The False Princess

By: Eilis O'Neal
Publisher: Egmont USA
Copyright: 2011
Genre: Fantasy
Setting: The imaginary kingdom of Thorvaldor

SUMMARY: Princess Nalia’s life is turned upside-down when she discovers that she is not really the princess, but a stand-in chosen to thwart a devastating prophecy. While still getting used to her “real” life outside the castle, she finds herself caught up in a deadly mission to protect the true heir to the throne.

AUTHOR’S BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH: Eilis O’Neal currently lives in Tulsa, OK where she was born and raised. She writes fiction and is the managing editor of the literary magazine Nimrod International Journal. She attended the University of Tulsa, where she graduated with a degree in English.

http://www.eilisonal.com
Other books written by the author:

SIMILAR BOOKS/BOOKS WITH A SIMILAR THEME:

Alanna: The First Adventure by Tamora Pierce
Graceling by Kristin Cashore

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think Sinda stopped being a lady when she found out that she wasn’t the princess?
2. Why does Sinda turn Kiernan away when he comes to visit? (Chapter 4)
3. What are the qualities of a princess? Does Sinda have them? Does Nalia?
4. Why does Sinda want to save Nalia? Do her motives change throughout the story?

LITERARY LINKS or ACTIVITIES:

Language Arts

Revised 2/01/2012
● Fantasy genre lesson plan:  

Have students note fantasy elements as they read The False Princess.

6.RL.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

● What elements of a fairy tale are found in The False Princess? Read the book and compare it to some common fairy tales.

8.RL.9 Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new.

Science:

Sinda does much work with plants in the village where she lives after she leaves the castle. Here are some plant science experiments to try with your students:


Have students choose a plant project to do, research their topic, and write a report about their experiment, research, and results.

6-8.RS.3 Follow precisely a multistep procedure when carrying out experiments or taking measurements.

6-8.RS.9 Compare and contrast the information gained from experiments, simulations, video, or multimedia sources with that gained from reading a text on the same topic.

6-8.WS.1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
a. Introduce claim(s) about a topic or issue, acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.
b. Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant, accurate data and evidence that demonstrate an understanding of the topic or text, using credible sources.
c. Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
d. Establish and maintain a formal style.
e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.
6-8.WS.2 Write informative/explanatory texts, including scientific procedures/experiments.

a. Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts and information into broader categories as appropriate to achieving purpose; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

b. Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.

c. Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.

d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.

e. Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone.

f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.

Challenging Words

Adamant (91)
Arcane (4)
Archaic (137)
Buoyant (95)
Caustic (125)
Chafe (2)
Conveyance (21)
Cursory (199)
Despondency (111)
Droll (5)
Ensconced (308)
Exorbitant (81)
Fatalism (269)
Glower (55)
Heady (88)
Investiture (196)
Jovial (56)
Languid (10)
Languor (144)
Levity (113)
Ludicrous (230)
Malleable (82)
Mirthless (73)
Moldering (3)
Morass (71)
Nimbus (9)
Novice (17)
Petulant (114)
Pique (94)
Plaintively (316)
Quail (102)
Rapier (71)
Rebuke (32)
Regicide (158)
Sedition (249)
Seditions (119)
Stoically (268)
Stymied (152)
Suffuse (30)
Surreptitiously (171)
Taciturn (56)
Tangible (162)
Trepidation (133)
Vehemence (257)
Vestige (306)
Winsome (11)
Woolgathering (59)