

Rumpelstiltskin

by Brothers Grimm
Retold by Paul O. Zelinsky

Classroom Favorites

Teacher's Guide by Marvin Traver



A Perma-Bound Production

Synopsis

This is a classic Brothers Grimm folk tale.

A miller wants to impress the King. So, he says, "I have a daughter who knows the art of spinning straw into gold." The King orders that the girl be sent to the castle. He gives her spools and a spinning wheel. She has until morning to spin the straw into gold or face death.

The girl begins to weep and a tiny man comes to her rescue. He will show her how to spin straw into gold, but she must give him her necklace. She agrees and all the straw is spun into gold.

The greedy King makes her spin more gold. On the second night she gives the little man her ring. On the third night she has nothing to give, so the little man makes her promise her first born child. She agrees, thinking it may never come to pass. The King had promised to marry her if she was successful in the third spinning. She becomes Queen and has a baby boy. The little man demands she keep her promise. Her pleading moves him to grant three days to reveal his name.

The Queen gives every name she can think of. Inquiries are made in town. The correct name can't be discovered. Her most faithful servant is sent into the woods to discover the name. At the top of a high hill the servant sees the little man riding a cooking spoon around a great fire. He recites a poem which reveals his name, Rumpelstiltskin.

The next evening she tells him the correct name. He jumps on the cooking spoon and flies out the window--never to be heard of again.

Other Books with Paul O. Zelinsky

Dear Mr. Henshaw (illustrated)

Hansel and Gretel (retold)

Lion and Stoat (author)

Maid and the Mouse and the Odd-Shaped House (author)

Song in Walnut Grove (illustrated)

The Story of Mrs. Lovebright and Purrless Cat (illustrated)

Objectives

1. To acquaint children with folk tales
2. To discuss the consequence of your actions (the promise of giving away your first born child)
3. To notice the great detail in many of the pictures
4. To expand the students' vocabulary with a special emphasis on words that connote emotion (the story has many)

5. Students will do some light research into Kings, Queens, and especially, castles

Comprehension/Discussion Questions

1. Discuss with the students what kind of work and lifestyle a miller's daughter would have had during this period of history.
2. Discuss with the class what it means to have a *passion* for gold (great liking; enthusiasm). Expand the discussion to a passion for books, pizza, sports, etc.
3. Discuss whether at first the girl had any choice but to go along with the little man, when he said, "What will you give me?" When he asked a second and third time, could she have handled it differently?
4. Discuss whom the class thinks is worse, the King who threatens death, is filled with greed and marries for riches; or, the little man who wants to take a baby away from its mother and also shows signs of greed.
5. The comprehension of vocabulary is very important in this short story. At least 20 words need to be targeted (note the vocabulary sections).

Student Involvement Activities

1. Put the sentence, "She began to weep," on the board. Ask if everyone understands what it means to weep. (There are many vocabulary words in the story related to emotions.) Discuss how this is an emotion. Give examples. Then, have the class see if they can list other emotions on the board. You might want to put up King, Miller's daughter/Queen, and Rumpelstiltskin on the board and list emotions they felt below their names.
2. Have each student make up a poem which reveals their secret name.
3. Select several of the pictures (the wedding picture is especially good) and have the students look for details. See in which pictures they find the most details.
4. In the story the Queen goes through a list of unusual names--Beastyribs, Leg O' Ram and Stringbones. Have each student make up a name and draw the person.
5. Have each student go to the library and take out a folk tale book. Have each share their choice with the class.

PART I: VOCABULARY

Fill in the blank using the correct vocabulary word. Write the letter of the correct word in each blank. Many of the sentences are taken directly from the story.

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| A. encountered | E. straightaway | H. sobbing |
| B. impress | F. spools | I. whir! whir! whir! |
| C. passion | G. frightened | J. amazed |
| D. intrigued | | |

1. He gave her _____ and a spinning wheel.
2. She grew more and more _____ and then she began to weep.
3. On his way to town one day, the miller _____ the King.
4. He ordered the miller to send his daughter to the castle _____.
5. He pulled three times _____ and the spool was wound full of gold thread.
6. The miller wanted to _____ the King.
7. As she became more afraid her _____ grew louder.
8. The King had a _____ for gold.
9. When the King came at sunrise, he was _____ at the sight of all the gold.
10. The King was _____ at the idea of straw being spun into gold.

PART I: COMPREHENSION TEST

Circle the letter that best answers each question.

1. What did the miller say his daughter could spin into gold?
 - A. wheat
 - B. straw
 - C. barley
2. What was the first thing the miller's daughter gave the little man to spin for her?
 - A. a ring
 - B. a bracelet
 - C. a necklace
3. Rumpelstiltskin is a
 - A. King
 - B. miller
 - C. little man.
4. When the King married the miller's daughter she became
 - A. Queen
 - B. Princess
 - C. Duchess.
5. How many days did the Queen have to guess the name?
 - A. 3 days
 - B. 2 days
 - C. 1 day

PART II: VOCABULARY

Fill in the blank using the correct vocabulary word. Write the letter of the correct word in each blank.

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| A. inquiries | E. greedier | H. treasure |
| B. replied | F. midday | I. fury |
| C. pleaded | G. rejoiced | J. thickets |
| D. recited | | |

1. All that gold made the King even _____ for more.
2. The servant searched through _____ and over clearings.
3. The second day the Queen had _____ made in town.
4. The Queen _____ every name she knew.
5. The royal _____ was filled with money.
6. To each name the man _____ , "That is not my name."
7. In a _____ Rumpelstiltskin jumped on his spoon and flew out the window.
8. The Queen _____ , "Don't take my baby."
9. The servant returned to the castle by _____ .
10. Everyone _____ that Rumpelstiltskin's name was found out.

PART II: COMPREHENSION TEST

Circle the letter that best answers each question.

1. How many times did the little man pull the spool to make it spin gold?
 - A. three
 - B. two
 - C. four
2. What did the girl give the man the second time to spin for her?
 - A. necklace
 - B. bracelet
 - C. ring
3. How much time passed before the little man came to take the baby?
 - A. a month
 - B. a week
 - C. a year
4. What did the Queen say she would give the little man if he would let her keep her baby?
 - A. her crown
 - B. the royal treasure
 - C. the castle
5. The servant spied the little man
 - A. in a cave
 - B. on top of a hill
 - C. under a bush.

ANSWER KEY

PART I: VOCABULARY

1. F
2. G
3. A
4. E
5. I
6. B
7. H
8. C
9. J
10. D

PART I: COMPREHENSION

1. B
2. C
3. C
4. A
5. A

PART II: VOCABULARY

1. E
2. J
3. A
4. D
5. H
6. B
7. I
8. C
9. F
10. G

PART I: COMPREHENSION

1. A
2. C
3. C
4. B
5. B



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