheryl has the girls dress in particular colors and clothes before each of the photo shoots?
8. Why does the cook tell Keira and Chet that they need to leave before *le vendredi* (Friday)? Do you think the children should take her seriously?
9. Cook opens a secret door and tells Keira and Chet to hide inside it. What would you do in that situation?
10. Bella becomes angry at Keira. What causes this rift between these two best friends?
11. When Chet says, “And we’re having a ball this Friday. *La nuit de la mort*”, what is he trying to tell Keira? Do you think he’s correct?

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1, 3-7.4, 3.6, 3.7, 4-7.10, 5.1, 5-6.5, 6-7.1, 6-7.2, 6-7.4, 6.6**



# Discussion and Activities for Chapters 17-21

**Essential Question:** Based on the events in these chapters, what inferences can you make to draw a conclusion to how Keira's fairy tale will unfold?

**Comprehension Strategies:** Make Inferences and Draw Conclusions

**Inferences** are when we figure things out based on our experiences. **To draw conclusions** is to take information that is implied or inferred and come to a decision about it.

**Activity:** Choose a fairy tale. Put three to five items that symbolize elements or objects from that tale into a paper bag. Pass it to a friend and have them use those clues and their own previous knowledge to draw a conclusion to which fairy tale you chose. *Example:* Fairy tale: Snow White. Items: apple, mirror, axe.

## Vocabulary

1. Equestrian
2. Hallucinations
3. Suspicions
4. Entourage
5. Persimmon
6. Morbid

7. Grapple
8. Shrouds
9. Sanity
10. Horde
11. Retaliate
12. Compulsion



# Questions for Chapters 17-21

1. It appears as if Chet is holding a secret of his own. What do you think it could be? How will it affect his decisions throughout the course of the novel?
2. Keira is a brave and determined individual, yet she is extremely scared of riding a horse. Reflect over a time that you had to face one of your fears. Compare and contrast your experience to Keira's horseback riding experience.
3. Do you agree with this phrase: "Bravery isn't about not being afraid, it's about how you face your fears"? Explain.
4. What do the wolves in the fairy tale realm call Keira? What do you think that means?
5. In chapter 20, Keira's mom explains her reasons she is against Keira's writing. Do you think this is a valid concern? Why or why not?
6. How has Keira's relationship with her mom changed by the end of chapter 20?
7. Why does Keira keep hearing the gong from the grandfather clock throughout the story? What do you think the clock symbolizes?
8. What did Keira realize about Pegasus? How does he become an essential clue to Keira solving the mystery?
9. How does Keira enter the Fairy Tale realm? What hinders her?
10. Compare and contrast Keira and her best friend Bella. What strengths does Bella bring to their friendship?
11. Who is Gabrielle d'Estrées and why do you believe she is important to Keira?
12. What elements, characters, or events from traditional fairy tales did you find so far in the book?

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3-7.1, 3.2, 3-7.3, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 4-7.9, 4-7.10, 5-6.5, 6-7.2, 6-7.4**

# Inferences: Sleuthing for Readers!

It's your turn to hunt for clues to figure out what the author is saying in the story without directly telling you. This is inferencing where you use your background knowledge plus clues in the story to gain new information.

Chapter	Inference	Clue/Evidence that supports this inference
Chapter 2		"In the center of the room, Mom is cramming papers into a trash can. Labels that once had been placed carefully all around the house are now strewn at her feet."
Chapter 5		"A chill ices over me and I stop in my tracks. I try to swallow and call out. But all I can do is stare at the balcony doors gaping open at the end of the hall."
Chapter 10	Keira believes she entered a realm that was just like the fairy tale she wrote.	
Chapter 13	The cook believes that that Friday is the Night of Death and that they should leave before they become its next victims.	

# Discussion and Activities for Chapters 22-26

**Essential Question:** How does the setting play a role in the development and conflict of a story?

**Comprehension Strategies:** Analyze Setting

A **setting** in a story is the place or surrounding where the story takes place.

**Writing Activity:**

The castle in *The Princess and the Page* creates conflict for Keira and her friends. Create a map of the castle and place a star on the places where conflict is found. Next, write an email to Keira and her friends warning them of potential dangers within the castle grounds.



## Vocabulary

1. Conceals
2. Resistance
3. Reconnaissance
4. Blasphemy
5. Blasphemy
6. Vengeance

7. Existence
8. Plight
9. Coincides
10. Gnash
11. Nonsense
12. Nonchalantly

# Questions for Chapters 22-26

1. Would you agree or disagree with Bella that going into a restricted area is a bad idea? Has there been a time that you've gone into an area that you weren't allowed to enter? If so, compare your experience to Keira's and her friend's. Share with a friend.
2. Why do you think all of the castle guests' missing personal items were hidden in the attic of the castle? Who do you think is putting them there?
3. Keira's mom loves facts. On pg. 142, she gets excited about an alligator fact. Why do you think that makes her feel better?
4. What elements of the castle and its grounds add to the plot of the story?
5. Why does the cook want to quit? Do you think she's telling the truth? Why or why not?
6. What makes Chet believe that the stolen painting belonged to the Jones'? Why do you think no one alerts the police about the ballroom being vandalized?
7. On pg. 153, Princess Gabrielle's flower petals fall to the ground as she walks. What you think the petals symbolize? What fairy tale does this scene remind you of?
8. Read through Keira's journal on pg. 156. List two more observations that you think she should add to her list. Next add in two more suspects to those who may have vandalized the ballroom.
9. Based on the dialogue in chapter 26, what do you think the Creepy Man's proposition will be?

