

The Unhappy Princess

A Play for Students in Grades 1–3

15 parts

Synopsis: Princess Isabelle learns about the true meaning of happiness through the help of her family, the servants and court jester, and her pets and friends.

Characters

Narrator #1

Narrator #2

Princess Isabelle

Barcus (dog)

Tweetters (bird)

Servant #1

Servant #2

King Isaac V

Queen Iris

Friend #1

Friend #2

Friend #3

Prince Ivan

Laugh-A-Lot, the court jester

Wizard

The Unhappy Princess

Narrator #1: Once upon a time, there was a princess named Isabelle who was very, very unhappy. Isabelle lived in an enormous, enchanted castle in the Kingdom of Inka-Inka-Do with her beloved family: King Isaac V, Queen Iris, Prince Ivan, and her pet dog, Barcus, and bird, Tweeters.

Narrator #2: Princess Isabelle just celebrated her eleventh birthday and not even her birthday could make her happy. Father allowed her to invite all the children in the Kingdom to her party! But the princess remained unhappy. Every day she would sit in her bedroom, pet her dog, and listen to her bird sing. She often looked out her window in hopes that something or someone would make her happy.

Isabelle: Oh, I am so sad, so so sad. I wish I weren't so unhappy.

Dog: Woof! Woof! (curls up by her)

Isabelle: You can't make me happy. You're just a dog!

Tweeters: (chirps and sings "Happy Birthday")

Isabelle: Thanks, but no thanks. My birthday was yesterday.

Servants: (knock on the door)

Servant #1: Here is your breakfast, my lady. We have brought you your favorites... strawberry pancakes and maple syrup. There is a whole wheat bagel and jam, too.

Servant #2: Try the sliced fruit from the garden and the freshly-squeezed orange juice. And, yes, I picked these yellow daffodils for you, too.

Isabelle: You didn't have to prepare this delicious breakfast for me...it won't make me happy, anyway. The flowers are lovely, but I am still so sad.

King: (knocks and comes in) Isabelle, here is a birthday present I forgot to give to you yesterday on your birthday. It has been passed on from generation to generation in our family. It is now your turn to have it. I know it will look beautiful!

Isabelle: Father, I will unwrap it later...but thanks.

Queen: Isabelle, my daughter, why are you so sad? What can make you happy?

Isabelle: I don't know, Mother. But you used to make me happy.

Queen: (hugs her)

Servant #1: My lady, your friends have arrived.

Isabelle: Please send them home. I do not want to play.

Servant #2: But, My Lady, they are here. Do let them come in.

Isabelle: Oh, alright, then. Let them in.

Friend #1: Isabelle, why are you so sad?

Friend #2: Is there anything we can do?

Friend #3: Is there anywhere we can take you?

Friend #2: We could go to the country fair.

Friend #1: We can watch the knights in shining armor slay the fire-breathing dragon.

Friend #3: Come on, Isabelle, it will like old times.

Isabelle: Please go away. I don't feel up to anything today.

Prince: (climbs through the window) Come on, Sis. The feast has been prepared. Hurry! There is your favorite rice pudding and those juicy fruit tarts. Come on...

Isabelle: No, I am not hungry now. You can have my pudding and tarts.

Laugh-A-Lot: Isabelle, it's me, Laugh-A-Lot, the jester. I have some new jokes for you...They are really funny...Look! I have some new tricks, too.

(pretends to juggle and tells jokes)

Isabelle: (as the jester tries to cheer her up, she sighs and cries...)

Wizard: (arrives in smoke) Enchanted Princess, you have been sad too long. I have just the thing to make you glad. (hands her a box and poofs away)

Isabelle: (unwraps the present) A mirror. Why would there be a mirror in the box? All I can see is myself, just myself. Why, oh why, would Wizard put a mirror in this box? (thinks for a long time) Myself, that's it! That's it! I should make myself happy. I must make myself happy! I can make myself happy!

Isabelle: (to the dog) Barcus, I am very sorry. I yelled at you. You are a wonderful friend! (dog barks and cuddles up by the princess)

Isabelle: (to the bird) You are very thoughtful, Tweeters. I loved the birthday song.

(bird sings a little and smiles)

Isabelle: Servants, Father, Ivan, Laugh-A-Lot, and my friends, please come to my bedroom!

Isabelle: (to servants) Thank you ever so much for the delicious breakfast and the lovely flowers. I am so hungry.

(servants curtsey)

Isabelle: (to Father) I want to open the present after all. What a wonderful present, my favorite color and it's silk. What a beautiful dress!

Father: You are welcome, Isabelle.

Isabelle: (to Mother) Thank you for the hug, Mom. I love you, too.

Mother: I will always love you, Isabelle. (gives a hug)

Isabelle: (to Ivan) Is there some pudding and tarts left?

Ivan: Yes, right here. (pulls out a plate behind his back)

Isabelle: (to Laugh-A-Lot) How about another joke, please? And can you teach me how to juggle sometime?

Laugh-A-Lot: I would be glad to. (tells a joke)

Isabelle: (to friends) I am sorry for sending you away. Is the fair still on?

King and Queen: Oh, please go. Yes, go.

Friends: Hooray! Just like old times! Hooray for us!

Narrator #1: Isabelle picked up the mirror and although Wizard was no longer there, you could hear her speak to him.

