



Story Changers: Enhancing Pupils' Social Skills and Enriching Teaching Methods Through Storytelling and Virtual Reality

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Partners



**Apostolos
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Title of the Story

The Girl With The Enchanted Voice

Basic information on the Story

Primary Topic

Diversity

Secondary Topic

Respect

Acceptance

Inclusion

Empathy

Stereotypes

Learning Outcomes

The story's objective is to teach children to:

- Accept, respect, not to be afraid of, the difference
- Overcome the fear of being different
- Grow their empathy
- Recognize and avoid stereotypes
- Recognize their feelings

Target Group (Pupils)

☐ 1st-2nd Grade of Primary School

☒ 3rd-4th Grade of Primary School

☒ 5th-6th Grade of Primary School



Other relevant information

Reference (if the story refers to real facts, historical events etc.)

It is a fictional story, based on the classical folk tales' format

Story's Main Elements

Main heroes

- A prince who falls in love with the girl with the enchanted voice
- The girl with the enchanted voice and a dark mark on her face
- A scary giant who keeps the girl imprisoned in his cave
- A hedgehog with only three quills
- A lame hare
- An old chestnut-tree
- An almost blind owl

Setting

A big forest

Summary

A young prince falls in love with a girl by the sound of her heavenly voice, during a ride in the forest. When he finally sees her, he notices a big dark mark on her face. He decides to ignore her mark and bring her to his home and marry her. But first he has to save her from the terrifying giant who keeps her imprisoned. During his journey in the big forest, he is going to meet several 'unusual' magic helpers who teach him not to be afraid and trust what is different from them. The prince defeats the Giant, takes the girl and brings her to his palace to marry her.

Story's Text

The girl with the enchanted voice

Once upon a time, in a distant kingdom next to the forest lived a beautiful and strong prince. His father trained him day and night how to use the bow and the sword and it was certain that he would become the best one at hunting and fighting. He had a favorite habit, he used to take endless walks early in the morning in the forest that he loved so much... He observed the trees, the birds and the animals, he loved the smell of wood and the wet soil, while he caught even the



slightest sound, trying to guess where it could be coming from. At dusk, he made his way back, before the deep darkness found him. He was raised in wealth, but also with a lot of love; he was almost 18 years old. The king was very proud of his son, and was already thinking what a great marriage he would make for his child and what even greater bride he would take as his wife. Would she be a princess, beautiful and famous up to the ends of the earth?

This was what the king was thinking and his sleep was light and sweet like meringue. Yes! Like the white meringues served at weddings.

And just as lightly he was sleeping, so lightly he was waking up and was planning his son's future. And the prince, likewise. Strong, handsome, an only son, he believed that the whole world could fit in his two hands. And so it was. That's how it is for all young people, after all. He used to go hunting in the forest with his friends, and sometimes he liked to ride his horse alone. One of those days of hunting, when they got tired, they sat down in a glade to rest. Beside them, the gurgling and cool waters of a river were streaming and a breeze was blowing as soft as a caress. When the friends stopped talking and laughing, this breeze brought, nobody knows from where, a sweet female voice to their ears, an angelic voice singing and making the soul go straight up to the clouds. Everyone heard her and was startled, but the prince also shivered. His whole body was shaking and his heart was beating like a drum. Before he could figure out where the voice was coming from, the song stopped. He waited for a long time, but the voice was never heard again. His friends began to grumble; they had to continue their hunt. From that day on, the prince went to the forest more often. He wanted to hear that angelic voice again; the voice that made his heart flop like a fish.

And he did hear her again! Not once, but many times. And each time he felt so happy, so...so...light, as if he too was ready to fly like the angel he was listening to. He was sleeping and waking up with that voice in his head. Sleeping... No, he couldn't sleep. He had lost his appetite. He stopped seeing his friends. He was not interested in the palace's affairs...

The queen and the king began to worry. One day, his father asked him what was going on.

“Father”, said the prince, “this and that”. “I'm losing my mind. So, I made my decision; I will go and search for the girl with the heavenly voice. I want to marry her”.

“Sit down, my child,” said the king,” and listen to me. You know nothing about her, is she young and beautiful?”

