

Sleeping Beauty (and the Prince)

No doubt you have heard of Sleeping Beauty! But is there more to the story? Read the classic fairy tale below, then answer the questions that follow. Then turn the page to learn more about another character from the story.



Once upon a time, in a kingdom far, far away, a little princess was born. Her parents, the king and queen, had wanted a child for so long. They threw a big party at the castle to celebrate. They invited all the fairies...except one.

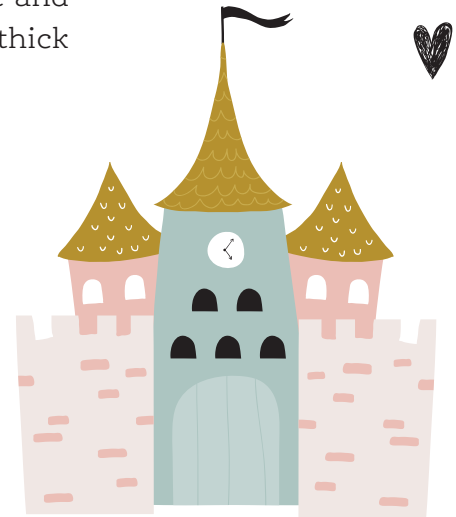
When the fairy, who was old and powerful, found out she was not invited, she was angry and cast an evil spell on the princess. The curse was that the princess shall one day prick her finger on a spindle and fall into a deep sleep. Only true love's song could wake her.

A good fairy took the little princess away from the castle to protect her from the evil fairy. The king and queen were sad to leave their baby, but they knew she wouldn't be safe in the castle. Although the good fairy took care of the princess, she could not prevent the powerful curse from working its magic.

When she was 16, the princess did indeed prick her finger on a spindle and fall into a deep sleep. The good fairy put her back into the castle and cast a spell over the entire castle. Everyone inside fell asleep, and a thick forest grew around it so that no one could enter.

A hundred years passed, and one day, a prince from a neighboring kingdom rode past the forest. He wanted to know what was in the forest. Curiously, all the trees separated to make a path for him, and he rode right into the castle.

He found the sleeping princess and, seeing that she was so beautiful, couldn't help but sing to her. She awoke and knew that he was the one who broke the spell. They lived happily ever after.



Questions

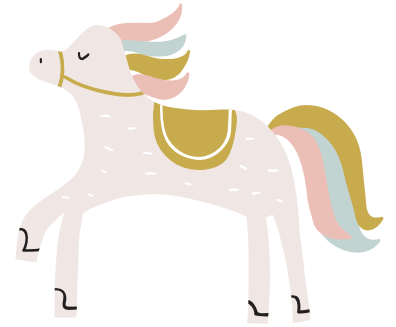
1. What do you know about the Prince from this story?

2. What do you think his parents are like?

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The prince climbed up the tower and found the beautiful princess sleeping. She had been asleep for 100 years. As he admired her beauty, he thought about how terrible it must have been for her to have this fate. He thought that she must have grown up in a castle with loving parents and everything she could ever want. Why would anyone curse her like this? Then, he couldn't help but think about his own upbringing...



The young prince grew up in a beautiful castle. His father was the great king of their land. He taught the young prince the art of sword fighting and hunting. The king made sure that his son was with him as much as possible. As a young boy, the prince accompanied his father wherever he could. They were inseparable. The prince was the first to volunteer for every hunting trip, even when he was too small. "I'll go, Dad!" he would say. The king would laugh and say, "Okay, but don't tell your mother."

His mother, however, was not as involved in the young prince's life. She often stayed in her room, away from everyone. For most of the prince's childhood, she was absent. He wondered why she was so distant, but the workers in the castle simply said that it was too dangerous for the prince to be around her. He often looked out his window and glanced at the tower across the way, where his mother stayed. If he was lucky, she was looking out at him as well. Unfortunately, it was only for a second. Her warm face quickly changed. Her eyes widened and reddened. It even looked as if she was hissing at him. He thought he saw sharp teeth on her. She would turn away as if ashamed and close the curtains. The young prince was hurt and confused.

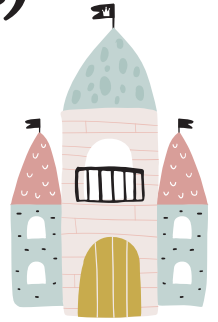


On his sixteenth birthday, the prince had a birthday party to mark his passage into manhood. He was surprised to see his mother, the queen. She stayed for the entire party and even spoke to him. His father approached him and explained that his mother was from an ogre family. She wasn't fully ogre, but she had enough in her to develop ogre tendencies from time to time. For you see, ogres love to eat children, so it was important that she stayed away from the prince. She couldn't risk hurting him. But now, the prince was no longer a child and could finally be around his mother.

The End

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Refer to the stories of Sleeping Beauty and the prince on pages 1 and 2 to answer the questions below.



Questions

1. What surprising thing did you learn about the prince's mother?

2. Can you think of one thing the princess has in common with the prince?

3. How is the prince's childhood the same or different from what you imagined before you read his story?
