

Rapunzel

There once lived a couple who longed to have a child.(1) Their wish came true.(2) The wife waited for the child to be born, she sometimes stood out the window at the garden next door. In it grew some delicious-looking Rapunzel lettuce. But the garden belonged to a witch, and he was dared to go into it.(3) The wife could think of nothing but that lettuce. She grew paler and paler.(4) Her worried husband decided to sneak into the garden after dark and pick some. His wife ate it all, but it only made her sicker and sicker. So the husband went back to the garden.

But this time, the witch caught him. "How dare you steal my rapunzel!" she screamed. The terrified husband told her of his wife's craving. "Take all the lettuce you want, then," said the witch. "But in return, you must give me the child!" The poor man agreed.(5) The child was born, the witch took it away to raise as her own. She called the baby girl Rapunzel.

Rapunzel grew to be so beautiful that the witch decided no one else must ever see her. So when the child reached the age of twelve, the witch shut her in a tower deep in the forest. The tower was very tall, and had no door. Poor Rapunzel had no way of escaping.(6) The witch came to visit, she called, "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair!"(7) The girl threw her long braids out the window, and the witch climbed in to the top of the tower.

.....(8) A prince happened to be riding through the forest. From a distance he heard Rapunzel singing to amuse himself. He was immediately drawn to the beautiful voice. But once he found the tower, he could find no way in. The prince could not stop thinking about the voice in the tower.(9) He would go back to listen and every night he would hear brokenhearted the girl could find no way in.(10) One day from his hiding place, he saw the witch and heard her call "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair."(11) A long braid fell from the window all the way down to the ground. "If that's the rope to climb, I'll try it," the young prince thought to himself.(12) The witch had gone, the prince repeated her call. "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair!"(13) He climbed the long braid to the top.(14) Rapunzel was frightened as she had never before seen a man. But the prince told her how he had been