

Name: _____

Date: _____

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

Once upon a time, there was an old carpenter who wanted to impress the king. Since he did not have great wealth, he told the king that his daughter could spin straw into gold. After hearing this, the king called for the daughter and locked her into a room full of straw. "Turn this straw into gold, or I will leave you in this room forever," he said. The carpenter's daughter did not know what to do! She did not know how to spin straw into gold.

As she cried, a small creature appeared and asked her why she was crying. "If I don't turn this straw into gold, I will be locked in here forever," she wept. The creature said he could spin the straw into gold, but wanted her necklace in return. She agreed, and the creature began magically turning the straw into solid gold coins.

The next day, the king was overjoyed to find the room full of gold! He moved the girl into a bigger room, filled with more straw. "Turn all this straw into gold, or I will lock you in here forever!" commanded the king.



Just as she was losing hope, the strange creature appeared again that night. She asked him again to work his magic, but this time, he wanted the young woman's ring in return for his work. She gave the creature her ring, and once again he spun all the straw in the room into gold. When the king walked in the next morning, he was ecstatic. The gold was piled high, up to his eyes! The king moved the girl into an even bigger room. This time, however, he told the carpenter's daughter that he would marry her if she succeeded one last time.

Like the night before, the creature appeared again and offered his help. With no more jewelry to take, the creature demanded the young woman's first-born child. She reluctantly agreed, and once again the creature turned the straw into gold. The king soon married the carpenter's daughter, and they had a beautiful baby together.

One stormy night, the creature returned to claim his reward. She offered the creature jewels and riches instead. "Anything you want, but please, not my child!" she cried. The creature thought it over. "If you can guess my name, I will disappear forever. I'll give you one week to think!" he said.

The young woman had a trick up her sleeve! She sent a messenger to follow the creature home. On the way there, he overheard the creature singing a song that revealed his name.

The messenger rushed back to tell his queen the good news. When the creature returned a week later, the carpenter's daughter screamed out the name the messenger had heard: "RUMPELSTILTSKIN!" In a puff of smoke, the creature disappeared forever.