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Rafunzel

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Martin, Justin McCory. *Rafunzel*. Scholastic, Inc, 2002. ISBN 0439153891. \$11.95. 6 pp.

Reviewer: Morgan Hagey

Reading Level: Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fairy Tale; Plays; Parody;

Subject: Drama--Reviews; The story of Rapunzel; Spoofs; Fairy Tales

Theme: Using your intelligence to solve problems will almost always be successful

Production Requirements: This play can be difficult to produce, simply because of the need for a lot of blonde hair. Plus, Rafunzel is supposed to be in a tower. On the way up to the tower, the prince is supposed to encounter all kinds of interesting creatures that live in Rafunzel's hair. You must be able to make it look like all these things live in her hair, and make it so she is on a tower. This can be difficult in a classroom setting.

Acts: 1

Run Time: 15 minutes

Characters: 8-20

Cast: narrator, Rafunzel, Prince, and many people who are willing to be animals and funny characters.

Time Period: Variable, fairy tale times...

A woman named Rafunzel, is the nicest woman in all the land. An evil witch locks her in a tower, and while she stays there, her blond hair grows longer and longer. A brave prince has heard about Rafunzel, and he wants to rescue her. He goes to the tower and asks Rafunzel to let her hair down that he might climb it and come rescue her. She does so, and he begins climbing. Along the way, he gets tangled in a long pink ribbon, meets a mother bird and her chicks, another climber, an old hound dog, and a bumble bee. He finally gets to Rafunzel and proposes marriage. She replies that he is a mess, and that she has no interest in marrying someone who is twisted in pink ribbon, been pecked by a bird, has dog slobber, and who's eye is swollen from a bee sting. He gets mad and tells her that she needs a hair cut. As he is leaving, he has an idea. He tells her that they are perfect for each other because they both are imperfect. He then finds the key for the tower in her hair, and they escape and live happily ever after.

This short play is a delightful spin on the traditional story of Rapunzel. The simple name change from Rapunzel to Rafunzel tells the reader and audience that they are in for a fun twist. The prince encountering interesting people and animals that live in Rafunzel's hair makes his plight quite funny. Finding the key to escape in Rafunzels' hair adds to the hilarious nature of the script. Elementary students would love to both perform and be an audience to this play. The spectacle of a lot of hair, with a prince climbing it is delightful and highly entertaining for children. The thing that could be hard for production purposes is the placement of Rafunzel, so that the prince meeting each of the characters is a surprise. Also, fabricating hair that long could be difficult. However, an innovative director or teacher could find solutions. It could be performed on a stage with a built tower, or stairs in a school, where the audience watches in the hallway. There are many options. Don't give up on this play simply because it is difficult to produce! It's fun and worth it.