

Once upon a time there was a poor Miller who had a beautiful daughter. One day the Miller was invited to visit the King and tried to make himself sound more important than he was by boasting that his daughter could spin straw into gold. The King was very fond of gold and thought he would like to see if this claim was true. He asked the Miller to bring his daughter to the castle to see if she really could spin straw into gold.



When the Miller's daughter arrived at the castle the King led her into a room that was full of straw. He gave her a spinning wheel and some empty reels on which to wind the gold thread. He said to her, "Now, get to work and if you have not spun all of this straw into gold by tomorrow morning then you must die," he shut the door and left her to get on with it.



She had no idea how to spin straw into gold and so she sat in the room for a long time trying to think how to save her life. The more she thought about how she could spin straw into gold the more confused she got until at last she began to cry. Suddenly the door opened and a little man stepped in and said, "Good evening, why are you crying?"

"I am crying because I must spin this straw into gold and I don't know how to do it," replied the Miller's daughter.

"What will you give me if I spin it into gold for you?" asked the little man.

"My necklace," she replied.

The little man took the necklace and stood in front of the wheel and started to spin. Whirr, whirr, whirr, went the reel as it spun around on the wheel, filling up with gold yarn.



Questions:

1. What claim did the Miller make about his daughter?

.....
.....

2. Why did he make the claim?

.....
.....

3. What did the King ask the Miller to do?

.....
.....

4. What was the King going to do if the Miller's daughter did not spin the straw into gold?

.....
.....

5. What did the Miller's daughter do when she was shut in the room?

.....
.....

6. Who came into the room whilst she was crying?

.....
.....

7. What bargain did the Miller's daughter make with the little man?

.....
.....

8. What did he fill up the empty reels with?

.....
.....



Answers:

1. The Miller claimed that his daughter could spin straw into gold.
2. He made the claim to make himself sound more important.
3. The King asked the Miller to bring his daughter to the castle to see if she really could spin straw into gold.
4. The King was going to have the Miller's daughter killed if she did not spin the straw into gold.
5. After being shut in the room, the Miller's daughter sat down and tried to think how to spin straw into gold. She got very confused and started to cry.
6. A little man came into the room whilst she was crying.
7. The Miller's daughter offered the little man her necklace if he was able to spin all the straw into gold by the following morning.
8. He filled up the empty reels with gold yarn (thread).