“I don't mind, father. I just want to find her and bring her home”.

“What if she doesn't want you, son?”

“Then father, I will become a monk. I will make her my wife and none else.”

One day, while he was walking in the forest, he sat down to rest under the shade of a large tree. Suddenly, he heard the voice in the distance. He suddenly stood up, to listen more carefully. It was her! As if under a spell, he began to walk towards the voice. He was sure that he was walking in the right direction, as the voice became louder... He had never heard a more beautiful song in his life! He kept on walking towards where the voice was leading him, as if he was lost. He found himself in places he had never walked before, and finally, he found a lake and then... he saw her!

“Is this a girl or a fairy?” wondered the prince. She was so beautiful! She was wearing a white, long dress, with ties on the shoulders, leaving her white, long arms bare. She was holding her sandals in her hand and dipping her feet into the water now and then. He tried to see her eyes, but a white scarf on her head was covering her face... He couldn't see anything but her long, black curls, which gently caressed her shoulders.

The prince stayed there for a while to observe her. He admired the gentleness of her movements, her light walk, the faintness of her singing voice. He hid himself and continued to observe her quietly, so as not to interrupt her play in the water. And the more he looked at her, the more he felt connected to her. Unique feelings made his soul flutter, he felt his heart beat so hard and fast, that he thought it would burst and fly out of his chest to the far shore, to meet the girl's heart.

He wanted to say something to her, to shout something to her, but he couldn't get a word out; after all, he didn't even know her name. He kept watching her with his



eyes wide open. And then, the girl slowly began to unwrap the scarf from her head. She untied the knot under her chin and the wind took the scarf and carried it to the prince. Her gaze followed her white scarf. The prince then noticed a large brown mark covering the left side of her face, from her forehead to her lips.

The young man immediately turned his eyes away; he even turned his body and found himself with his back towards the lake, looking at the rock... It was as if the melodious voice stopped echoing in his ears; the brown mark on her face had pushed away the fascination he felt for her.

But the girl was not ashamed, she did not get scared, she did not run away, or even hide her face in her hands, but she cried out to him:

“Hey, I was born with it, do not be scared, or despise me, nor shy away”.

The prince was impressed that the girl began to speak without thinking, carefree and calm, with love and faith, freely telling him what she thought and what she knew:

“Dare, I tell you, dare, to look at everything
and what seems wrong to you, don't try to change it.
Their grace and sweetness you just don't know
but when you feel them, you will rejoice and celebrate.
The world has beauty, everyone stands out,
Think outside the box for a while and see what it's worth.
Your power, along with everyone else's,
Lies in the respect for others, and this is what I sing about.
I praise every beauty, the one that unites us,
that gives flavor to life and lifts the heart.
In this festival of life, dare to love, I tell you,
we're all different and that's what's the most important”.



The prince immediately felt charmed again and, deep inside, he felt that he wanted that girl by his side with her golden words and her beautiful song. He felt truly in love with her, and he wanted to marry her. The loathing that the brown mark on her face had created in him faded in an instant as they exchanged warm glances and sweet words.

But he could not decide whether to follow his heart and instinct and take the girl to the palace, or listen to the loud voice of his father and the people of the kingdom, that was telling him that this creature would not fit to the throne.

He tried to silence the dilemma within himself for a while and asked the girl: “How are you so strong in thought and knowledge? What is your name? Why do you come to the lake alone every day? Who are you singing so sweetly for? Where do you find the words by which you embroider the world with melodies? I fell in love with you before I even met you!”

The girl was charmed by the young man's words and look, and, clearly in love with him, with a soft touch, she took the white handkerchief from the prince's hands and disappeared, as if something had frightened her. Without giving the young man any answer or explanation, she shouted:

“Go, go quickly, run, to escape,
and come back, if you love, to save me.”

Her figure and voice disappeared into the forest. Nor did he understand how he lost sight of her at sunset... and darkness began to fall... He took the way back to the palace.

That very night, the prince lied down to rest, unable to sleep. He still had the melody of her voice in his ears and a thought crossed his mind: “I want to see her again”. The next morning and before the sunrise, he made the decision to go find her. But before leaving for the lake, he told his father what he had seen and heard that day.

