



## RAPUNZEL

by  
Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

Because his pregnant wife craved rapunzel (either radishes or parsley) during her pregnancy, a man took some from his neighbor's garden. This neighbor just happened to be a witch; when she found out what happened she forced the couple to give her their new baby girl. She named the baby Rapunzel and when the girl grew older, she locked her in a tall tower. There were no stairs to the tower. The only way up was via Rapunzel's long, long, LONG hair. When the witch wanted to join Rapunzel she called, "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair, Rapunzel!" Eventually, of course, Rapunzel was saved by a handsome prince, and they lived happily ever after.

To transition to this activity, talk to them about Rapunzel and her long hair. Have them speculate about hair. How long would their hair grow if they didn't get it cut? Say to them that they are going to make their own Rapunzels whose hair will grow and grow. But their Rapunzels will be "punk-rock" Rapunzels because they will have **green** hair; their hair will be made of **grass**!

**MATERIALS:** 1 small pint/half-pint milk carton for each child, rich soil, water, grass seed (rye grass is the skinniest), or birdseed ("hair" will be mix of blades), buff/tan/flesh-colored construction paper, crayons, scissors, growth logs, pencils, scotch tape

**ACTIVITY:** The following steps may be done by you prior to starting with your children, or by them if you think they are old enough.

1. Remove the top parts of the milk cartons.
2. Rinse them thoroughly.
3. Cut the construction paper into rectangles which are the circumference of the milk carton plus two inches for overlap, by the height of the cube part of the milk carton. This paper will become Rapunzel's face and ears.
4. Mark the corners of the milk carton on the paper to provide a guide for the children when they draw the face and ears.
5. It's time for the children to make their punk-rockers. Encourage them to have Rapunzel's face reflect this aspect of her character. She might also have earrings. Have them draw her face on the central panel, her ears on the sides.
6. If you cut out the ears leaving the front part still attached to the paper, you can fold them out so they protrude from her head.

7. Have the children wrap their faces around their milk cartons, making sure that the open part of the milk carton is at the top. Overlap paper at back and tape together.
8. Fill the cartons carefully with soil to about one inch from the top.
9. Pour about one-half inch grass seed or birdseed on top of soil.
10. Add water until soil is saturated so seed is very moist.
11. Place your Rapunzels in a warm sunny place.
12. Have each child predict how his/her Rapunzels will sprout, grow, etc. and create a log to record his/her observations; you may wish to keep these right under the Rapunzels.

These Rapunzels will really be a sight. Try letting them grow so the "hair gets so long that it curves down. Or the children may prefer to give them "haircuts" after a while.

**TEACHER NOTES:** As part of our desire to be less wasteful at school, we no longer have milk cartons at lunch. Our milk is delivered in large containers and dispensed through a machine. I ask each of my students to purchase a quart carton of milk and bring the empty clean container to school. This carton can be cut down and used.

**STANDARDS:**

**BSL:** 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.10, 2.1, 5.3, 9.1, 12.2, 12.7, 12.9

**NCTM:** 4d, 6a, 10a, 10b

**SCS:** A1, C1, C3, F4, H3

Grimm, Jacob, and Wilhelm. Rapunzel. Illus. by Bert Dodson. Mahwah. NJ: Troll Associates, c1979. ISBN#0893751359

Zelinsky, Paul O., Jacob Grimm, and Wilhelm Grimm. Rapunzel. NY: Dutton Books, c1997. ISBN#0525