

SALSORIA - READER GUIDE

The Princess Who Slept Through Taco Tuesday

GETTING READY

Before visiting Salsoria, read a traditional version of Sleeping Beauty that is appropriate for your group. Give children time to explore the familiar tale through pretend play. Then leave the traditional tale behind and step into Salsoria!

OPTIONAL KINGDOM PLAY

Choose any activities that fit your group and materials. There is no right way to play - let children's imaginations lead the adventure.

- Build a Castle: Work together with boxes, tubes, construction paper, blocks, or other classroom materials.
- Dress for the Kingdom: Use scarves, capes, crowns, hats, and other dress-up items to become anyone in Salsoria.
- Make Some Magic: Create magic wands from simple craft supplies. Children may choose a special quality or 'gift' for their wand.
- Meet a Dragon: Pretend to be a dragon or use a stuffed dragon or puppet in dramatic play.

LIVE THE STORY

Become the Royal Herald. Put on a cape and your finest Royal Herald hat, take up the Royal Scroll, and prepare to welcome each guest into Salsoria. A grand royal voice and dramatic flair are highly encouraged.

Want to Go All Out? Add a homemade Royal Herald hat with a BIG feather, a cape, and the Royal Scroll. The website includes directions for making the hat and Royal Proclamation.

ENTER THE KINGDOM OF SALSORIA

Gather the children just outside the reading area with their magic wands. Unroll the Royal Proclamation of Salsoria. Welcome the children one at a time. Children who wish to answer may name the special gift they chose for their wand. Children who would rather not speak can simply raise their wand as the Herald welcomes them.

Royal Herald: "Hear ye! Hear ye! The Kingdom of Salsoria welcomes a very special guest! What magical gift do you bring to our kingdom?"

When everyone has entered: "By royal proclamation, all our guests have arrived. Let the celebration begin!"

Then everyone settles into the reading area and the story begins.

WHILE YOU READ - WATCH FOR THE GIFTS

Keep the story moving. Pause only at a few natural moments so children can wonder, make predictions, or notice something important. The goal is to experience the story - not stop repeatedly to answer questions.

As each fairy gives the princess a special gift, help children notice the quality she receives. You do not need to discuss every gift. At a few natural moments, you might wonder:

- What gift did the fairy choose?
- What might that gift look like in everyday life?

Remember the gifts! After the story, children will think about these qualities again and add special qualities to the Royal Scroll of Gifts.

AFTER THE STORY - HEAD, HEART, HANDS

HEAD - What Did We Discover?

- What special gifts did the fairies give the princess?
- Why do you think the fairies chose those gifts?
- Which gifts can we actually see in the way someone acts?
- What did you discover about what makes someone truly special?

HEART - What Did We Feel?

- How do you think the princess felt when she learned about all the gifts she had been given?
- Which gift would you most like to give to someone else? Why?
- How does it feel when someone notices something special about you?
- Can someone have wonderful qualities that we don't notice right away?

HANDS - What Can We Do?

- How can we use kindness to make someone else's day better?
- What is one special gift or quality you can share with others?
- How can we help someone else recognize a wonderful quality in themselves?
- What can we do this week to make our classroom, home, or community a little more like the best parts of Salsoria?

KEEP THE MAGIC GOING

The Royal Scroll of Gifts - See the Magic in Others. After the story, unroll the extra paper beneath the Royal Proclamation. Invite children to name special qualities they notice in one another - kindness, courage, creativity, helpfulness, patience, humor, friendship, or something uniquely their own. Add every child's name and at least one quality others see in them. Make sure every child is included.

Design a Taco Fit for Salsoria. Children create, name, and share an imaginary taco worthy of a royal feast.

Open the Salsoria Taco Cafe. Turn the dramatic-play area into Tacos Happily Ever After Cafe with play food, menus, aprons, pretend money, and restaurant roles. The website includes a picture menu for younger children and a create-your-own menu for older children.

Build It Strong - The Salsoria Castle Challenge. Give children blocks, cups, tubes, boxes, or other building materials and challenge them to build a tall castle on a strong foundation. Let them build, test, tumble, change the base, and try again.

Castle thought: The strongest things we build begin with a strong foundation.

TAKE THE MAGIC HOME

Send home A Little Salsoria Magic, the family activity that invites children to notice the wonderful gifts and qualities in the people around them. Families can use it anytime - or make it a special Taco Tuesday dinner conversation. No tacos required - but they certainly make it more fun!

Reader tip: Keep this guide behind the reader-version picture pages while you read. Children can stay focused on the illustrations while you glance at the prompts without needing a laptop.