“Father - he said determinedly - I will go find her. I want to speak to her again, to hold her in my arms and bring her to the palace.”



“Where are you going my child? Where is this lake? I’ve never heard about it. And the sky, look at the sky, it's cloudy, a storm is coming, don't get yourself into trouble. Make up your mind and don't take a risk for a girl whose face is marked.

You are young and beautiful, you will fall in love again, please forget about her. You are rich and handsome and you will find another love, a beautiful princess, just like our people want. Some other time we will go to the lake, but now make up your mind, we definitely won't go”.

1st Decision Point:

- a) Should the prince listen to his father and stay at home? *Go to page 10.*
or
- b) Should he persist and go to find the girl? *Go to page 11.*



a) The prince obeyed his father and with a sore heart decided not to go to the lake that day. “My father is right. Besides, I don't even remember where the lake is, so maybe I'll get lost and risk it for a girl I don't know well. Her voice is angelic and so is her soul, but she has a marked face and everyone will talk about it. No one will notice her virtues and graces.”

But when the evening came, her voice came again into his ears and he could not sleep. And this happened the next night, as well as all the nights that followed. And his thoughts were haunting him: “My heart is seeking her; hers the same, I feel it. She will be waiting for me, “if you love, come back and save me”; didn't she tell me this? And what if she is in danger? What if I never see her again? If time passes, I will definitely lose her. I'm old enough now, I can protect myself, and the forest is my home, what's there to scare me? Tomorrow I will go find her, no matter what!”

The next day the king realized that nothing would stop his son: “Go, then, but be careful! The weather is still not good today. Keep your eyes open and be careful, my child”, said the King patting his son on the shoulder. The prince put on his warmest clothes, his strongest shoes, kissed his father and mother and headed to the forest.

Please go to page 12.



b) The prince insisted: “Father, trust me and grant me your blessing. Tomorrow may be too late and I may lose her forever. It's not the first time I go to the forest. She has a beautiful heart and that's what counts, neither palaces nor gold. I was enchanted by her song and her beautiful mind”.

The king realized that nothing would stop his son: “Go, then, but be careful! The weather is still not good today. Keep your eyes open and be careful, my child”, said the King patting his son on the shoulder.

The prince put on his warmest clothes, his strongest shoes, kissed his father and mother and headed to the forest.

Please go to page 12.



FIRST EPISODE: THE HEDGEHOG

The prince set off full of joy for the lake. He was looking right and left to make sure that he was walking alone. He observed the sounds, colors and scents of nature, the grass with the blooming flowers spread out in front of him, the wet soil from the morning crumb, the chirping of various birds and the buzzing of bees that were choosing the nectar from the most beautiful flowers. The melodious words from the girl's song kept going around in his mind. "Where is she?" wondered the prince.

Surrounded by so much beauty of the forest and sweetened by the thought of the girl, he did not notice a thick and black cloud following him. Suddenly, the first drops began to fall and before the prince could think about which path to choose, a heavy storm hit. The prince started to run looking for a shelter. The first place he felt would protect him was a cave at the foot of the mountain. It was so dark that he could not see a thing. And then, he began to tremble, partly because of the cold and partly because of his fear... He didn't know if he was alone or if someone else was hidden in that cave. He looked right and left to make sure he was alone.

But suddenly, he heard a thin voice saying to him:

"Hello, what are you doing over here?"

The prince could not understand where this voice was coming from.

"Hey, here, dude, I'm in front of you, here I am!" and he tumbled and stopped at his feet.

"Who are you and what exactly are you?" asked the prince.

"I am Louie, the Hedgehog."

"Hedgehog?" asked the prince in surprise, "and where are your thorns?"

"On my back, can't you see them?" answered the hedgehog.

"But those are only three!" said the prince.

"And what's wrong with that? My friends love me anyway and keep me company, so what if I only have three thorns? When I am in danger, they help me. Tell me, what are you doing over here a day like this in the woods?"



"I'm looking for a girl. I had seen her at the lake and her beautiful voice enchanted my heart. I want to see her again and take her with me" answered the young man.

