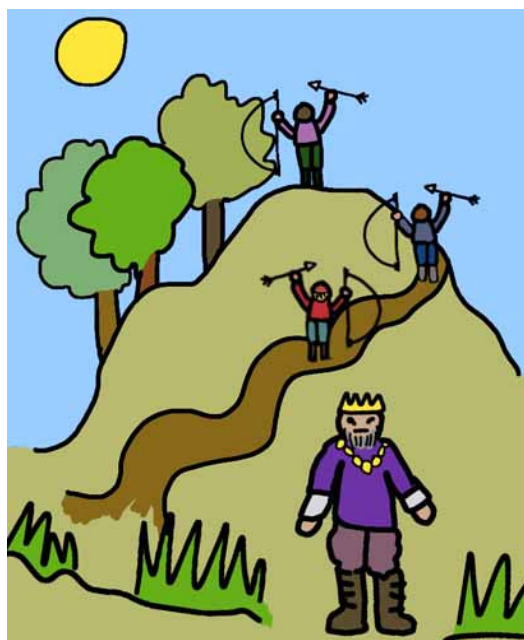


A traditional fairy tale: **The Frog Princess**

You can find
longer versions of the story at these sites
<http://www.artrusse.ca/fairytales/frog-princess.htm>
<http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/fttr/chap01.htm>



Once upon a time,
an old king and his three
sons lived in a castle.
One day, the king said,
“You must all find a wife.
I will tell you what to do.
Shoot an arrow. You will
find your wife where your
arrow comes down.”
So they did what he said.



The youngest prince was called Ivan. His arrow came down by a pond and a frog caught it.



“Oh no,” said Ivan.
“I have to marry a frog.”
His brothers laughed
at him. Their arrows
landed near pretty girls.

The king told the princes what the princesses had to do. First, they all had to make bread. Then, they had to make a rug. Ivan was sad. He did not think his frog princess could make bread or make a rug. But she said, "Don't be sad. Go to sleep. It will be okay."



Ivan's wife was called Vassilissa. She wasn't really a frog. She was a princess. Someone had put a spell on her.

When Ivan went to sleep, she took off her frog skin and became a woman!

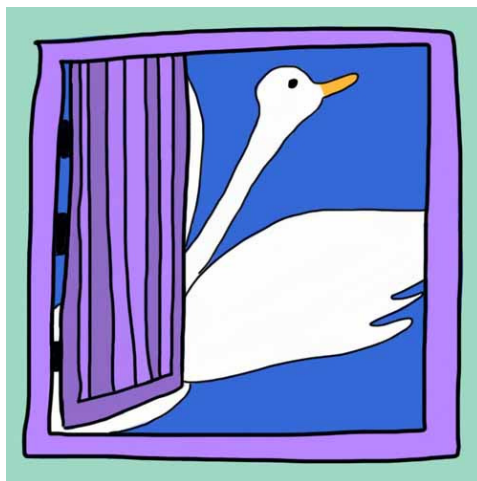


Then she got her friends to help her make the bread and the rug.

The king said, "You are the winner, Vassilissa."
But then he said, "I am having a feast and you must all come." Ivan was very sad. He knew his brothers would laugh at his frog princess. But she didn't look like a frog at the feast. They all saw a princess.



Ivan went home and put the frog skin in the fire. Vassilissa came in and she said, “You shouldn’t have done that. The spell was nearly finished. But now I will have to leave.” And she turned into a swan and flew away.



Ivan was lonely.

An old man and a witch helped Ivan. Ivan was kind to animals so they helped him as well.



After a long time, Ivan found Princess Vassilissa. She wasn't a frog any more and they lived happily ever after. 