Trapped in a tower and visited only by the witch who has imprisoned her, Rapunzel longs for the world outside until a prince scales the tower walls by climbing up her tresses. Preschoolers will love hearing this charming, familiar tale over and over again.

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**

**Valentina Belloni**

Italian illustrator Valentina Belloni loved illustrating this humorous take on the classic tale of Rapunzel. She especially appreciated the author’s approach to Rapunzel herself—a very talented and very messy artist. Valentina’s favorite illustration is the one where Rapunzel meets her prince for the very first time.
How Strong Is Hair?
In the story, both the prince and the witch climbed up Rapunzel’s hair to the tower. See how strong hair really is. Take a strand of hair. Tape it to a variety of different small objects to see if it will hold them up. Some objects to try are: a paper clip, a pencil, a crayon, a ruler, a block, a small plastic animal figure, etc.

Handprint Castle
Use tempera or other water-based, washable paint to paint your child’s palm in his or her favorite color. Then, have him or her press it on a piece of construction paper. When it dries, have your child add a door, windows, turrets, and other castle features such as banners or maybe even a moat.

Headband Crown
Add to pretend play, princess fun with a simple-to-create crown.
Materials
• Inexpensive plastic headband
• Material stiff enough to stand up (poster board, craft foam, Styrofoam®)
• Decorative stickers in geometric shapes, glitter, aluminum foil, or other decorative items
• Crepe paper streamers for “hair” (optional)
• Glue

Making The Crown
1. Cut a crown shape from the material.
2. Trace the curve of the headband onto the bottom edge of the crown. Cut the curve so the crown will fit perfectly.
3. Set out stickers and other “bling” for your child to decorate the crown.
4. Apply glue and attach the decorated crown to the headband.
5. If your child wishes, add crepe paper streamer “hair” to the headband. Let it dry.

Princess Fairy Tale Activities
Here are some hands-on activities to spark enthusiasm for learning and get your child excited about reading.

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!
Once upon a time, there lived a girl named Rapunzel. She had a kind heart and a curious spirit.

Sadly, Rapunzel could not explore the faraway lands she dreamed of or even walk the paths below her window. A witch kept her in a tower. It had no doors or stairs.
Rapunzel’s only visitor was the witch, but Rapunzel had books and music to keep her company. She often sang while she brushed her long hair. When her sweet voice drifted through the forest, even the birds stopped to listen.

RULES

Don’t leave the tower.
Don’t feed the birds.
Don’t make a mess.
Don’t ever, EVER have a visitor, except ME.

Signed,
The Witch
One day, a prince was riding through the forest. He heard a lovely song echoing through the trees. He followed the sound. It led him to the tower.

As he listened, the witch arrived with food for Rapunzel.
In a voice as creaky as an old door, the witch called out, “Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair.”
Rapunzel’s hair tumbled DOWN, DOWN, DOWN to the ground.

The witch took hold of it and climbed UP, UP, UP to the window.
At sunset, the witch climbed back down Rapunzel’s hair and disappeared into the forest. Making his voice as creaky as an old door, the prince called out, “Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair.” Rapunzel’s hair tumbled DOWN, DOWN, DOWN to the ground. The prince took hold of it and climbed UP, UP, UP to the window.
When Rapunzel saw the prince, she was startled, but curious. “I am fed up with the witch’s rules,” she thought, and invited him in.

They spent a happy evening together. The prince told Rapunzel stories of the wide world beyond her window.
The prince returned nightly to visit Rapunzel. Their love grew. He asked her to be his bride, and she agreed. “Bring me some silk threads each night,” she said. “I will weave a ladder to escape this tower.”
At last, the day of Rapunzel’s escape came. Noticing her happiness, the witch grew suspicious. When she found the ladder and learned about the prince, she flew into a rage. Snip, snip! She cut off Rapunzel’s hair.

Then, she took Rapunzel deeper into the forest and left her all alone.

**RULES**
- Don’t leave the tower.
- Don’t feed the birds.
- Don’t make a mess.
- Don’t ever, EVER have a visitor, except ME.

*Signed,*

The Witch
At dusk, the prince rode to the tower. He brought a beautiful, white horse for Rapunzel.
The prince called out, “Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair.”

Rapunzel’s hair tumbled DOWN, DOWN, DOWN to the ground.
The prince took hold of it and climbed UP, UP, UP to the window.
The prince gasped when he saw the witch. “You’ll never see Rapunzel again!” she cackled.

The prince lost his grip on Rapunzel’s hair and tumbled DOWN, DOWN, DOWN to the ground.
Heartbroken, the prince stumbled through the forest in search of Rapunzel. Many days and nights passed. One morning, he heard a song, lovely but sad, echoing through the trees. He followed the sound. It led him to his beloved Rapunzel!
The prince and Rapunzel married. They lived a happy life in a tower at the prince’s palace. And though the tower had many doors and many stairs, sometimes—just for fun—their children took hold of their mother’s hair and climbed UP, UP, UP through the window.