"Are you talking about the girl in the white scarf? Are you out of your mind? You can't take her. She is well guarded by a giant. He's been keeping her in his cave all day and doesn't let her out until just before the sun goes down and before it gets dark. And she - they say - should not even think of escaping, because if it gets dark and she is not back in the cave, she will immediately lose her speech, her voice, and will never be able to sing again".

"And how do I get to the lake?" the young man wanted to know.

"It is far from here, in the middle of the forest, where Glauce, the wise owl, lives," answered the hedgehog.

"And where does the wise owl, Glauce, live?" asked the prince.

"How should I know? You have to find her. I will only tell you one thing, because I have a good heart... The giant, when he sleeps he has his eyes open, and when he's awake he has them closed."

The rain had stopped. The prince thanked the hedgehog and came out of the cave. Suddenly, the hedgehog was heard again: "Take one of my thorns. You may need it somewhere. Whoever you pierce with it, he will freeze for only a few minutes."

"You only have three of them!" said the prince.

"Don't worry; my friends will love me even I have two thorns!" answered the hedgehog.

SECOND EPISODE: THE TREE

The prince stretched his arms and legs, straightened his body and, after he had said goodbye to his good friend, he headed straight to find the path that would lead him to the lake.

A rainbow, which was timidly colouring the sky, was smiling to him and was keeping him company. At that very moment, hope rose out of the storm, and the prince, overwhelmed with optimism, kept walking quickly, almost running, to reach the



place he was dreaming about. The colours of the sky filled his heart with optimism and cheerfulness and he did not, even for one second, stop thinking about the purpose of his journey.

Having walked for quite some time, the prince suddenly stopped. He could not believe what he was seeing right in front of him. He blinked and a scream of despair escaped his mouth. All his previous happiness had drowned in the deep waters of the river, which was spreading out before his eyes. Tears began to drop from his eyes and he felt so helpless and so small.

“How am I supposed to cross that river?” he wondered extremely frustrated. He kept staring at the river for a long time, without moving, until he suddenly heard a voice right behind him.

“What happened to you, my boy, and you are sighing with bitterness?”

The prince turned his head in the direction of the voice and asked frustrated, “Who is there talking and hiding all this time?”

The enormous chestnut tree replied and asked him again what the reason was that he was so sad. Without hesitating, the prince explained to the old chestnut tree the reason he was there and also that he did not know how to cross the river in order to go on with his journey. The chestnut tree, having listened carefully and without any trace of rush, told him that she would help him cross the river.

2nd Decision Point:

a) Should the prince try to find a way to cross the river on his own?

Please go to page 15.

or

b) Should he trust the old tree?

Please go to page 16.



a) The prince looked at the old chestnut tree with suspicion. “How could an old tree help me? It barely supports its very own and old branches” he thought to himself. And then spontaneously and recklessly he said to her:

“What are you talking about old chestnut tree? You can’t even uphold 2 or 3 of your own branches, you have shrivelled like a hundred-year-old woman, your trunk has peeled off and even during springtime there is not a single flower on your branches. How are you going to help me?”

“Hear me out, my impatient boy” said the old chestnut tree slowly and calmly. “You should know that trees never get old and that, like humans, the older they grow, the wiser they get. You should also know that all these years that I am standing here, I have seen many tired lumberjacks, exhausted ladies, courageous young hunters and romantic archers gathering here, resting below the deep shadow of my branches and taking a break before moving on with their journey. You should also learn that several young men like yourself have rested on my roots, dreamt of and cried about their first love”.

While she was talking, the old chestnut tree slowly leaned her body over above the river and before the prince could realize what was happening, the old chestnut tree had already created a bridge for him to cross over. The prince really slowly and carefully climbed up the bridge and walked across it softly, trying not to hurt the tree’s body, and once he reached the other side of the river and stood solidly on the ground, he bended over and kissed a dry, little branch of the tree with respect and gratitude. Then, the old chestnut tree told him “that little branch you kissed, you can take it with you. And whenever you are in need, it will become your bridge so you can cross over. Take it. It is my wish”.

