



The Cherry Pie Princess

By Vivian French, illustrated by Marta Kissi

The Cherry Pie Princess has been called “a fresh take on the fairy-tale genre.”

- What do you think “genre” means? You can check your answer by looking the word up in the dictionary or checking with your parent or teacher.
- What characters and situations do you expect to find in a fairy tale? Which of those things do you find in *The Cherry Pie Princess*?
- Can you think of ways *The Cherry Pie Princess* is different from most of the fairy tales you've read or listened to?

Is Princess Peony like a fairy-tale princess? In what ways is she different?

Would you like to have Princess Peony as a friend? Why or why not?

Which character in the story is your favorite? Why?

What was your favorite scene in the story? What do you especially like about it?

Pretend you're the author and want to add another character to the story.

- Who would it be?
- What would they look like?
- Draw a picture of your character.

If you could make a magic potion, what kind of spell would it cast? What would you put in it?

Only Fairy Josephine was able to give baby Vincenzo a gift – the gift of laughter – before the Hag's sleeping potion took effect. What do you think the Fairy Jacqueline and Fairy Geraldine might have given him, had they had the chance?

Find the definition of the word “tyrant.” Do you think the King Thoroughgood is a tyrant? Why or why not?

What do you think the phrase “speaking out of turn” means? When might it be important to speak up about something that's happening?

Afterward...

- Do you think King Thoroughgood will ever call upon the Fairy Godmothers for help in the future? Why or why not?
- When the story ends, the Hag has been dragged off to the dungeon. What do you suppose happened to her there? Do you think she was ever released?
- Miss Beef has been banished from the kingdom; do you think she found another job as a governess?

Princess Peony learned how to bake from the book she got from the library. Think of something you'd like to learn how to do. How would you go about finding a book at the library to teach you?