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.6, 3-4.7, 4-7.10, 5-7.1, 5-7.3, 5-6.5, 6-7.2, 6-7.3**



# Discussion and Activities for Chapters 27-32

**Essential Question:** How does reading information influence your opinion and affect your actions?

**Comprehension Strategies:** Fact or Opinion

A **fact** is a statement that is true and can be confirmed or proven. An opinion is a statement that is believable, yet sometimes contain personal feelings. Opinions that cannot be proven aren't always true.

**Writing Activity:**

Create a cartoon strip where two people are debating over whether fairies exist. One character represents only facts while the other represents their opinion.



## Vocabulary

1. Excursion
2. Designated
3. Investigation
4. Betrayal
5. Precipice
6. Gloom

7. Shuffling
8. Scullery
9. Restricted
10. Ornamental
11. Disgruntled
12. Prickles

# Questions for Chapters 27-32

1. Would you agree or disagree with Bella that going into a restricted area is a bad idea? What is the difference between facts and opinions? Give an example of each from these chapters.
2. Who is Creepy Man? Draw a picture of him based on the description on pg. 158.
3. What do you think Monsieur means by “We make sure things progress as they should in our history”? Do you think this is a good idea?
4. Why does Monsieur believe that Keira is the solution to the Historical Correction Organization’s problems? How does his plans for Keira show the kind of character he is?
5. Why does Monsieur become angry with Keira? How does his rage fuel his actions?
6. What are some of the actions in chapters 28-29 that display Ms. Teppernat’s personality and desires? How does her personality come into direct conflict with Keira’s goals?
7. Analyze Keira’s reaction to Chet’s revelation in chapter 29. How would you have responded if you were in a similar situation where you realized a person you were close to wasn’t exactly who you thought they were.
8. Keira displays fearlessness when she faces the sea monster in chapter 29. Give specific examples how she showed this trait.
9. What do you think the memory on page 175 from Keira’s grandma means when she says, “Sometimes it’s what we take away from our adventure that makes us stronger? Don’t be afraid of those tears of yours. They mold us and transform our endings into something meaningful”? What foreshadowing do you think this memory shows?
10. On pg. 180, Keira overhears the Jones’ plan for the ball. What is this plan? Do you think it will work? If you were Chet and Keira, what counterplan would you make to stop the Jones’?



## Fact Detective!

Be a detective and find five facts within the story and five opinions.

Page Number	Fact	Opinion

# Discussion and Activities for Chapters 33-37

**Essential Question:** How can the reader determine the author's purpose for writing *The Princess and the Page*?

**Comprehension Strategies:** Author's Purpose

The **author's purpose** for writing a piece of work is to persuade, entertain, or inform the reader.

**Writing Activity:**

What do you believe is the main reason the author wrote this book? To persuade readers to think about a subject in a certain way and to take action? To entertain the reader? Or is it to share information with readers? Give three examples from the text to support your argument. Then team up with a group of four classmates, summarize your thoughts, and then share your arguments.



## Vocabulary

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Incompetence | 7. Vandalized   |
| 2. Cascade      | 8. Preposterous |
| 3. Converted    | 9. Concoction   |
| 4. Waft         | 10. Iridescent  |
| 5. Preoccupied  | 11. Mesmerize   |
| 6. Sashays      |                 |

# Questions for Chapters 33-37

1. What were your feelings about writing before reading *The Princess and the Page*? Has your perception changed? If so, in what ways?
2. Why do you think the author wrote this book from Keira's point of view? How would the story have been different if it were from Chet's or Bella's point of view?
3. Why do you think the author told this story as a mystery? How was that an effective way to capture a reader's attention?
4. What was Chet's solution for getting into the secret room at the top of the castle? Did it work?
5. On pg. 194 when Monsieur pulls out Keira's story and reads it out loud, what message is he really trying to portray to Keira?
6. What is keeping Keira from enjoying her beautiful crown and ball gown? What inferences can you make on her character based on her inner thoughts?
7. How does Keira react to her mom still being missing? What does this show about her character?
8. Why did Keira and Chet believe they needed to get rid of the punch? When they do, does this solve the problem?
9. What was the evidence that Keira and Bella had against the Jones'? How did the Jones' react to this claim? If you were a court judge, who would you believe was telling the truth? What similarities and differences can be seen between the Ms. Teppernat and Monsieur?
10. Analyze Keira's reaction to Bella being captured by the stepsister. How would you respond if your best friend was being controlled by someone with evil intentions?
11. Throughout the novel, Keira displays acts of courage and bravery, but she also has many fears and insecurities. List the fears she faces and how she deals with overcoming them.
12. As Keira faces the stepsister and is shown all the people locked away in the Dark Tower, she realizes the full effects of her writing the fairy tale. Share and summarize with a friend a time you did something that had either a negative or a positive effect to your life.

