



Rapunzel

Illustration: Aspasia Xydea

Texts: <https://www.paidika-paramythia.gr/>

Illustration - Editing: Aspasia Xydea (Fairy Tale Museum)
Translation: Elena Aristodemou & Andreas Andreou (RISC)

©AR4Youth, 2022



This content is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International \(CC BY 4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) licence. This means that reuse is allowed, provided appropriate credit is given and changes are indicated.

About AR4Youth

Training Young People on Augmented Reality Authoring Showcasing Intangible Cultural Assets as Use Cases ([AR4Youth](#)) is a project funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union coordinated by the Research & Innovation Center for Social and Educational Sciences ([RISC](#)) and in partnership with organisations from the Netherlands ([ATERMON](#)), Cyprus ([Fairy Tale Museum](#)), Lithuania ([Active Youth](#)), Greece ([AKNOW](#)) and Estonia ([Eesti People to People](#)).

AR4Youth centralises at training young people in conceiving, designing and implementing an Augmented Reality (AR) project for digitising and augmenting books, guides or manuals. Acknowledging, in addition, the necessity of preserving our cultural heritage which constitutes the basis of our values, beliefs and aspirations, and responding to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11.4 to “strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage”, the project will use as case studies Greek, Lithuanian and Estonian fairy tales, myths and legends which will be transformed into digitally AR texts and preserved in the project’s Cultural Digital Library.

To address the abovementioned scope, the project will aim to achieve the following objectives:

- To enhance advanced digital skills (i.e., use of AR technologies) of young people with special emphasis on NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training);
- To equip young people with competitive qualifications for either entering the labour market or for conceiving their own entrepreneurial future;
- To raise the awareness of young people on the cultural heritage aspects of partner countries;
- To sensitise them into the importance of preserving cultural heritage and more specifically the traditional fairy tales, myths and legends through digitisation;
- To increase the quality and innovation of youth work through the creation of advanced digital training.

More information about the project and its activities is available at the project’s website <https://www.ar4youth.eu/>, and Facebook account (@AR4Youth).

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

Once upon a time, there was a man and a woman who wanted to have a child very much. Finally, after a long time, the woman became pregnant and was expecting to give birth to a baby.

At the back of their house, there was a small window that looked out into an amazing garden, planted with the most beautiful plants, vegetables and flowers.

All around this garden there was a high wall and no one dared to enter because it belonged to a terrible witch.

One day, the woman was looking out of her window at the witch's garden, and saw luscious and green lettuces. Since she was pregnant, the woman lusted after them!

With each passing day, her desire to eat these beautiful lettuces grew but she began to despair because she knew she could never get them from the witch.

When her husband saw her in this state, he was frightened and asked for the reason.

- "If I can't eat some of the lettuce that are behind our house, I'll die," she replied.

The man who loved his wife very much thought:

"As dangerous as it may be, I'll go get some of these lettuces right away."

So, one night he climbed over the wall, uprooted some lettuce and took them to his wife.

His wife made them right away into a salad, and ate them with great appetite. She liked them so much that the next day she wanted to eat more!

Her husband saw that he could not otherwise calm his pregnant wife so he went back into the garden. He, however, got very frightened when he saw the witch in front of him, who started shouting because he dared to enter her garden and steal her vegetables.

The man excused himself and told her about his wife's appetites and how dangerous it was not to satisfy her appetite in her condition.

The witch then answered to him:



"I will allow you to take as much lettuce as you want from my garden, but in return I will take the child once your wife gives birth!"

Out of his fear and panic, the man accepted what the witch asked him. So, when the time came and his wife gave birth to a baby girl, the witch appeared and took the baby girl whom she named Rapunzel.

Rapunzel was growing up and was the most beautiful child in the world.

When Rapunzel turned twelve years old, the witch locked her in a high tower which had neither door nor stairs. Only very high up at the top of the tower there was a small window. When the witch wanted to climb the tower, she stood below and shouted:
"Rapunzel, Rapunzel! Let your hair down."

Rapunzel had amazingly long hair, like braids of gold, and when she heard the witch say these words she would untie her braids, tie them around the window knob, and then drop them ten metres into the air.

The witch would grab the braids and climb the tower. One day, a prince was passing through the forest where the tower was located. The little king saw Rapunzel at the window and heard her singing in such a sweet voice that he fell madly in love with her. But he was disappointed as there was no door in the tower and there was no ladder that could reach that height. So, he went every day into the forest and watched her, until one day he saw the witch coming and saying:

"Rapunzel, Rapunzel! Let your hair down."
The prince immediately understood what he had to do to climb the tower. So, he memorised the words he had to say, and the next night he went to the tower and shouted too:
"Rapunzel, Rapunzel! Let your hair down."

Then Rapunzel threw off her braids and the prince went up to her room. At first Rapunzel was very upset because she had never seen a man up close before. But the prince began to speak to her, and explained that he liked her song so much that he could find no peace unless he saw her.

Finally, Rapunzel's fear was gone and the prince, who was very much in love, asked her to marry him. Rapunzel saw that he was young and handsome and thought that he would love her more than the old witch.



"I want to come with you and marry you but first I have to find a way to get down from the tower," said the girl who had thought of a way. She asked him, every time he goes to see her, to bring a skein of silk so as to weave a ladder. Thus, when she would finish the ladder, she would be able to get down from the tower and leave with the prince's horse.

So, the little king agreed to visit Rapunzel every night because during the day the old witch was visiting her.

Days passed, without the witch understanding anything about Rapunzel's plan. Until one day the girl told the witch by mistake: "Tell me, how is it so difficult to get you up the tower while the prince climbs in a moment?"

"You faithless child!" replied the witch, furious because she immediately realised that Rapunzel was keeping secrets. "What are these things I hear? I thought I had cut you off from the world but you deceived me" she told her.

Then the old witch grabbed Rapunzel's beautiful hair, twisted it two or three times with her left hand, grabbed a pair of scissors with her right hand, and cut it off! Then, she sent Rapunzel to a wilderness where she would survive only with great difficulty and misery.

On the day the witch banished Rapunzel, she tied the braids of hair she had cut from the girl to the doorknob. So, when the king came and called for his beloved to let her hair down to go upstairs, the wicked witch let the broken braids fall. The king quickly climbed up, but instead of his beloved he found the witch who looked at him with a sickly look and said to him ironically:

"Indeed! You came to find your beloved, but the beautiful bird is no longer in its nest, it was taken by the cat who will take out your eyes too. For you, Rapunzel is lost forever, never to be seen again."

The king lost his mind with what he heard and jumped from the tower.

Fortunately, however, he did not lose his life, because he fell into a bush. But the thorns of the bush injured his eyes and he could no longer see at all!





So blind, he wandered aimlessly in the forest and ate nothing but berries and roots and he was crying for the loss of his beloved. After wandering for years, he finally arrived in the wilderness where Rapunzel lived in poverty, who had meanwhile given birth to their twin children, a girl and a boy.

The blind little king heard a voice that seemed very familiar to him, and as he went towards the voice Rapunzel recognized him and ran to hug him in tears.

Then two of Rapunzel's tears fell into his eyes, which immediately cleared and he then began to see as before. The prince took Rapunzel and their children by the hand and they returned to his kingdom where they were welcomed with joy. So, they lived happily ever after for many years.



Co-funded by
the European Union