

THE PRINCESS AND HER PANTHER

Written by Wendy Orr
Illustrated by Lauren Stringer

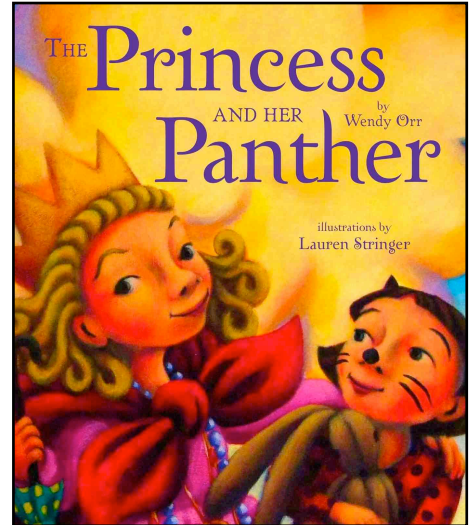
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Activity Guide

What do you get
when you take:

- ✿ one brave big sister,
- ✿ one not-so-brave little sister,
- ✿ a spooky nighttime backyard,
- ✿ and *heaps* of imagination?

The most magnificent campout ever!



About the Author:

Wendy Orr's children often camped out in the dark, spooky sheep-shearing shed when they were young. But with their small dog and large cat along to keep them company, the kids could *always* be brave. Wendy is the author of several celebrated picture books and novels, including *Peeling the Onion*, *Ark in the Park*, and *Nim's Island*, which was made into a feature film starring Jodie Foster, Abigail Breslin, and Gerard Butler. She lives in Australia.

About the Illustrator:

Lauren Stringer and her older sister loved to play pretend when they were little. Her sister was *always* the princess, and Lauren was *always* the very brave kitty who rescued her. Lauren has illustrated many acclaimed picture books, including *Snow* by Cynthia Rylant, *Mud* by Mary Lyn Ray, and her own *Winter is the Warmest Season*. She lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Questions You Might Ask

Pre-reading:

- ✿ After reading the title of this book and looking at the cover, what do you think this story is about?
- ✿ What do you think of when you imagine a day in princess's life? What about a day in a panther's life? Which is braver, a princess or a panther? Or: Which is scarier, a princess or a panther? Does that mean its braver?

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Questions continued

Post Reading:

- ✿ The sisters are using their imagination. What kind of things do you like to pretend?
- ✿ The princess packs sleeping bags, a rug, pillows, a book, a lantern, and her teddy bear. What would you pack if you were going on a long journey in your own backyard? Why?
- ✿ Are the *monsters* outside the tent at night real or imagined? Which one is your favorite? Which one is the scariest? Why?
- ✿ What kind of things scare you at night? Are they real or imaginary? How do you make yourself feel brave? Make a group list of all the things that people are afraid of. Make another list of all the brave things people have done.
- ✿ What animals might you hear or see if you camped out in your backyard, or somewhere near where you live? Are any of them scary? Are any of them dangerous? What is the difference between dangerous and scary?
- ✿ Which illustration is your favorite? Why?
- ✿ What's your favorite part of the story? Why? Does it match the picture?

Activities

Map Your Journey!

In the beginning of *The Princess and Her Panther*, the two sisters go on a long journey across the desert sand to a wide blue lake. The princess sets up her red silk tent under a tree in the dark, deep woods. By the end of the story you realize all of their activities have taken place in their own small backyard. Make a map of your own backyard, then re-make a map of your backyard using your imagination. Label forests, mountains, deserts, and lakes with adventurous names. Are there any pets next door that can become fantastic creatures? Let your imaginations go. If you don't have a backyard, use a favorite park or your school playground. Then write a story of what happens in this new magical kingdom.

Make a Poster

In *The Princess and Her Panther* the two sisters finally find their courage. They shout "Enough is enough!" and leap from their tent to scare the imagined monsters away. Brainstorm a list of things you can do to remain calm when you are afraid. Make a poster of at least five things you can do when you are scared then draw pictures to go with your list, and then post the poster by your bed!

Onomatopoeia

The author uses onomatopoeia for the sounds and movements of each of the night monsters—choose an animal that you like and make up list the sounds we usually associate with them. Think of how they move and what kind of cries or barks they make. If you could turn this animal into a fearsome night creature what would it sound like? How would it move? Write a Persona Poem, writing in the voice of your animal. Begin with "I am _____", filling in the blank with the name of your animal.

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Activities Continued

Creating Your Own Monster

If you made up a monster, what would it look like? Where would it live? Draw a picture of your monster. What is your monster afraid of and what would it scare away? Write a story of how you would make your monster disappear.

