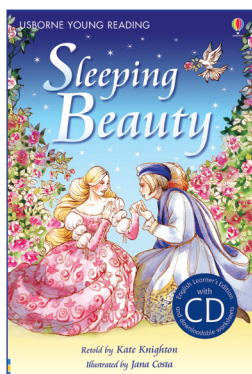


Sleeping Beauty • Teacher's notes



Author: based on a story by Charles Perrault and the Brothers Grimm

Reader level: Upper Intermediate

Word count: 1285

Lexile level: 650L

Text type: Traditional fairy tale

About the story

A king and queen rejoice when they are blessed with a child, and order a feast to celebrate. Seven fairy godmothers bestow magical gifts on baby Rose: beauty, intelligence, grace, and so on. Before the seventh fairy can speak, an unwelcome guest interrupts. Fairy Nightshade is furious to have been overlooked, and makes a dreadful prophecy: when she is sixteen, Rose will prick her finger on a spinning wheel... and die.

The seventh fairy, Jasmine, tries to remedy the situation, using her christening gift to reduce the curse to a hundred years of sleep. The King immediately bans all spinning wheels in the kingdom. Nevertheless, on her sixteenth birthday, Rose finds a mysterious old lady at a spinning wheel, and pricks her finger. She falls asleep instantly, as does everyone else in the castle, which is soon overgrown with thorny roses.

Over the next hundred years, many princes try to cut through to rescue the princess, but none succeed until Prince Florian rides by. He has dreamed of the sleeping beauty within the castle walls, and the rose bushes blossom and clear a path for him. He finds Rose asleep, and wakes her with a kiss. Magically, everyone else wakes up too. Florian and Rose fall in love at first sight, and are married the very next day.

About the authors

Charles Perrault was born in Paris 1628, and had a long career as a Government minister and private secretary. When he lost his post at the age of 67, he dedicated himself to writing. His "Tales of Mother Goose" were published in 1697. They included such classics as Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty and Puss in Boots, and were an instant success, inspiring numerous other collections of fairy tales. He died in 1703.

Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm (1785-1863 and 1786-1859) began collecting folk tales originally as part of their study of the German language, publishing these "Children's and Household Tales" in 1812-14. A number of tales came originally from French families who had settled in the area around Hanau in north-west Germany where the brothers lived, and have become familiar to us in the Grimm brothers' versions.

Key words

Your students might not be familiar with some of these words in the story.

p4	stitched	p12	glittering	p19	chilling	gleefully	p33	corridor	
	workshop		trail		mean [as in	deafening	p34	turret	
p5	knitting	p13	announced		"spiteful"]	p24	bellowed	p35	beckoning
	hopped		merry		whirlwind		bonfire	p38	jester
p6	bowed		scrumptious	p20	stammered		serpents	p39	ivy
	leaped	p14	gathered		meekly	p26	delightful		thorns
p7	declared		curtsy	p21	purred		adored	p40	passers-by
p8	godmothers	p15	fluttered	p22	snarled	p27	checkmate	p41	rescue
p9	scrubbed		wand		prick	p28	hide-and-seek		wrapped
	gleamed	p17	nightingale		spinning		sketch	p42	determined
p11	velvet	p18	hovered		wheel	p31	dazzling		flourish
	shimmered		blast	p23	cackled	p32	pleaded		tackle

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Key phrases

p7 true to [someone's] words	p25 never ever	p38 in the same instant
to give birth to	...could be seen for miles	nodded off
p20 How dare you?	p28 the prince of her dreams	p41 from far and wide
p22 to hold one's breath	p29 could hardly keep still	to give up
p24 to fall into a deep sleep	p31 to fall in love with	p44 face to face
true love	p34 in a trance	p47 the very next day
to break the spell	p37 to snap out of	happily ever after

Before reading

Try to find a picture of a spinning wheel before the lesson. You could photocopy the illustration on page 35, preferably without Rose. Show the picture to the class (or alternatively draw one or write SPINNING WHEEL on the board). Does anyone know what it is? What does it do? Are they still used today?

Can anyone name a fairy tale with a spinning wheel in it? Someone pricks their finger in the story. What happens next? When the class have shared all they know about the story, show them the book's cover.

Reading or listening

You can listen to the story on CD or read it aloud to the students, take turns to read or read together silently. Each double page spread in the book is one track on the CD, so that you can pause between tracks or repeat tracks if your students need it. The first reading is in a British English accent, and it is followed by an American English reading. The words are exactly the same. After the story, there is a short selection of key phrases that can be used for pronunciation practice.

During reading: you might like to ask some of these questions.

p3 Can you guess what's missing in their life?	Willow is a graceful tree, but Nightshade is a poisonous weed.]
p6 Do you think the queen believes the frog? How do you think she feels?	p22 Do you think the king and queen really did forget? Would you want to invite Nightshade to your house?
p12 Can you think of any other fairy godmothers? [Cinderella is another story made famous by Perrault; the story itself is an old one, but the godmother was probably Perrault's idea.]	p25 Do you think Rose will be safe now?
p15 What is chess? Is it difficult? Can you play?	p28 What's the statue of on the fountain? What's he doing? [Cupid fires magic arrows to make people fall in love.]
p17 What wish would you make for baby Rose? And what would you want the fairies to wish for you?	p34 Why does Rose follow the music? What does "in a trance" mean?
p19 What do the fairy names all have in common? What's the difference between the mean fairy's name and the others? [They're all plants; most are flowers and	p37 Who do you think the old woman is? How do you know?
	p43 Why does the path clear for him?
	p45 How do you think Rose feels?

After reading

Ask students if they think 100 years is a long time. Why did Jasmine make everyone else in the castle fall asleep as well? Do they think much would have changed in Rose's world in a hundred years?

Imagine if someone had fallen asleep a hundred years ago and woke up today. What sort of things would have changed? What might they find most surprising and strange? You might like to think about: technology, fashion, homes, buildings and cities, schools and jobs, leisure time, what we eat. Do you think the sleeper would be happier in today's world than a hundred years ago?

