

Rumpelstiltskin

retold by Paul O. Zelinsky

Caldecott Honor Winner (1996). A gripping and dramatic adaptation of the classic Brothers Grimm folktale, beautifully illustrated with full-color paintings.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *If you could have any wish, what would it be?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder what they are making?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Rumpelstiltskin*

- spinning: rotate something quickly
- spool: cylinder on which something is wound
- straw: dried stalk of grass or cereal crop
- thread: fine twisted cord or fibers used for sewing or weaving
- greedier: strongly desiring more than required
- dawn: daybreak
- gleaming: bright and clean-looking, shining
- gasped: to breathe in sharply
- scarcely: hardly, only to the slightest degree
- vain: excessively proud, empty of substance or meaning
- piteously: deserving of pity or causing feelings of pity
- thickets: thick growth of bushes
- clearings: open space in a forest, a space without trees
- midday: middle of the day, around the noon period

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What did the old miller promise the prince?
- What did the prince ask the miller's daughter to do with the straw?
- Who came to help the daughter?
- What did she give him so he would help her?
- What did Rumpelstiltskin ask for when the daughter had nothing more to give?
- What did the daughter have to say to save her son?
- How did she find out about Rumpelstiltskin's name?
- Why did he leave?

Do

Thread Collage

You will need: liquid or stick glue, thread of different colors, construction paper and safety scissors

Give each child a piece of construction paper, glue, safety scissors and a pile of colorful thread. Allow the children enough time to cut the thread and to glue it on the paper to make a thread collage. Talk about how the thread feels, how it looks and how they made the thread different colors.