

Readers Theater Fairy Tales

Rumpelstilzkin Adapted from
The Blue Fairy Book by Andrew Lang

The Mindful English Classroom 1 Rumpelstilzkin Characters Narrator 1, 2, 3, 4 Rumpelstilzkin
(Stilz) King Girl/Queen Miller Messenger

Narrator 1

There was once upon a time a poor miller who had a very clever and self-reliant daughter. She loved to design and sew clothing. Now it happened one day that the miller had an audience with the King, and in order to appear a person of some importance he told the King that his daughter could spin straw into gold.

King

Now that's a talent worth having. If your daughter is as clever as you say, bring her to my palace tomorrow, and I'll put her to the test.

Narrator 2

When the girl was brought to him he led her into a room full of straw and gave her a spinning-wheel and spindle.

King

Now set to work and spin all night till early dawn, and if by that time you have spun straw into gold, I will hire you as the fashion designer for my royal guard. You can design golden outfits for all of them and live in luxury.

Narrator 3

Then he closed the door behind him and left her alone inside.

Narrator 4 So the poor miller's daughter sat down, and didn't know what in the world she was to do. She hadn't the least idea of how to spin straw into gold, and became at last so miserable that she began to cry. Suddenly the door opened, and in stepped a tiny little man.

Stiltz

Good-evening, Miss Miller-maid. Why are you crying so bitterly?

Girl Oh!

I have to spin straw into gold, and haven't a notion how it's done.

Stiltz

What will you give me if I spin it for you?

Girl
My necklace.

Narrator 1

The little man took the necklace, sat himself down at the wheel, and whir, whir, whir, the wheel went round three times, and the bobbin was full. Then he put on another, and whir, whir, whir, the wheel went round three times, and the second too was full. So it went on till the morning, when all the straw was spun away, and all the bobbins were full of gold.

Narrator 2

As soon as the sun rose the King came, and when he perceived the gold he was astonished and delighted, but his heart only lusted more than ever after the precious metal.

He had the miller's daughter put into another room full of straw, much bigger than the first, and asked her to, spin it all into gold before the following morning.

Narrator 3 The girl didn't know what to do, and began to cry.

Narrator 1

When the girl was alone the little man appeared again.

Siltz

What'll you give me if I spin the straw for you once again? Girl I've nothing more to give.

Stiltz

Then promise me when you are a famous designer to give me your first child.

Girl (to herself)

Who knows what may not happen before that? Besides, I see no other way out of it.

Narrator 2

So, she promised the little man what he demanded, and he set to work once more and spun the straw into gold. When the King came in the morning, and found everything as he had desired, he straightway gave her the job! The miller's daughter became the most famous fashion designer in the kingdom and lived in luxury. She married the partner of her dreams, who happened to be the King's loyal and hard-working son -- Prince Larry.

Narrator 3

When a year had passed a beautiful son was born to her, and she thought no more of the little man, till all of a sudden one day he stepped into her room.

Stiltz

Now give me what you promised.

Girl

I will offer you all the riches in her kingdom if you would only leave me the child.

Stiltz

No, a living creature is dearer to me than all the treasures in the world.

Narrator 4

Then the girl began to cry and sob so bitterly that the little man was sorry for her.

Stiltz I'll give you three days to guess my name, and if you find it out in that time you may keep your child.

Narrator 1

Then the girl pondered the whole night over all the names she had ever heard, and sent a messenger to scour the land, and to pick up far and near any names he could come across.

Narrator 2

When the little man arrived on the following day she began with George, Marvin, Pierre, and all the other names she knew, in a string, but at each one the manikin called out:

Stiltz

That's not my name.

Narrator 4

On the third day the messenger returned and announced:

Messenger

I have not been able to find any new names, but as I came upon a high hill round the corner of the wood, where the foxes and hares bid each other good-night, I saw a little house, and in front of the house burned a fire, and round the fire sprang the most grotesque little man, hopping on one leg and crying: "To-morrow I brew, to-day I bake, And then the child away I'll take; For little deems my royal dame That Rumpelstilzkin is my name!"

Narrator 1

You can imagine the girl's delight at hearing the name, and when the little man stepped in shortly afterward and asked:

Stiltz

Now, my young girl, what's my name?

Girl

Is your name perhaps, Rumpelstilzkin?

Stiltz

Some demon has told you that! Some demon has told you that!

Narrator 2

The little man's rage drove his right foot so far into the ground that it sank in up to his waist. He kept sinking and sinking until the ground swallowed him whole. No one ever saw that strange little man again.