And so, the prince placed the branch in his pocket and moved on.

Please move to page 17.



b) The prince accepted immediately the offer from the old chestnut tree. It seemed to him that a big tree like her would be wise and knowledgeable enough. Therefore, it would be a good decision to trust her. While the prince was thinking about all these, he saw the chestnut tree slowly leaning her body above the river and before the prince could even realize what was happening, she had already created a bridge for him to cross over. The prince really slowly and carefully climbed up the bridge and walked across it softly, trying not to hurt the tree's body, and once he reached the other side of the river and stood solidly on the ground, he bended over and kissed a dry, little branch of the tree with respect and gratitude. Then, the old chestnut tree told him "that little branch you kissed, you can take it with you. And whenever you are in need, it will become your bridge so you can cross over. Take it. It is my wish".

And so, the prince placed the branch in his pocket and moved on.

Please move to page 17.



THIRD EPISODE: THE HARE

It was almost noon and the prince was feeling hungry, very hungry. "I must rest, he thought, I must find something to eat, otherwise I will not be able to continue. But how can I find food, without my bow, my hands are tied!"

And while he was wondering what to do, he heard a strange sound behind him, among the leaves, something like an animal digging in the dirt to find something. The prince approached hesitantly at first and then with more courage. As he got closer, he saw a hare missing its right leg, slowly but steadily trying to dig in the dirt.

The hare suddenly stopped his important work as soon as he felt the presence of the prince. The two of them stared at each other, motionless for a while, until they realized that none of them was in danger because of the other. Then the prince spoke first: "What are you striving to find there?"

"And what do you care? Leave me alone, go on your way and don't worry too much," answered the hare.

But the young man insisted: "Let me help you".

"You help me?" answered the hare, "People like you want to eat me". The prince insisted once more: "Let me help you, you are lame, I cannot go and leave you."

"I may be lame, but I don't put it down. I may be slower, but I can make it. Of all the hares in the forest, I am the one who finds and takes to his little house the most carrots. But why do you want to help me so much? You definitely want something in return. Tell me, what are you up to?"

Then the prince remembered his hunger and said: "The truth is that I am very hungry. And if I help you, I hope you give me something to eat, too..."

The hare took pity on the prince and accepted his proposal. He let the prince dig and pull out of the ground a pile of carrots that he had buried there a few days ago. The two ate the carrots and told each other stories about their lives. But time passed. The prince realized that he had to hurry before darkness found him. Before he left, the hare gave him a piece of advice:

“Don'tt try to go back home, as you will get lost; the night comes quickly and the forest is dense and difficult. Take the road straight from here and you will find a large clearing and a tall tree in front of you. Sit on his trunk, relax and stay there to sleep. Glauce the wise owl is also there; she will keep you company and will put you to sleep with her fairy tales”.

FOURTH EPISODE: THE OWL

The prince set off to find the tall tree where Glauce the owl lives and keeps company to anyone who asks for it. The thought of the girl was constantly swirling in his mind, and he did not pay attention to the colors of the sky. It was already getting dark! “Where is the girl with the angelic voice, the girl who stole my heart? Am I close to where she lives? Does she remember me, is she waiting for me, or has she forgotten about me?”

Immersed in his thoughts, the prince had already arrived. The trunk of the tall tree stood before him. It was dark and the prince could hardly see anything. He was afraid, very afraid! He looked up the sky to see if the moonlight could ease his fear. And oh! At that moment a star fell and he thought of making a wish, to quickly find his beloved, until he heard a voice...

“I can hear someone's wish deep from his heart!” said the owl.

“Who is speaking and how can he know, what's in my mind, what my heart desires?” asked the prince.

“I'm Glauce, the wise owl, I tell everyone only what I know very well.”

“I'm a prince, and I 've heard a lot about you! The lame hare told me to look for you. You share so many stories with too much wisdom and you are famous in the whole forest. But wait, why aren't you looking at me down here? Why are you gazing in another direction?”

“I can't see very well, my vision is impaired.”



3d Decision Point:

- a) Should the prince trust the owl? She cannot see well, so how could she protect him? The hare had told him that she was wise and had advised him to find her though... He might need to help her...

