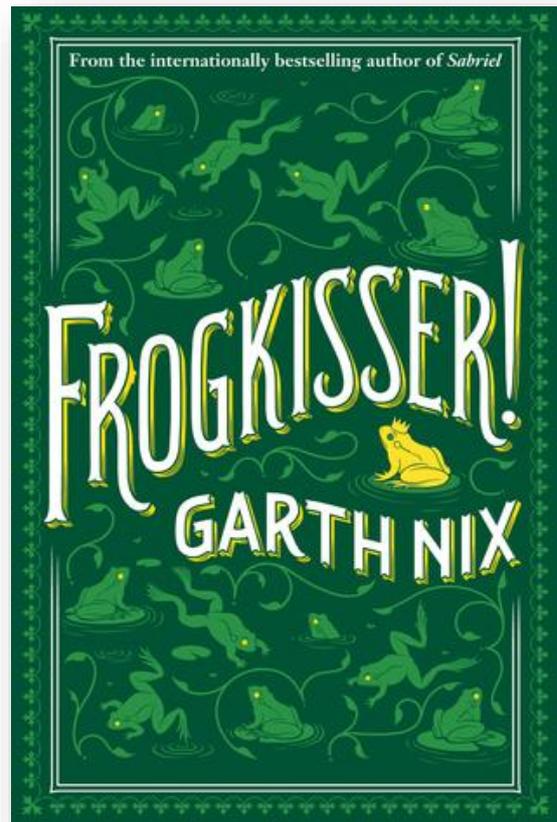


Frogkisser

Author
Garth Nix



Poor Princess Anya. Not only is she forced to live with her evil stepmother's new husband, her evil step-stepfather, she's plagued with an unfortunate ability to break curses with a magic assisted kiss and forced to go on the run when her step-stepfather decides to make the kingdom entirely his own. Aided by a loyal talking dog, a boy thief trapped in the body of a newt and an otter 'partially trapped' in a human body, Anya sets off on a Quest that, if she plays it right, will ultimately free her land—and teach her a thing or two about the use of power, the effectiveness of a well-placed pucker, and the finding of friends in places both high and low.

RECOMMENDED READING LEVEL: Lower to Mid Secondary

TEACHER NOTES

- Read the prologue out loud to your class, emphasising as much as possible the words used to describe the weather, the interior of the castle and the old dog. Once finished, ask students to describe the mood that has been set by the prologue, as well as how it encourages the reader to begin the actual story.
- Introduce the concept of the 'Hero's Journey' with your class, outlining the twelve stages on your whiteboard. (See <http://bit.ly/1syivja> for a good summation.) Ask students to work in groups of two to find examples from *Frogkisser!* to illustrate each of these stages. When finished, discuss with your class how Anya's 'journey' has changed her view of the world.
- Ask students to research *The Frog Prince*, the fairy tale upon which *Frogkisser!* is based. What similarities and differences do the two stories share?
- *Frogkisser!* features characters from across a number of well-known fairy tales. Ask students to make a list of as many as possible and, once complete, ask them to choose two from their list and write a 400-word essay on how these characters compare and contrast with their original versions.
- In the following two examples, the narration changes abruptly and 'speaks' directly to the reader. Ask students why Garth Nix might have wanted to break the 'fourth wall' and whether, in their opinion, it is an effective literary device.
 - 'As she spoke, the wind shifted around the clearing, lifting the lower branches of the surrounding trees with a sudden susurrations of leaves. Which is a fancy word for rustling.' (p 64)
 - 'Ardent!' Anya called hoarsely, trying to make it a whispered shout. Which isn't really possible, but people do try.' (p 95)
 - Ask students to find other examples of this break in narration in the text.

- Traditional fairy tales usually feature an overarching moral lesson which was held to be important in the society in which the tale originated. Ask students what the moral lesson might be in *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Hansel and Gretel* and *Beauty and the Beast*. Now ask them to explain in their own words the overarching moral lesson found in *Frogkisser!*
- Ask students to come up with ideas about what might happen to Anya after she is crowned Queen of Trallonia.