Sing-Along

Sing to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”:

Verse One:

There are noises in the night
Noises in the night
Hiss and hiss, screech and hoot –
There are noises in the night.

Verse Two:

There are creatures in the dark
Creatures in the dark
Croak and groan, stomp and pant –
There are creatures in the dark.

Verse Three:

The monsters are so near
The monsters are right here!
But, “**Enough is enough!**”
And just like that:
the monsters disappear!

Crowns, Ears, and Applause

Playing dress-up and pretending to be someone or something that you are not can be lots of fun. Becoming a brave Princess is easy with a crown made from paper, fancy necklaces, and a cape. If you are more of a Panther-sort-of-person, a tail made from rope, ears glued to a headband, and whiskers and a nose painted in black with a washable magic marker will be the perfect disguise. Dress-up with your friends and plan an adventure in your backyard or your school playground. Can your wading pool turn into a wide, blue lake? Can your wagon turn into a camel? Use your imagination to create a big adventure! Try writing down your adventure when you are done and turn it into a play. Then the next time you play dress-up gather an audience to watch and perform to great applause!

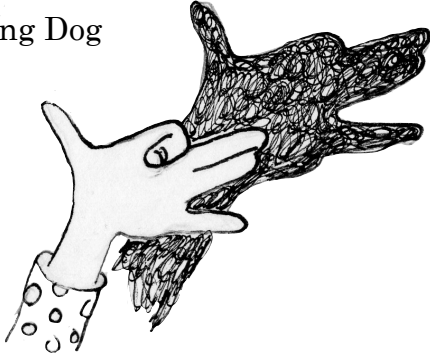
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Activities Continued

Shadow Puppet Show

Things that go bump are louder at night. Shadows loom larger and darker at night. How do you get rid of your nighttime shivers? Put on a hand-shadow puppet show! Shine a strong light onto your bedroom wall and let your hands do the talking. Here are some character ideas:

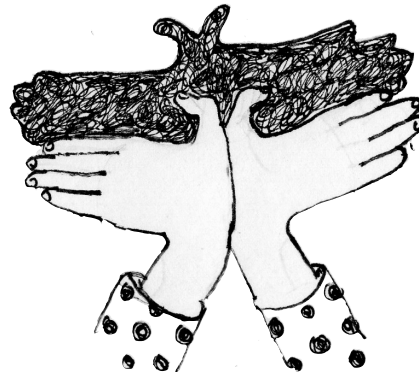
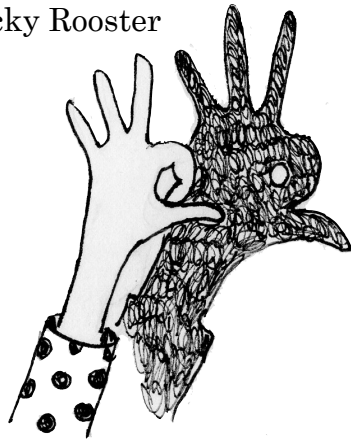
Barking Dog



Dancing Deer

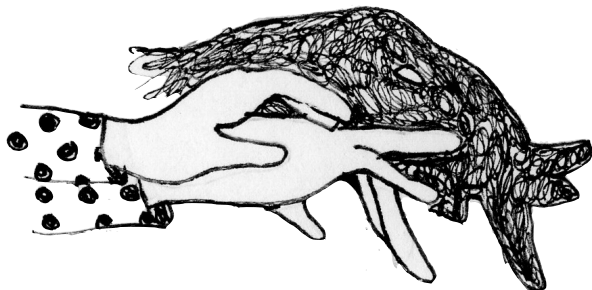
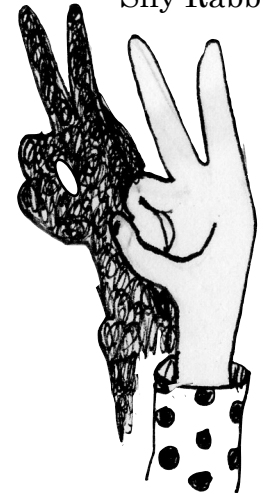


Plucky Rooster

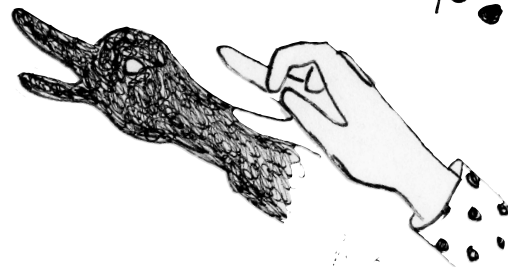


Flutter-Butterfly

Shy Rabbit



Brave Old Elephant



Gossipy Goose

For more hand-shadow puppet ideas go to this great site! <http://www.shadow-puppets.com/>