



Parent/Teacher Study Guide



A Musical for Children Based
on the Grimm Brothers' tale

Book By
Don Kersey

Music & Lyrics by
Steve Leibman

Storybook Musical Theatre

P.O. Box 473, Abington, PA 19001, (215)-659-8550

www.storybookmusical.org



Storybook Musical Theatre is a non-profit, professional children's theatre company operating under a Theatre for Young Audiences Contract with Actors' Equity Association, the union for professional actors and stage managers in the U.S.A.



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Rumpelstiltskin

Play Synopsis

Act I

As the play begins the two narrators are singing about the wonderful world of fairy tales, when they are interrupted by the appearance of Rumpelstiltskin. He sings about his ability to grant wishes, especially to greedy people. Soon we see the king. He is complaining about his need for a new cook when the Miller arrives to pay his taxes. He tells the King about a rumor that the King is looking for a wife. The Miller tries to convince the King that his daughter, Rowena can cook and clean for him. He says that she has a special talent of spinning straw into gold and pledges his own life as a guarantee of truth. The King is most interested and asks that she be brought to the palace. The Miller goes to tell his daughter of his tale. She thinks the King has heard of her dancing, but the Miller tells her he made a promise that she could spin straw into gold. Rowena tries to convince the King that her dancing is wonderful, but all he wants is his straw turned into gold. As the Act ends, Rowena and the King each sing about what they want. In the meantime the Miller is in immediate peril. End of Act I

Act II

As the second act begins, Rowena suddenly has an urge to begin spinning. The King takes her to a room with lots of straw and a spinning wheel. He promises to return the next morning to see Rowena's work. Rowena is left alone knowing that she and her father are doomed. Suddenly, Rumpelstiltskin appears and offers his help. He tells Rowena he will spin straw into gold in return for some small trinket. He asks for the hair ribbon she is wearing. As he starts to spin, Rowena falls asleep. When she awakens, the straw has turned into gold. The King enters and is amazed at her accomplishment. He orders more straw so he can watch her spin, but she tells him she must be alone or the special talent does not work. After the King leaves, Rumpelstiltskin reappears. This time he takes Rowena's bracelet as payment. Once again when Rowena awakens, the straw has turned to gold. The King, still amazed, orders even more straw be brought to Rowena. Rowena says she is getting an allergy to the straw. Even when the King mentions straw, it makes her sneeze. The king, however, decides a clothespin is all that is necessary for her to keep

spinning. He promises to marry her after one last spin from her magic fingers. He leaves and she begins to cry. Rumpelstiltskin appears to console her. Rowena tells him she doesn't have anything to give him this time, but if she becomes Queen she promises to give him anything he asks for. He sits at the spinning wheel and spins again. The King and Rowena are married, and the gold that was spun from the straw, make the King and his kingdom prosperous and happy. Soon there is news that a new prince has been born and everyone is joyous. One day however, as Rowena is alone with the baby, Rumpelstiltskin again appears. He asks if she has forgotten her promise. Rowena explains that she thought he had forgotten. He tells her he was just waiting for her to have something he wanted. Rowena asks what he wants and Rumpelstiltskin points to the baby. She says he can have anything except the child. He thinks she is greedy like everyone else. He gives her a chance to get out of her agreement by guessing his name. After several tries she fails to come up with his name. Rumpelstiltskin agrees to give her some time to think about it. He will return that night and if she knows his name the agreement is off, otherwise he will leave with the baby. After he is gone, Rowena orders the Page to follow him. She explains their fate to the King and her father. Soon the Page finds Rumpelstiltskin in the woods and overhears him use his name. The Page hurries back to the castle where she tells of her discovery. Rumpelstiltskin returns for a final try. After several tries, Rowena calls out the correct name. Rumpelstiltskin cannot believe that someone has guessed his name. He is sad because he will still be all alone. Rowena offers to let him be the baby's nanny. He is happy to stay and be part of the royal family. The End.

FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND COUNSELORS

The following common core aligned* activity ideas and questions may be beneficial to share with your student(s) before and after the play.

