

# Rumpelstiltskin Study Guide

## Objectives

This study guide, when used before and after viewing the *RUMPELSTILTSKIN* puppet show, will enhance the learning experience. This study guide is designed for students in kindergarten through 4th grade. During the show, students will see rod marionettes operated and voiced by a visible puppeteer. After the show the puppeteer will describe how the puppets operate. Following that, we encourage you to use this study guide to further the learning process, whether you are a **parent or a teacher**. Feel free to tailor the activities to your specific class or child's needs and grade level. When using the study guide, students will learn more about the various versions of *Rumpelstiltskin*, think critically about the characters in the puppet show, and they will **make their own puppets based on the puppets in our show!**

## Arizona Common Core Curriculum Standards

Speaking and Listening, and Reading Literature, Standards:

K.SL.2. Confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood.

1.SL.2. Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

2.SL.2. Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

K.RL.1. With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

1.RL.1. Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

K.RL.3. With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.

## The Characters

- The King
- The Miller
- Angela, the Miller's daughter
- Rumpelstiltskin
- The baby



## The Story

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*Rumpelstiltskin* is an adaptation of an old story most familiar through Grimm's Fairy Tales. A girl must turn straw to gold or face dire consequences. A strange little man mysteriously appears and offers to do it for her, but she must give him something in return. She gives him a ring and then a necklace. When she has nothing left to give, he demands her first born child. The child is promised, the straw becomes gold for a third time, and the girl marries the king and becomes a queen. After her baby is born, the little man returns and demands the baby. When she cries he takes pity on her and tells her that if she can guess his name he will not take the baby. Luckily, he is overheard saying his name, and this is reported to the queen. When the little man comes to take her baby on the final night of guessing, she asks him, "Is your name Rumpelstiltskin?" He is so angry that he stamps himself into the center of the earth and is never seen again.

## Discussion Topics for Before the Puppet Show

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- Read one or more versions of *Rumpelstiltskin* - see next section
- Read one or more versions of similar stories - see resources for where to look
- Talk about the difference between seeing a movie or tv show and watching a live show
- Discuss the importance of the audience to a live show. In our shows we encourage audience participation such as laughter, applause, and appropriate audience response to the characters.
- Discuss what each person can do to be a good audience member (ie, interaction, sitting down, staying quiet, hands in lap, listening, etc.).

## Tell a Different Version of the Story

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*Rumpelstiltskin* is a classic story with many different versions in circulation. Our puppet show is different than any version you'll find in a book. Either before or after your class sees the puppet show, tell them at least one different version of the story. There are many available online and in various books. Here we offer the Brothers Grimm version of the fairy tale that you may read to your students. This version is best suited for older children in third or fourth grade. We recommend finding an alternate version of the story that is more suited to a younger class if you need to (a version with pictures is recommended below in the resources).

### **Brothers Grimm Version of *Rumpelstiltskin***

There was once upon a time a poor miller who had a very beautiful daughter. Now it happened one day that he had an audience with the King and in order to appear a person of some importance he told him that he had a daughter who could spin straw into gold. "Now that's a talent worth having," said the King to the miller; "if your daughter is as clever as you say, bring her to my palace tomorrow and I'll put her to the test." When the girl was brought to him he led her into a room full of straw, gave her a spinning wheel and spindle and said: "Now set to work and spin all night till early dawn, and if by that time you haven't spun the straw into gold you shall die." Then he closed the door behind him and left her alone inside.

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 and said: "Good evening, Miss Miller-maid; why are you crying so bitterly?" "Oh!" answered the girl, "I have to spin straw into gold, and haven't a notion how it's done."

"What will you give me if I spin it for you?" asked the manikin. "My necklace," replied the girl. 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; and so it went on till the morning, when all the straw was spun away, and all the bobbins were full of gold.



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 bade her, if she valued her life, spin it all into gold before the following morning. The girl didn't know what to do, and began to cry; then the door opened as before, and the tiny little man appeared and said: "What will you give me if I spin the straw into gold for you?"

"The ring from my finger," answered the girl. The manikin took the ring, and whir, round went the spinning wheel again, and when morning broke he had spun all the straw into glittering gold.

The King was pleased beyond measure at the sights but his greed for gold was still not satisfied, and he had the miller's daughter brought into a yet bigger room full of straw, and said: "You must spin all this away in the night; but if you succeed this time you shall become my wife."

"She's only the miller's daughter, it's true," he thought; "but I couldn't find a richer wife if I were to search the whole world over."

When the girl was alone, the little man appeared for the third time, and said: "What will you give me if I spin the straw for you once again?"

"I've nothing more to give," answered the girl.

"Then promise me when you are Queen to give me your first child."

"Who knows what may happen before that?" thought the miller's daughter; and besides, she saw no other way out of it, so she promised the manikin 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 made her his wife, and the miller's daughter became a queen.

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 and said: "Now give me what you promised." The Queen was in a great state, and offered the little man all the riches in her kingdom if he would only leave her the child. But the manikin said: "No, a living creature is dearer to me than all the treasures in the world."

