Rumpelstiltskin

A Literary Analysis Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Part 1 — Speaking Like It's the Old Days

This story uses old-fashioned words for "you." Use the word bank to write the modern meaning of each old word.

Modern Word Bank:
you (doing the action) • you (receiving the action) • your • you have • you will

Old Word	Modern Meaning	Old Word	Modern Meaning
thou		*thou hast*	
thee		*thou shalt*	
thy			

Now rewrite this line from the story in modern English:

"...if by the early morning **thou hast** not spun this straw to gold **thou shalt** die."

_____

Part 2 — Vocabulary in Context

Read each definition. Then use the word bank to fill in the blanks in the sentences below. Each word is used once.

Word Bank

- **avaricious** — extremely greedy for wealth
- **distress** — great worry or suffering
- **notion** — an idea or thought
- **rejoiced** — felt or showed great joy
- **lament** — to cry out in grief or sorrow
- **necessity** — something badly needed
- **singular** — unusual, odd, or strange
- **comical** — funny; causing laughter
- **glistening** — shining with a sparkling light
- **messenger** — a person who carries a message

1. She had no _____ how to spin gold from straw, and her _____ grew so great that she began to weep.
2. The king was astonished and very much _____, for he was very _____.
3. By the next morning, all the straw was spun into _____ gold.
4. The queen began to _____ and weep when the little man asked for her child.
5. She did not know what else to do in her _____, so she promised him the child.
6. The queen told the little man all the most unusual and _____ names she could find.
7. Round the fire danced a _____ little man, hopping on one leg.
8. On the third day, the _____ came back with news from the woods.

Part 3 — Put It In Order

Number the events 1–6 in the order they happen in the story.

- ☐ The miller boasts to the king that his daughter can spin straw into gold.
- ☐ A messenger discovers the little man's secret name in the woods.
- ☐ The miller's daughter promises to give up her first child.
- ☐ The little man spins a room of straw into gold in exchange for a necklace.
- ☐ The miller's daughter marries the king and becomes queen.
- ☐ The queen guesses the little man's true name, and he splits in two.

Part 4 — Comprehension Check

Answer each question in a complete sentence.

1. What does the miller's daughter give the little man in exchange for his help on the first two nights?

   _____

2. Why does the little man ask for something different on the third night?

   _____

3. What does the king promise the miller's daughter if she spins the third room of straw into gold?

   _____

4. What deal does the little man offer the queen when he returns for her child three days later?

   _____

5. How does the little man accidentally reveal his own name?

   _____

Part 5 — Character Study

Use evidence from the story to complete the chart.

Character	What does this character want?	One word to describe them	Evidence from the story
The Miller			
The King			
The Little Man (Rumpelstiltskin)			

Part 6 — Conflict & Theme

***1.** What is the main conflict (problem) in this story? Circle one:*

(Character vs. Character) (Character vs. Self) (Character vs. Nature)

Explain your answer using evidence from the story:

_____

2. What lesson or message do you think this story teaches? Support your answer with evidence from the story.

_____

_____

Part 7 — Think It Through

1. Was it fair for the king to threaten the miller's daughter's life if she could not spin straw into gold? Explain your thinking.

   _____

   _____

2. The miller's daughter promised her first child without knowing if she would ever really become queen. Was this a wise choice? What else could she have done instead?

   _____

   _____

3. **Bonus:** If Rumpelstiltskin could have asked for anything besides a child, what do you think he should have asked for instead? Why?

   _____

   _____

Part 8 — Illustrate a Scene

In the box below, draw your favorite scene from the story. Underneath, write a caption explaining what is happening.