

Sleeping Beauty



STAGING: All the characters may be seated on tall stools or chairs. Each character should have a music stand or lectern with a copy of the script on it.

King X	Queen X	Princess X	Witch X	Prince X
Narrator 1 X				Narrator 2 X

NARRATOR 1: A long, long time ago there lived a king and queen who, more than anything else, wanted a child. One day, while the queen was bathing in the castle pond, a small frog crawled up next to her. He told her that in just a year's time, she would have her child—a daughter of great beauty.

NARRATOR 2: The frog had spoken the truth, for in a year's time the queen gave birth to a beautiful daughter. The king and queen were both filled with joy and ordered a great feast and a great celebration to honor the birth of their new daughter.

KING: Let us celebrate! Let us dance! Let us sing! For we have been blessed with a beautiful daughter!

QUEEN: Yes, this is a joyous day. Let us make merry. And let the bells toll across the kingdom.

NARRATOR 1: Invitations were sent out across the kingdom, inviting all to come to the festivities. However, one woman, a witch by trade, did not receive an invitation, because she lived in a far corner of the kingdom—a corner not known to the king's messengers.

NARRATOR 2: And so it was. The celebration took place. There was dancing and there was singing, and there was great merriment. And each of the guests brought a gift for the new child. One by one, they came and laid their gifts at the foot of the baby's cradle. And one by one, they celebrated the birth of the new child.

NARRATOR 1: But unseen by everyone, the witch had crept into the castle. Suddenly she swept into the Great Hall and yelled at all the guests.

WITCH: [loudly and angrily] I guess I am not good enough for you. I guess I am not good enough to be invited to your little celebration. And so the die is cast. Because you all have such hard hearts, I, too, have a hard heart. I shall cast a spell on this new child. In her fifteenth year, the daughter of the king and queen shall prick herself on a spindle and shall never wake up. Indeed, she will remain asleep for one hundred years. One hundred years! ONE HUNDRED YEARS SHALL SHE SLEEP!!

NARRATOR 2: Everyone was shocked at the witch's pronouncement—so much so that a great silence fell over the hall. It was then that the king made a royal command.

KING: I command that every spindle in the kingdom be burned immediately. Every one! Every one must be destroyed!

NARRATOR 1: And so it was. Every spindle in the kingdom was immediately destroyed. There was not a single one to be found anywhere.

NARRATOR 2: Now it came to pass that the young girl grew up. She was both fair and beautiful. She was admired by all who visited the castle as a wise and modest young lady.

NARRATOR 1: Now it came to the time in her life when the young princess was 15 years old. And on that day her father and mother were away. The young maiden, filled with curiosity, went from room to room in the castle, searching for something to do.

NARRATOR 2: At last she came to an old tower in a far corner of the castle. She climbed the winding staircase, and there at the top was a wooden door. She pushed open the door and there, inside a tiny room, was an old woman with a spindle. She was spinning long strands of flax.

PRINCESS: Good day, old woman. And what are you doing in this old tower?

WITCH: Why, I am spinning. I am spinning this beautiful flax.

PRINCESS: And what is that spinning around so merrily?

WITCH: Come. Come and see for yourself.

NARRATOR 1: The young girl reached out. She had scarcely touched the spindle when she pricked her finger. The evil spell fell upon her immediately, and she collapsed into a deep, deep sleep.

NARRATOR 2: Indeed, the spell fell upon the whole of the castle. The king and queen, who had just returned from their journey, fell fast asleep. The whole of the court fell into a great trance. All the king's horses and all the queen's dogs fell into a great slumber. The birds on the roof, the sheep in the stable, the chickens in the yard, the cooks, the butlers, and the stable boys all fell fast, fast asleep. The wind was stilled, and not a leaf moved on any of the trees surrounding the castle.

NARRATOR 1: Around the castle there grew a great hedge of thorns. The hedge grew higher and higher—up and over the castle—until nothing of the castle could be seen. Indeed, the castle disappeared under the great covering of thorns.

NARRATOR 2: But the story of the princess spread far across the land. And from time to time young men would come to the castle to try to pierce the thorny exterior and find the sleeping princess. But each one who tried was caught fast by the thorns and died a most miserable death.

NARRATOR 1: After many, many years a young prince, who had also heard the story, came into the kingdom.

PRINCE: I know that within that thorny hedge and within that hidden castle there sleeps a beautiful maiden—Sleeping Beauty. Although she and the entire court have been asleep for one hundred years, I will go and see my Sleeping Beauty. I am not afraid!

NARRATOR 2: Now, it was the time when the hundred years had passed. It was the time when Sleeping Beauty awoke after her long, long sleep.

NARRATOR 1: When the prince came up to the castle, he saw that it was covered, not by a solid hedge of thorns, but by garlands of beautiful flowers. He entered the castle and saw before him all the sleeping servants, all the sleeping animals, all the castle life still fast asleep where they had fallen one hundred years before.

NARRATOR 2: At last he came to the old tower. As he opened the door at the top, he could see Sleeping Beauty on the floor. Slowly he walked over to her, bent over her, and gave her a kiss. As soon as he kissed her, she awoke from her hundred-year sleep.

PRINCESS: Who are you?

PRINCE: You have been awakened from your deep sleep.

PRINCESS: How long was I asleep?

PRINCE: You were put under a spell by an evil witch and have been asleep for one hundred years.

NARRATOR 1: Then, hand in hand, the prince and the princess walked back down the staircase and into the castle. And at that moment all the animals, all the servants, the king and queen, and all who had fallen sleep were awakened. And once again, the castle was filled with joy and laughter.

NARRATOR 2: And it came to pass that the prince and princess were married in a great celebration. And they lived very happily for the rest of their years.