Isabelle: Thank you, Wizard, for you have taught me the lesson of happiness: happiness is found within and can be shared with all.

Queen: I am glad Isabelle is happy, again.

King: Yes, should we join her at the fair?

Prince: Oh, yes, Father, let's go! Isabelle has taught us all a little bit more about happiness. Let's go have some fun!

Narrator #2: And that is how the princess learned about happiness...just like old times!

Class Activities – Parent/Teacher Page (The Unhappy Princess)

Reading the Play

- **Questions before reading**

Have you heard about a princess? Who are other people called who live with a princess? What is the role of a servant? What powers do wizard's possess? Why is a court jester needed for the royal family?

- **Words to preview**

servants, court jester, princess, enormous, enchanted, castle, kingdom, beloved, celebrated, eleventh, allowed, invite, favorites, bagel, sliced, squeezed, daffodils, prepared, delicious, lovely, generation, unwrap, arrived, country, knights, shining armor, slay, fire-breathing, feast, prepared, pudding, juicy, tarts, sigh, poofs away, mirror, silk, taught

- **Questions after reading**

Who tries to cheer up the princess and what do they do? How does the princess finally realize how to be happy? Have you ever felt like the unhappy princess? Why? What helped you to be happy again? What did you learn from the princess?

Performing the Play

The story takes place in a castle of a kingdom. Princess Isabelle is unhappy despite her pet dog and bird, her brother and parents, the servants, her friends, and the court jester trying to cheer her up. Wizard shares a gift with the princess and she learns a valuable lesson. Then, it's off to the fair!

Extended Activities

- Students learn the names of members of a royal family (king, queen, etc.).
- Students read about a royal family today (Canadian, British, etc.).
- Students keep a journal for an extended time about "happy" things (i.e., much like a gratitude journal).

Student Activities

A. Matching. Draw a line between the characters in the play and their definitions.

King	someone who works for the royal family
Queen	male ruler
Princess	wife of a king
Servant	daughter of a king
Court Jester	son of a king
Prince	someone who is hired to make the royal family laugh and have fun

B. Fill in the blank. Use these words: enormous, allowed, castle, beloved, Kingdom (use twice), eleventh, celebrated, enchanted

Isabelle lived in an _____, _____
_____ in the _____ of Inka-Inka-Do
with her _____ family. Princess Isabelle just _____
her _____ birthday. Father _____ her to invite all
the children in the _____!

C. Answer the questions. Use complete sentences.

1. Why do you think the princess was unhappy?

2. How did the princess become happy?

3. Why do you think the dog is called "Barcus" and the bird called "Tweeters"?

D. Understanding the Play. Complete the story map about the play.

Story Map

Title

Setting

Characters

1. Main character:
2. Other characters:

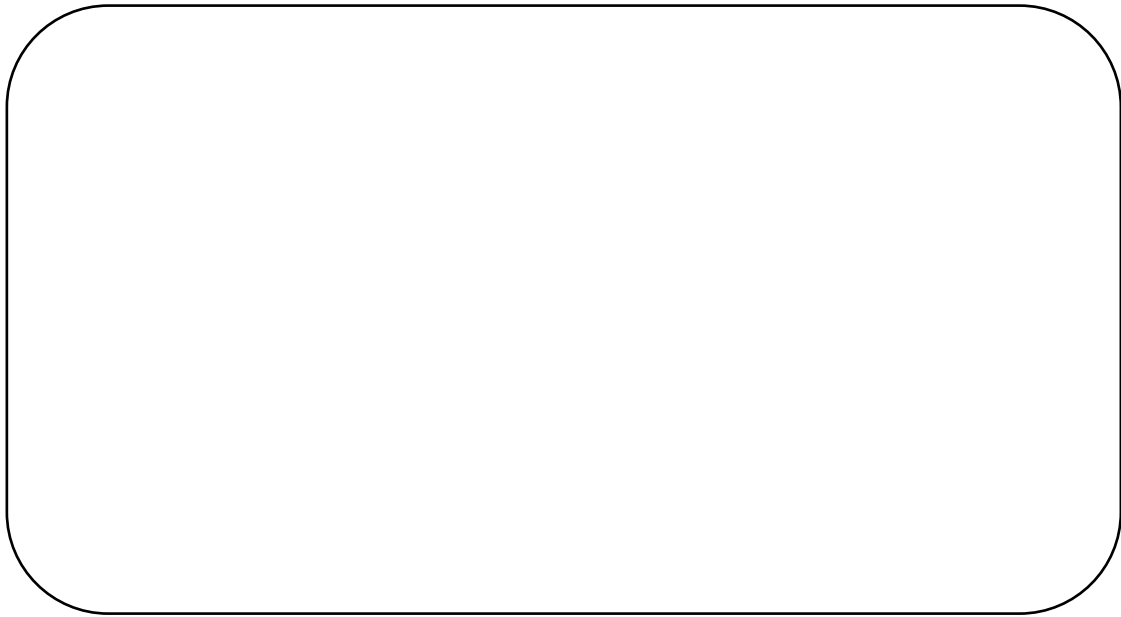
Story Problem

Main Events in the Story

Solution

Theme or Lesson

E. Draw and color a picture of a prince or princess. Then write your own story. Add a title.



Title: _____