# Discussion and Activities for Chapters 38-39

**Essential Question:** How does the sequence of events in a story contribute to its effectiveness?

**Comprehension Strategies:** Sequence Events

**Sequence events** shows the progression of a story and the relationship the events have to one another.

**Writing Activity:**

Write one sentence and draw a matching sketch of the sequence of events in the beginning, middle, and end of the book. Then write another sentence and sketch which shows the progression of Keira's internal conflict (the struggles of her mind and what she personally wants).

Beginning	Middle	End

# Vocabulary

1. Muster

2. Exhilarated

3. Apparition

4. Paramedics

5. Despicable

6. Gurney

7. Plagiarized

8. Evidence



## Discussion and Activities for Chapters 38-39

1. Draw a picture of how you visualize Keira's notebook. Compare her storybook with the most unusual book you've ever seen.
2. Kiera has to overcome many obstacles throughout the story. What are her **strengths** and **weaknesses** that help her conquer these?
3. How does the memory of her grandma's words help Keira save those in the Dark Tower?
4. What happens when Keira finishes her story? Summarize how Keira defeats the stepsister.
5. Research three other fairy tales that could be used in this novel. Defend why these fairy tales would be applicable to the story.
6. How have things changed when Keira leaves her fairy tale realm and enters the real world?
7. What revelation about writing did Keira come to on pg. 220? How can this apply to you?
8. What do you believe is the overarching theme for *The Princess and the Page*? What evidence from the text can you find to support this?

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1, 3-7.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3-4.7, 4.2, 4-6.9, 4-7.10, 5-7.1, 5-6.5, 7.6

# Post-reading Activities

## LITERATURE

- \* Character Cards- In a mystery, all the characters are essential for providing clues to solve the mystery as well as provide red herrings to the actual culprit. The motivations behind each of the characters in the story lead to the main character solving the mystery. Create a card deck of each character from the book. On the front side of the card, draw a picture of the character. On the back, include their strengths, weaknesses, motivation, and personal data. Give them a power level on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the highest.
- \* Research Gabrielle d'Estrées or Henry IV. Dress up as your character and then present a monologue that depicts your character's personality and a major life event.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3, 3.5, 3.6, 4.7, 4-7.10, 5-7.3, 7.9



## SOCIAL STUDIES PROJECT

### The Women of [Château de Chenonceau](#)

Chenonceau is known as the ladies Château because of the six ladies that developed it and ran the castle. Create a timeline of the castle ownership including the names, pictures, dates, and main contributions they had toward the castle.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4-7.10, 3-6.3, 5.5, 7.9, 6-8.1, 6-8.7

## DRAMA

- ♦ Act out a scene in *The Princess and the Page* and film it.
- ♦ Create sock or bag puppets and act out a scene from the book.
- ♦ Create a movie trailer.
- ♦ Create a reader's theater.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3-7.3, 5-7.5, 4.7

# Post-reading Activities

## ARTISTIC REPRESENTATION PROJECT

- ♦ Draw an emblem for the Word Weavers and another for the Historical Correction Society. Explain why you chose those particular symbols and how the two groups are in direct opposition of one another.
- ♦ Create your own mural of an event in *The Princess and the Page* on a cereal box cut in half.
- ♦ Research the layout and elements of a French tapestry. Using butcher paper, recreate a tapestry using the fairy tales mentioned or attributed to in the book. Draw or print out pictures of the characters using the motifs that would keep true to a traditional French tapestry.
- ♦ Create a model of Château de Chenonceau. Label the sections of the castle where key scenes take place.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.2, 3.5, 3.6, 5-7.3, 4.7, 4-7.10, 5-6.9



## CULTURAL STUDY

- ♦ Develop a travel brochure of top places to visit in the Loire Valley where *The Princess and the Page* was set. Draw or print out pictures of each location and provide a short summary of each.
- ♦ Follow in Bella's steps and create an event plan for a ball at your school or community. Plan out the decorations, food, invitations, and entertainment. Make sure you incorporate a theme, color scheme, and assign roles for the staff that would be working under you. Pretend you are pitching this event to your principal or local community and create a PowerPoint displaying your plan of action.
- ♦ List three French foods mentioned in the book. Pretend you are a famous French chef and choose one of the listed foods to cook and present to the class. Or create a video clip of yourself making or eating that food along with a debrief on how that food tasted.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2, 4.7, 5.5, 7.9, 4-7.10

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.7

# About the Author



CHRISTINA FARLEY is the author of *The Princess and the Page* and the bestselling Gilded series. Prior to that, she worked as an international teacher and at a top secret job for Disney where she was known to scatter pixie dust before the sun rose. When not traveling the world or creating imaginary ones, she spends time with her family in Clermont, Florida with her husband and two sons where they are busy preparing for the next World Cup, baking cheesecakes, and raising a pet dragon that's in disguise as a cockatiel. You can visit her online at [ChristinaFarley.com](http://ChristinaFarley.com).