Then the Queen began to cry and sob so bitterly that the little man was very sorry for her, and said: "I'll give you three days to guess my name, and if you find it out in that time you may keep your child."

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

When the little man arrived on the following day she began with Kasper, Melchior, Belshazzar, and all the other names she knew, in a string, but at each one the manikin called out: "That's not my name."

The next day she sent to inquire the names of all the people in the neighborhood, and had a long list of the most uncommon and extraordinary for the little man when he made his appearance.

"Is your name, perhaps, Sheepshanks Cruickshanks, Spindleshanks?" but he always replied: "That's not my name."

On the third day the messenger returned and announced: "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:

"Tomorrow I brew, today I bake,  
And then the child away I'll take;  
For little deems my royal dame  
That Rumpelstiltskin is my name!"

You may imagine the Queen's delight at hearing the name, and when the little man stepped in shortly afterward and asked: "Now my lady Queen, what's my name?"

She asked first: "Is your name Conrad?"

"No."

"Is your name Harry?"

"No."

"Is your name perhaps, Rumpelstiltskin?"

"Some demon has told you that, some demon has told you that!" screamed the little man, and in his rage drove his right foot so far into the ground that it sank in up to his waist; then in a passion he seized the left foot with both hands and tore himself in two.

## Vocabulary

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Straw	Miller
Spinning Wheel	Spindle
Talent	Gold
Greed	Bobbin
Precious	Promise

## Discussion Topics for After the Puppet Show

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Now that you've seen the puppet show as a group, your class will discuss what they thought of the show, what they learned in the story, how the puppet show was different from other versions of the story, and how the puppet show was performed. Here are some discussion guidelines and questions to ask you class:

- Discuss the differences and similarities between the puppet show and a version of the story you have heard before. If you did not read a different story before the show, feel free to read one now!
- Each of the characters was a different type of animal in the puppet show:
  - King - Lion
  - Miller - Ox
  - Miller's Daughter - Deer
  - Rumpelstiltskin - Lizard
- Why do you think these animals were chosen to represent each character? What characteristics to these animals have that make them right for their character? (i.e., the miller's daughter was a Deer. Deer are usually very sweet, pretty, and gentle animals and the miller's daughter in the story has those qualities.)
- Think of another story that is usually told with people and discuss which animals you might pick to portray each character. (i.e., Cinderella: Cinderella could be a rabbit, the stepsisters and stepmother could be cats, and the prince could be a dog.)
- In the story, the miller's daughter promises her first born child to Rumpelstiltskin. Do you think she should have kept her promise and given up the baby to him? Why did she make that promise?

## Make Your Own Rumpelstiltskin Puppets

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### Materials:

Printed copies of the puppets for each student (found at the end of the packet)  
Crayons / Markers  
Scissors  
Single hole punch  
Craft sticks  
Brads  
String or yarn

### Directions:

1. Have students color the *Rumpelstiltskin* puppets to their liking.
2. Students will then cut out the puppets and spinning wheel, cutting the arms separate from the body of the characters.
3. Hole punch on the dots of both the arm and body of the characters, being careful to avoid the edges. Help students with this step as needed.

4. Use a brad to attach the arm to the body of the puppet using the prepared holes as a guide.
5. Tape a string on the back of the hand of the puppet.
6. Tape a craft stick about halfway down to the back of the body of the puppet, with the stick coming out of the head of the puppet. When finished, you'll be able to operate these puppets from above, much like the rod-marionettes in our show!

## Resources

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Arizona Department of Education - Core Curriculum and English Language Learners:  
<http://www.azed.gov/english-language-learners/>  
<http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/>  
<http://www.azed.gov/azccrs/mathstandards/>