Please go to page 20.

- b) Should he continue his way? The hare did not tell him that the owl cannot see well. He does not afford losing time while listening to stories.

Please go to page 21.



a) The prince wondered. The hare had said nothing to him about it.

"Don't be sad, now you know it now! But know also that I can accurately hear movements that I do not see, sometimes even thoughts. Yes, I can, for example, recognize someone by the sound of their voice, and yours trembles, it even tells me, I can feel it, that now you are afraid. You don't need to be afraid anymore, we are together, don't forget it, and always companionship sweetens every thought".

"And how do you move, how do you fly, can I help?"

"Thank you for caring, it's good to know how I feel and how you feel and how anyone feels, it's good for all of us to understand each other. Ask! Be thirsty to learn everything! Always with respect! Well, as for the flight, let me answer to you right away. Everyone knows me in the forest, so when they see me they immediately rush and help me, guiding me how high to climb, if I should go a little further to the right or left, and that's how I always reach my destination. When walking, I use my white cane, it is now an extension of my wing and helps me perceive the space and its contents. Also, with my hands I can understand all the textures. I can feel the soft textures of the leaves and the harder textures of the trees! And with the eyes of the heart, I can feel every emotion and thought of those who approach me."

"Impressive... the eyes of your heart."

"It would be impressive if everyone had them open, listening and seeing."

"But I can't see how something like this can happen," said the prince.

"When there is love and acceptance, caring, open arms, genuine interest, then anything can happen, around you and within you! My dear little prince, there is always a way. But now it's time to rest, time to relax, tell me about your journey and what brings you here and then I'll keep you company for whatever your heart desires. I'll give you my stories, I'll tell you about familiar places and alien, about creatures and people".

The prince was moved by Glauce's generosity, so he opened up, shared his story and his adventure. The owl began to tell the first story, and then the second and the third and then another and another. The man's heart calmed a little. And just



before closing his eyes, he repeated: “When there is love and acceptance, anything can happen within you and around you”.

Please go to page 24.

b) “I’m sorry, I didn't know this about you, no one told me,” said the prince and continued: “But I’d better continue on my way. Your stories are good, but I have no time to waste. I need to find a safe place to spend the night.”

“Don't be sad, now you know! But know also that I can accurately hear movements that I do not see, sometimes even thoughts. I can, for example, recognize someone by the sound of their voice, and yours trembles, it even tells me, I can feel it, that now you are afraid. You don't need to be afraid anymore, we are together, don't forget it, and always companionship sweetens every thought”.

These words somewhat reassured him and he continued the questions. He wanted to be sure.

“And how do you move, how do you fly, can I help?”

“Thank you for caring, it’s good to know how I feel and how you feel and how anyone feels, it's good for all of us to understand each other. Ask! Be thirsty to learn everything! Always with respect! Well, as for the flight, let me answer you right away. Everyone knows me in the forest, so when they see me they immediately rush and help me, guiding me how high to climb, if I should go a little further to the right or left, and that's how I always reach my destination. When walking, I use my white cane, which it is now an extension of my wing and helps me perceive the space and its contents. Also, with my hands I can understand all the textures. I can feel the soft textures of the leaves and the harder textures of the trees! And with the eyes of the heart, I can feel every emotion and thought of those who approach me.”

“Impressive... the eyes of your heart.”

“It would be impressive if everyone had them open, listening and seeing.”

“But I can't see how something like this can happen,” said the prince.

“When there is love and acceptance, caring, open arms, genuine interest, then anything can happen, around you and within you! My dear little prince, there is always a way. But now it's time to rest, time to relax, tell me about your journey and what brings you here and then I'll keep you company for whatever your heart



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The prince was moved by Glauce's generosity, so he opened up, shared his story and his adventure. The owl began to tell its first story and then the second and the third and then another and another. The man's heart calmed a little. And just before closing his eyes, he repeated: "When there is love and acceptance, anything can happen within you and around you."

Please go to page 24.



FIFTH EPISODE: Encountering the Giant

"The lake is a day far from here, so hurry up. Don't forget, you have to get before the evening," said the wise owl, when the day broke and she said goodbye to him.

