



# Rapunzel! Rapunzel!

A VERY HAIRY FAIRY TALE

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## Synopsis

Meet Socrates - the regal, strong, fire breathing dragon! Well, okay, he used to be strong and regal and he did breathe fire once but now he has been cursed by the evil Lady Zazalinsky (Lady Zaza) to guard Rapunzel hidden high in a tower. You see, many years ago, Lady Zaza stole a box from an old gypsy woman. Inside the curious box was a beautiful magical jewel and a book of spells. Over time Lady Zaza became more and more powerful and more and more evil. She enchants the King and Queen away from the kingdom and imprisons their only daughter, Rapunzel. Rapunzel is slated to become the queen on her eighteenth birthday but if Lady Zaza has her way Rapunzel will not show up at the castle in time to claim the crown. Lady Zaza's ambition is to become the queen.

As Rapunzel's big birthday approaches, Edgar, the greatest hairdresser in the kingdom and his best friend, Sir Roderick, a handsome young man decide to join forces. Edgar wants to go in search of the most perfect head of hair and Sir Roderick has a hunch that joining Edgar may lead them to Rapunzel. Meanwhile Rapunzel, unaware of all the goings on, continues to do chores in the tower for Lady Zaza while lamenting her name - Rapunzel - which - unlike most other princesses - does not rhyme with anything!

Luckily Edgar and Sir Roderick meet the gypsy woman in the forest and realize that Lady Zaza may have something to do with her tale of woe. The old gypsy leads them to the tower where Rapunzel is kept hidden. It is there that Edgar becomes enthralled with Rapunzel's beautiful hair and Sir Roderick is smitten with her beauty and charm. Socrates, the dragon - enchanted to defend Rapunzel - fights a battle of wits with Roderick which ends with all of them becoming allies and with Edgar hatching a plan.

At Lady Zaza's coronation as Queen, Edgar valiantly tries to thwart Lady Zaza by spraying her with mousse and the battle begins - but are they able to stop her? Do they free Rapunzel on time and does Socrates find his fire? In a series of wonderful and magical surprises we see that all's well that ends well in this comical and quirky "very hairy fairy tale."



## Rapunzel

In The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati's production of *Rapunzel! Rapunzel! A Very Hairy Fairy Tale*, Rapunzel lowers her hair down to let other characters into the tower.

In this activity, students will replicate Rapunzel's hair utilizing several different strengths of yarn and string. Objects of varying weights will be tied to the string to allow the students to test the strength and force needed to break the string.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- String and yarn of varying thicknesses (teacher should test string and yarn prior to the class to ensure enough weight is available to break the strings).
- Weighted objects (varied weights).
- Pencils
- Tape

### ACTIVITY

1. Introduce/review the terms "strength" and "force" through emphasis and example. Utilize students to exemplify certain strength requirements (i.e. one can lift a book; one can lift a box, etc.)
2. Facilitate class discussion to address the strength of Rapunzel and her hair with regards to the other characters in the story.
3. Separate students into small groups and give each a pencil, tape, different pieces of yarn and string, and weighted objects.
4. Have students tape one end of the yarn to the pencil and roll it up about an inch to ensure the yarn or string will stay attached to the pencil.
5. Students should estimate the amount of weight that the string or yarn will hold before it breaks.
6. Have the students test their hypotheses using the string to suspend the weighted objects (with the goal of testing until the string or yarn breaks) and record their findings.
7. Once all groups have finished, facilitate discussion of students' observations. Question prompt: Which piece of string or yarn was the strongest? Which was the weakest? Why do you think one piece was weaker than the other? How strong was the strongest piece of string or yarn? How much weight was required to break the strongest string or yarn? How strong do you think Rapunzel and her hair would have had to be to hold up the prince and the witch?
8. Students should summarize their in-class discussion and findings either through picture or written format to ensure retention.



# Rapunzel Maze

You're the Prince! Help Rapunzel escape from the tower and the witch!

