As payment for retrieving the princess’s ball from a well, the frog exacts a promise that the princess is loath to fulfill. Preschoolers will love hearing this humorous fairy tale about promises and friendship.

Meet the **Writer**

**Denise Heyl McEvoy**

Denise has been writing for kids and teachers for more than 20 years and has worked on games, toys, workbooks, educational software, and more. In recent years, she’s gotten help and inspiration from her two live-in educational consultants—her children.

Meet the **Illustrator**

**Colleen Madden**

Colleen’s favorite illustration in *The Frog Prince* is the one where the frog turns back into a prince. Colleen’s own sons are the princes in her life—full of mystery and delight. She recalls a perfect evening spent watching the sun set over the Atlantic with her two boys, the sky growing black, and the stars appearing one by one, just like magic.

Retold by Denise Heyl McEvoy

Illustrated by Colleen Madden
Animal Actions

This activity is a simple science lesson on animal movements as well as a catalyst to developing your child’s creative movement skills. Discuss how the frog in the story moves—flip, flop, flippety flop. Talk about how other animals move: snakes slither, elephants sway, rabbits hop, birds fly, horses gallop, fish swim, and more. Then, play a charades-style game with your child. Take turns moving like different animals and challenging one another to guess which animal is being portrayed.

Princess Crown

Materials:
- 10 Pipe cleaners (metallic ones in gold and silver make lovely crowns)
- Easy-to-string beads

Making the crown:
1. Twist two pipe cleaners together to make a circle that will fit your child’s head.
2. Show your child how to connect more pipe cleaners to make loops at the top of the crown. Encourage him or her to make enough loops to go around the front of the crown or, if you wish, all around the crown.
3. At intervals of your child’s choice, have him or her string some of the beads onto the loops to create a jeweled crown.

Princess Fairy Tale Activities

The Gift of Reading Aloud

Reading aloud to your child is fun for you both. Plus, it’s the best way to encourage a lifelong love of reading and promote the skills necessary for school success. Here are some tips.

Begin at the Beginning

• Set aside a special time to read aloud each day and stick to it.
• Choose a comfortable spot: the couch, your child’s bed, a picnic blanket under a shady tree, a “reading hideaway” created by throwing a sheet over the table, etc.
• Vary the reading materials: different genres (fairy tales, fiction, non-fiction, poetry), children’s magazines on topics from nature to sports, joke and riddle books, newspapers and comics, etc.
• Invite your child to help plan your reading routine.

Experience the Fun

• Read slowly and with expression. Use different character voices.
• Talk about the pictures.
• Stop to answer your child’s questions. Discuss any unfamiliar vocabulary.
• Encourage your child to chime in on repetitive phrases, complete rhymes, and predict what might happen next.
• Follow the words with your finger to reinforce important reading basics, such as text is read from left to right.

A Family Library

Your neighborhood library is a treasure! But a home library demonstrates the value of books to your family. Used book stores, garage sales, and flea markets are all great places to pick up inexpensive books that your family will treasure for years!

Story Sparkers!

Use one or more of the following story sparkers to inspire some creative storytelling. Write your child’s words on a piece of paper and have him or her illustrate the story.

• Smooch, I kissed a frog and then...
• I promised that I would...but now...
• A witch turned me into a frog because...

Here are some hands-on activities to spark enthusiasm for learning and get your child excited about reading.
Once upon a time, a king gave his daughter a ball made of pure gold. Of all her fine things, the ball was her favorite.

One day, the princess sat down by a well. She tossed her ball high in the air. Oops! Down the well it went.
“My golden ball!” wailed the princess. “I would trade all my riches for it!”
“I will fetch your ball if you will be my friend,” declared a strange, croaking voice.

A face peered from the well. The princess shuddered. He was green. He was slimy. He had webbed feet and bulging eyes. He was, in short, a frog.
“Oh princess sweet, oh princess dear, promise you will keep me near,” said the frog. “All right,” the princess promised carelessly.

The frog dove into the well. He returned with the ball. Bowing, he laid it at her feet. The princess snatched the ball and hurried away.
That evening, the royal family heard peculiar footsteps. Up the palace steps and into the dining room hopped the frog.

He bowed to the king and queen. “Good evening, your majesties. I am your daughter’s friend.”
“Bring a chair for our guest,” the king ordered. “Thank you,” said the frog. “But I will share the princess’s chair.” “My chair?” exclaimed the princess. “Oh princess sweet, oh princess dear, you promised you would keep me near,” the frog reminded her. “A princess keeps her promises,” said the queen. And the frog hopped onto the princess’s chair.
“Bring a plate for our guest,” the king commanded.

“Thank you,” said the frog. “But I will share the princess’s plate.”

“My plate?” groaned the princess.

“Oh princess sweet, oh princess dear, you promised you would keep me near,” repeated the frog.

“Oh, all right,” said the princess crossly.
The frog finished eating. “Now I would like to sleep,” he yawned.
“Prepare a guest room,” directed the queen. “Thank you!” said the frog. “But I will share...”
“My room?” the princess interrupted.

“Oh princess sweet, oh princess dear, you promised you would keep me near,” said the frog.
“Come along, then,” she grumbled.
The princess put a blanket on the floor.  
“Oh princess sweet,” began the frog.  
“What do you want now?” the princess sighed.  
“To sleep on your pillow,” he replied sweetly.  

He settled himself a few inches from her head.  
The princess was certain she would lie awake all night. But the frog sang her to sleep.
At dawn, the frog hopped off into the morning mist. The princess shut the window firmly, thinking she had seen the last of him.
But the frog returned that evening, and the next. His visits were not so bad, all in all. He did not take up much room on her chair, left her the tastiest cakes, sang the loveliest lullabies, and never snored even a little bit.
On the third morning, the princess woke with a start. Beside her was a prince!

“What have you done with my friend?” she demanded.

“I am your friend,” he said. “A witch turned me into a frog. You broke the spell by keeping your promise.” He hopped off the bed and bowed. She saw he was, indeed, the friend she had grown to love.
“Oh prince so sweet, oh prince so dear, promise that you’ll keep me near,” said the princess. And the prince promised.

The prince and the princess married. They did not sit in the same chair or eat from the same plate, but they always kept each other near.