BEFORE THE PLAY:

1. Read the original "Rumpelstiltskin" story by the Brothers' Grimm. Talk to your child(ren) about the different characters and their feelings. Discuss how they might be different in the play. Share the Play Synopsis with them. How is it different from the story you read? How is it the same? Pose the question "What would happen if..." Have the child(ren) use their imagination(s) to create their own versions of the story. (CC.1 3.2H)

BEFORE THE PLAY:

2. Divide your group into teams for each character in the play. Write a descriptive sentence about them. Create a story from a character's point of view. How does this change the original fairy tale? (CC.1.3.2D)

3. Choose a favorite fairy tale or story and have the children dictate or write their own version. Afterwards use colored paper, crayons, paints, or markers to make a picture of the parts of the story or make a small diorama of the setting. (CC.1 4.1M, CC.1 5.2F)

4. Talk to your child(ren) about attending a live performance and how it is different from watching television at home or going to a movie. Try to help them understand what it means when there are many other people who also want to see, hear and enjoy the performance. They can meet the actors after the show. (CC.16.2 2C)

AFTER THE PLAY

1. Rumpelstiltskin feels sad and lonely. Do you try to be friends with someone who doesn't have many friends? Do you try to cheer them up if they feel sad? How would you cheer someone up? Is it fun to make new friends and find out about different kinds of people? (CC.1.5 2A)

2. The King is very greedy and selfish at first and causes problems for Rowena and her father. What would have happened if the King had been happy with the first or second pile of gold? Have you ever wanted anything all to yourself? Eventually the King shared his wealth with his kingdom, and everyone is happy. Do you like to share things with your friends or siblings? What kind of things? (CC.16.1 2C)

3. Rowena and her father get into trouble because they do not tell the truth about being able to spin straw into gold. Have you ever told someone something that wasn't true to get them to like you? What happens if you get caught lying? Do you get punished? (CC.16.1 2B)

4. Rumpelstiltskin uses a spinning wheel to change straw into gold. Show your child(ren) some pictures of real spinning wheels. Talk to them about how thread is spun from raw cotton or wool. Talk about the time periods spinning wheels were used. (CC.8.1 3D)

Hidden Words

How many words of 3 or more letters
can you find in the name

Rumpelstiltskin

Ex. milk pull

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Spinning Maze



Can you draw the path to help Rowena find her way
through the maze to the spinning wheel and straw?

Rowena's Word Search

B G I O B S O C L W J
F M I L L E R K K L G
G R E E D Y V I C P O
K G R Y S Z W H E E L
I K J U S T R A W R L
N Q X Y B P R G N P O
G Q M O P B T S A N N
D G O L D Y O S N A E
A B R I B B O N H M L
N R A A Z G O Y V E Y
C S Q S P I N N I N G
E U K L Y H V G V K L

Find the hidden words:

BABY

DANCE

GOLD

GREEDY

KING

LONELY

MILLER

NAME

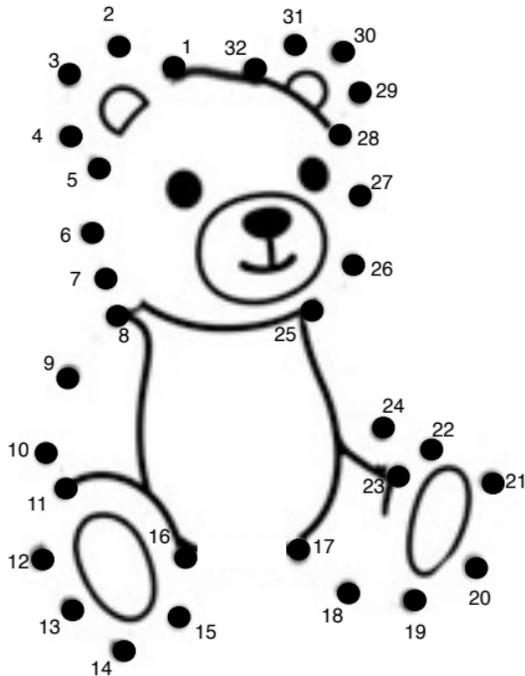
RIBBON

SPINNING

STRAW

WHEEL

Prince Frederick's Dot to Dot



Connect the dots to see
Baby Fredrick's favorite toy