Great Arizona Puppet Theater:  
<http://azpuppets.org/>

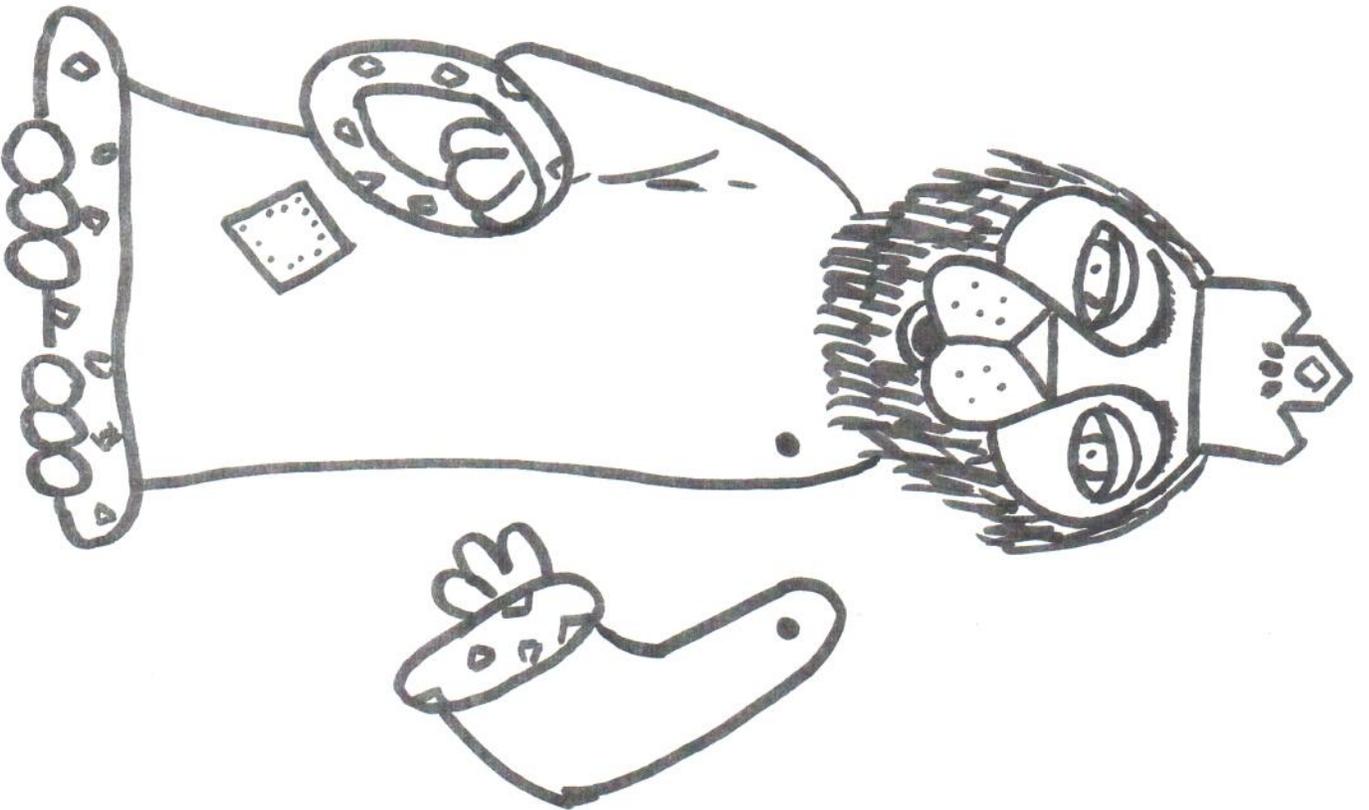
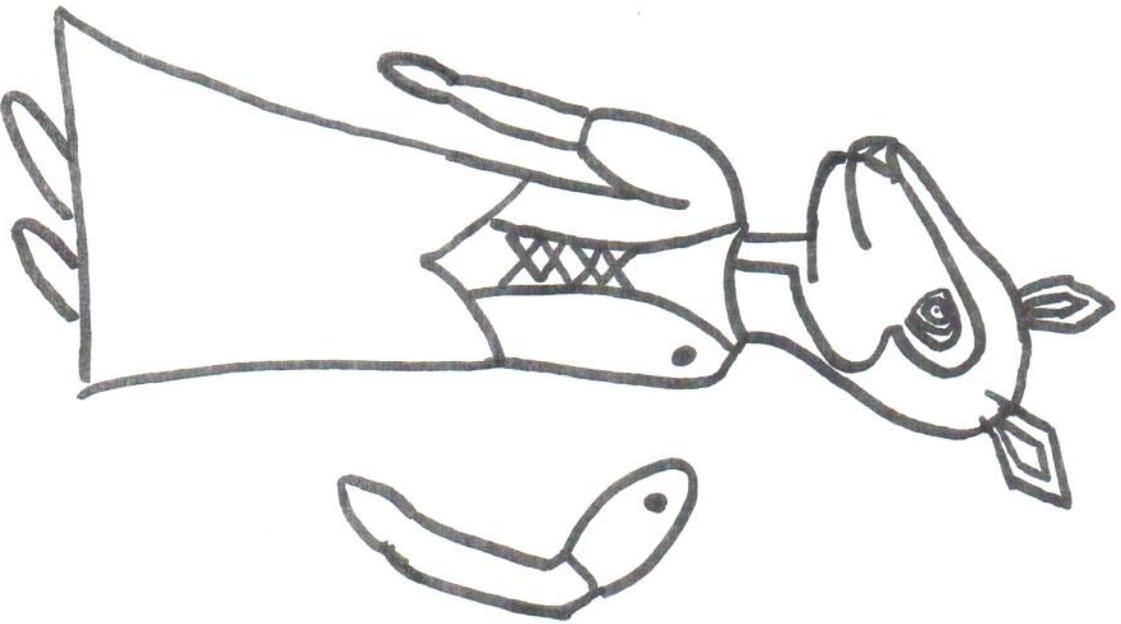
Sur La Lune Fairy Tales (Brother's Grimm Version of *Rumpelstiltskin*):  
<http://www.surlalunefairytales.com/rumpelstiltskin/index.html>

Version of *Rumpelstiltskin* more suitable to younger students, with pictures:  
<http://www.kids-pages.com/folders/stories/Rumpelstiltskin/page1.htm>

Please send any thoughts or appreciation letters to the Great Arizona Puppet Theater at:  
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We Love Hearing from You and Your Students!

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