



Teacher Guide  
for  
*Dangerously Ever After*  
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## Summary

Princess Amanita likes dangerous things, particularly her garden, which is said to be the most dangerous in the world. So when quiet Prince Florian gives her roses, Amanita is unimpressed – until she sees their glorious thorns! Now she must have rose seeds of her own. But when the seeds sprout snorting noses instead of thorny roses, the princess embarks on a dangerous journey to return them to Prince Florian. In the end, Amanita develops an appreciation for both flowers that smell good and flowers that smell well.

## Teaching Ideas

*Dangerously Ever After* provides an opportunity for students to connect the text to their own experience by discussing the concepts of danger and safety. Why does Princess Amanita like dangerous things better when she's safe at home in the palace? How are Prince Florian and Princess Amanita different? Students will be able to compare their own adventurous experiences with Amanita's and talk about the times they have felt daring and the times they haven't.

A second set of lessons invites students to research a real-life dangerous plant.

## Vocabulary, Comprehension, and Discussion Questions

### **Vocabulary questions:**

- What does snoring mean?
- What is a bouquet?
- What is the opposite of dangerous?
- What is a wheelbarrow?

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. What kinds of things does Amanita like?
2. Why do the palace gardeners wear armor?
3. What happens when you pick grenapes?
4. Why does Prince Florian give Princess Amanita roses?
5. Why does Amanita put the roses in the vase stem side up?
6. Why does she end up with nose seeds instead of rose seeds?
7. Why makes the noses sneeze?
8. Why does Amanita ride off on her brakeless bicycle?
9. What kinds of things does Amanita think might be in the dark, gloomy forest?
10. How does she find her way to Florian's castle?
11. Where do the noses end up at the end of the story?

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What was your favorite part of the book?
2. Do you have any dangerous hobbies?
3. Do you have any allergies that make you sneeze?
4. Do you know anyone who snores?
5. What would you do if you were lost? Has that ever happened to you?
6. What are some of your favorite smells? What are some of your least favorite?
7. Princess Amanita felt safe with her dangerous things at home. Where do you feel safe?
8. How are Amanita and Florian different from each other? Can they still be friends?

### **Identifying Problems and Solutions:**

- What was the problem with the nose flowers? How did the Princess solve that problem?
- What problem occurred after the Princess set off on her bike? How was that problem resolved?

## Similes

Dangerously Ever After uses many similes, which is when something is compared to something else. Here are some similes from the book:

- As sharp as shark's teeth
- Like a troop of monkeys playing tubas,
- Like a herd of warthogs
- Like sleeping in the sun and staying up late for a party

Ask your students to come up with similes of their own. What are some similes for things that are:

- tall
- fast
- slow
- tiny
- interesting
- silly
- kind

## Invent a Dangerous Plant for Princess Amanita's Garden



*What does it look like?  
What does it do?  
Why is it dangerous?*

Write about a time you were afraid to do something.



*What were you afraid of?*

*Why were you afraid?*

*What did you do to get over your fear?*

*Were you happy with the result?*

## What Happens to the Roses and the Noses?



*Write a story about the noses in Prince Florian's garden or the roses in Princess Amanita's garden.  
Are they happy where they are?  
Do they fit in?  
Do they cause trouble?*



## **Dangerous Plant Research Project**

Choose a dangerous plant from real life and write a short report about it. Your plant might be a thorny cactus, a poisonous mushroom, a rash-inducing plant like poison ivy, or a carnivorous plant like Venus Flytrap. It might be poisonous to people or to certain animals, or have a terrible smell. Perhaps many people find it safe but some people are allergic to it.

A list of poisonous plants can be found here:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_poisonous\\_plants](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_poisonous_plants)

A list of carnivorous plants can be found here:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_carnivorous\\_plants](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_carnivorous_plants)

A list of poisonous mushrooms can be found here:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_deadly\\_fungi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_deadly_fungi)

A list of cacti can be found here:

[http://cactiguide.com/name\\_search/](http://cactiguide.com/name_search/)

Here are some questions to answer in your report:

- What is your plant's common name?
- What is its scientific name?
- Where does it grow?
- What makes it dangerous?
- What does it look like? Can you draw it?
- How does it reproduce? Does it grow from seeds, bulbs, or spores?
- Are all the parts of the plant dangerous?
- Does it have any uses or helpful traits?

## HOW TO MAKE AMANITA'S SNORTY NOSES



### YOU WILL NEED:

- Pink tissue paper
- Green pipe cleaners
- Clear tape
- A black magic marker
- Scissors
- Floral wire (optional)

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Take one sheet of tissue paper and cut in half. Take one of the two halves and fold it in half again. While it is still doubled over, fold the top corners toward the center as if you were making a paper airplane.



Once both sides have been folded in, fold the outside edges to the center a second time to make a longer, narrower point.



Fold over the top point and tuck it under the folds so that the tip of the nose is blunt rather than sharp.



Fold down the center to make a triangle. Tape the top half of the seam together using clear tape.



Use the other half of your tissue paper, or any other scrap paper, to stuff the inside of your nose and make it three dimensional. Pack it in so it doesn't come out.





Press the loose, unstuffed edges of your nose together and trim them into 3-4 petals. Fold the petal edges back towards the tip of your nose. Draw in nostrils with magic marker.



Place a piece of tape along the length of a pipe cleaner and insert it along the top of the nose. You may want to reinforce the pipe cleaner with some floral wire to keep it perky. You can twist a second pipe cleaner around the stem for a green curlicue at the top.



Behold your glorious nose!

## HOW TO MAKE AMANITA'S THORNY ROSES



### YOU WILL NEED:

- Tissue paper in a rosy hue
- Green pipe cleaners
- Clear tape
- Green masking or duct tape
- Scissors

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Take one or two sheets of tissue paper and cut into quarters. Stack the four or eight quarters one on top of the other and fold accordion style.



Place a pipe cleaner under the center of the folded papers with about an inch extending beyond the top. Fold the pipe cleaner over the top of the papers and twist it around the base. Trim the corners of the tissue paper so that they are rounded and petal shaped.



Begin opening up the layers of tissue paper, pulling them forward and separating each one. If you want, you can take a scrap of tissue paper and wrap it around the visible strand of pipe cleaner in the center.



Comb the petals forward with your hand. Take a piece of green masking, duct or painters tape and wrap it around the back of the rose to keep the petals forward. Now you can begin adding thorns using small pieces of pipe cleaner. Add another pipe cleaner if you want a longer stem.



Behold your thorny paper rose!

# INVENT A DANGEROUS PLANT FOR AMANITA'S GARDEN

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Leave your picture for Dashka or scan it at home and email it to: [PrincessAmanita@gmail.com](mailto:PrincessAmanita@gmail.com)



## More Activities for *Dangerously Ever After*

### Just For Fun:

- Make tissue paper roses (with optional thorns) using the attached instructions
- Make tissue paper nose flowers using the attached instructions

### Resources:

- An author biography for children can be found at [www.dashkaslater.com](http://www.dashkaslater.com)
- Teachers who want to have students write to Dashka should contact her at [info@dashkaslater.com](mailto:info@dashkaslater.com) to receive an address.