The prince followed the road to the lake. He could see through the thick foliage of the trees the sun slowly tilting towards the west. His heart was pounding. Would he catch the girl in the lake? He continued to run with all his strength, when, suddenly, he saw the lake in the distance and his heart began pounding. When he arrived, the sun had set and the girl was nowhere to be found. His heart was torn. He was left staring at the lake, when he saw a bit of the girl's white scarf, disappearing into a hollow, in the crack of a rock.

"This is it! There must be the giant's cave," thought the prince.

He proceeded as quietly as he could. When he got closer, he looked inside and saw something terrifying. He saw the giant. He had never seen a more terrifying beast in his life, nor had he imagined. It was true, he was huge, as he had been told and even more so. His hands were large and rough. But the scariest thing was his skin. It was full of thorns! The prince was left with his mouth and his eyes wide open.

When suddenly he heard the giant say:

"You came at last! It's almost dark. You forget and you will soon suffer... If you continue like this you'll get in trouble..."

"I remember well the command you have given me and I do not forget that I cannot, no matter how much I want to, escape from your hands."

The giant raised his hand to slap her for daring to speak to him like that: "How dare you speak to me? Stop now! Just start your song, that's why you're here and you'll be here forever, with me!"

The girl felt angry, and for a moment she thought of not doing what he had asked, but her fear was greater than her anger. With a trembling voice, she started her song. The prince was listening to her song and his heartbeat became stronger. All he could think about was how he would manage to save her. He would not leave this place without her. How could he manage to get the girl?

He could only wait for the giant to sleep, that is, when he found him with his eyes open... When the girl's song ended, silence spread everywhere. The young man looked into the cave again, and by the dim light of the burning lamp, slowly approached. The giant was snoring. When the girl saw the prince, her breath was taken away! He nodded to her to be quiet. He told her only two words about his love and that was enough.

He asked her to follow him and she accepted. They tiptoed out of the cave, careful not to wake the giant. Suddenly, the giant closed his eyes and saw that the prince had seized the girl, about to come out of the cave. With a swish, he caught him in his rough hands and flung him to the other end of the cave.

The girl went into a corner and was watching without being able to react, without being able to save her prince. The giant with rage shouted furiously and rushed at him. The prince then remembered the hedgehog's thorn. He kept it in his hands and when the giant approached him, he thrust it into his chest. Everything happened as the hedgehog had told him and the giant froze.

The young man didn't waste time, he took the girl by the hand, but she stopped short and hesitated to leave "Go away, my dear, you go, save yourself, I cannot take a step away. The giant that holds me here has me under a spell. If I do not come to the cave right after the sun sets, I will immediately lose my voice, I will not speak again." "I want you by my side, even if you don't speak again. I will love you and I will take care of you, just take my hand and let's go to the palace". This is what the prince told her and they started running into the forest. It wasn't long before the giant got up. The giant was running with great strides and the whole earth was shaking. The boy and the girl were running as fast as they could and could feel the giant's breath approaching them, when suddenly, they saw the end of the forest ahead of them. And there, the earth was torn in two. On one side the cliff and on the other the giant. They had to get to the other side. And then, the boy remembered the twig that the old chestnut tree had given him. As soon as he took it out of his pocket, it was immediately transformed into a bridge! The giant arrived just as the bridge had become a twig again. Then, with a big jump he found himself on the opposite side. But the moment he set foot on the edge of the cliff, the stones fell off and the giant was lost forever.



The girl and the prince stood still, looking at the cliff. They could not believe that they had managed to escape from this tyrant.

“The spells have been dissolved, my tyrant has fallen over the cliff, and now I will no longer stay in the cave. Thank you for saving me” said the girl and the prince answered to her: “Your beautiful voice saved you. Your voice made me fall in love with you.”

The prince and the girl made their way back to the kingdom. When they arrived at the palace, the prince introduced to the king and the queen the girl he loved and for whom he dared things he had never imagined, not even in his dreams. The king heard their story and gave orders for the weddings to be prepared.

They say that there was a big wedding and celebrations. And this story is being told in that place until today. Because they lived happy ever after!