

## Grade 3: Unit 3, Week 2 Solving Riddles

### Read Aloud: **Rumpelstiltskin**

A German Folk Tale retold by Margaret H. Lippert

Wonderful Words: *spin, astonish, glisten, messenger, unusual*

### **Rumpelstiltskin**

Once there was a poor miller who had a beautiful daughter. One day the miller went to speak to the king. To make himself seem important, he told the king that his daughter could spin gold out of straw. The king said to the miller, “I would like to see someone spin gold out of straw. Bring your daughter to my castle tomorrow, and I will see if what you say is true.”

When the girl was brought to the king, he led her into a room that was quite full of straw. He gave her a spinning wheel and a spindle, and said, “Now set to work, and if by early morning you have not spun this straw into gold, you shall die.”

So the miller’s daughter was left there, and because she could not spin straw into gold, she began to cry. Then all at once the door opened, and in came a little man. “Good evening, miller’s daughter,” he said. “Why are you crying?”

“I have to spin gold out of straw, and I don’t know how to do it,” she answered.

Then the little man said, “What will you give me if I spin it for you?”

“My necklace,” said the girl.

The little man took the necklace, seated himself before the wheel, and whirr, whirr, whirr, three times round and the bobbin was full of gold! He took another bobbin, and whirr, whirr, whirr, three times round, and that one was full of gold, too! So he went

on till the morning, when all the straw had been spun, and all the bobbins were full of gold.

The king came at sunrise. When he saw the gold he was astonished. Seeing so much gold made him greedy, and he wanted even more. So he had the miller's daughter taken into a larger room filled with straw, and he told her that she must spin it all into gold in one night or she would die.

The girl did not know what to do, so she began to cry. Then the door opened, and again the little man appeared. "What will you give me if I spin this straw into gold?" he asked.

"The ring off my finger," answered the girl.

So the little man took the ring and began again to turn the wheel. By morning all the straw was spun into glistening gold. The king was delighted, and he took the miller's daughter to an even larger room full of straw. "This, too, must be spun into gold in one night. If you do it you shall be my wife."

As soon as the girl was left alone, the little man appeared for the third time and said, "What will you give me if I spin the straw for you this time?"

"I have nothing left to give," answered the girl.

"Then you must promise me the first child you have after you are queen," said the little man.

The girl did not want to give up her child, but she did not know what else to do. So at last she promised to give the little man her first child. Then he began to spin, and he worked until all the straw was spun into gold.

When in the morning the king came and found all the gold, he married the girl at once. So the miller's pretty daughter became the queen.

After a year the queen had a beautiful baby. She was so happy that she had forgotten the little man. But one day she suddenly came into her room and said, "Now give me what you promised me."

The queen was terrified, and offered the little man all the riches of the kingdom if only he would leave her the child. But the little man said, "No, I would rather have your child than all the treasures in the world."

Then the queen began to cry, and the little man felt sorry for her. "I will give you three days to guess my name," he said. "If you tell me my name by then, you can keep your baby. But if at the end of three days you cannot tell me my name, you must give your child to me."

The queen spent the whole night thinking over all the names she had ever heard. She also sent a messenger through the land to ask far and wide for all the names that could be found. When the little man came the next day she repeated all the names she knew, beginning with Adam, and Bertram, and Charles. After each name the little man said, "That is not my name."

Then the queen asked her neighbors to tell her all the unusual names they knew. The second day she told the little man all the strange names, saying, "Perhaps you are Knockknees, or Blunderbus, or Pipsqueak." Still he answered nothing but, "That is not my name."

The third day the messenger came back again. He said, "I have not been able to find any new names, but as I passed through the woods I came to a high hill. There I saw

a little house, and in front of the house burned a fire. Around the fire danced a funny little man, hopping on one leg and singing:

*Tomorrow I'll bring the queen's child here,*

*For she can never win my game,*

*Since no one in the kingdom knows,*

*That Rumpelstiltskin is my name!*

Of course the queen was delighted to hear that name. Soon the little man walked in and said to the queen, "This is your last chance. What is my name?"

The queen first said, "Is it Jack?"

"No," he answered.

"Is it Harry?" she asked.

"No," he answered.

Then she said, "Perhaps your name is Rumpelstiltskin?"

"Who told you that? Who told you that?" cried the little man, and in his anger he stamped his right foot so hard that it went into the ground above his knee. Then in his rage he took his left foot in both hands and split himself in two, and that was the end of him.

### **spin**

**Define:** To **spin** is to make thin fibers into thread.

**Example:** Weavers **spin** the yarn into wool.

**Ask:** Have you watched someone **spin** on a spinning wheel. How do you think it works?

### **astonish**

**Define:** To be **astonished** is to be very surprised.

**Example:** Tina was **astonished** to find her cat hiding in the drawer of the chest.

**Ask:** What has **astonished** you?

## **glisten**

**Define:** To **glisten** is to shine with reflected light.

**Example:** The rain was **glistening** on the pavement last night.

**Ask:** Where have you seen something **glistening**?

## **messenger**

**Define:** A **messenger** is someone who delivers a message or runs errands.

**Example:** Rob got a job as a **messenger** for the library.

**Ask:** What kinds of **messenger** would you like to be?

## **unusual**

**Define:** **Unusual** describes something that is not the way we expect it to be.

**Example:** Snow in July is very **unusual** in my part of the world.

**Ask:** What have you done that is **unusual**?