

Sleeping Beauty


Once upon a time, in the days when there were fairies, a king and queen *reigned* in a country far away. Now this king and queen had plenty of money, plenty of fine clothes to wear, plenty of good things to eat and drink and a coach to ride out in every day. However, although they had been married many years, they had no children. This saddened them very much, as they dearly wanted a child.

One day, as the queen was walking by the side of the river at the bottom of the garden, she saw a poor little fish that had thrown itself out of the water and lay gasping and nearly dead on the bank. The queen took pity on the little fish and threw it back again into the river. Before it swam away, it raised its head out of the water and said "I know what your wish is and it shall come true, in return of your kindness to me — you will soon have a daughter."

What the little fish had said soon happened and the queen had a little girl, so very beautiful, that the king could not stop looking at her, he was so happy. He said he would throw a great party and show the child to all the land, so he invited his *kinsmen*, nobles, friends, and neighbours. But the queen said "I will have the fairies also, that they might be kind and good to our little daughter."

Now there were thirteen fairies in the kingdom, but as the king and queen had only twelve golden dishes for them to eat out of, they were forced to leave one of the fairies





without asking her. So fairies came, each with a high red cap on her head, red shoes with high heels on her feet and a long white wand in her hand. After the **feast** was over they gathered round in a ring and gave all their best gifts to the little princess. One gave her goodness, another beauty, another riches, and so on till she had all that was good in the world.

Just as eleven of them had done blessing her, a great noise was heard in the **courtyard** and word was brought that the thirteenth fairy was come, with black cap on her head, black shoes on her feet and a broomstick in her hand. She quickly came up into the dining-hall. Now, as she had not been asked to the feast she was very angry, scolded the king and queen very much and set to work to take her **revenge**. So she cried out "The king's daughter shall, in her fifteenth year, be wounded by a **spindle**, and fall down dead. " Then the twelfth of the friendly fairies, who had not yet given her gift, came forward, and said that the evil wish must be fulfilled, but that she could soften its mischief; so her gift was, that the king's daughter, when the spindle wounded her, should not really die, but should only fall asleep for a hundred years.

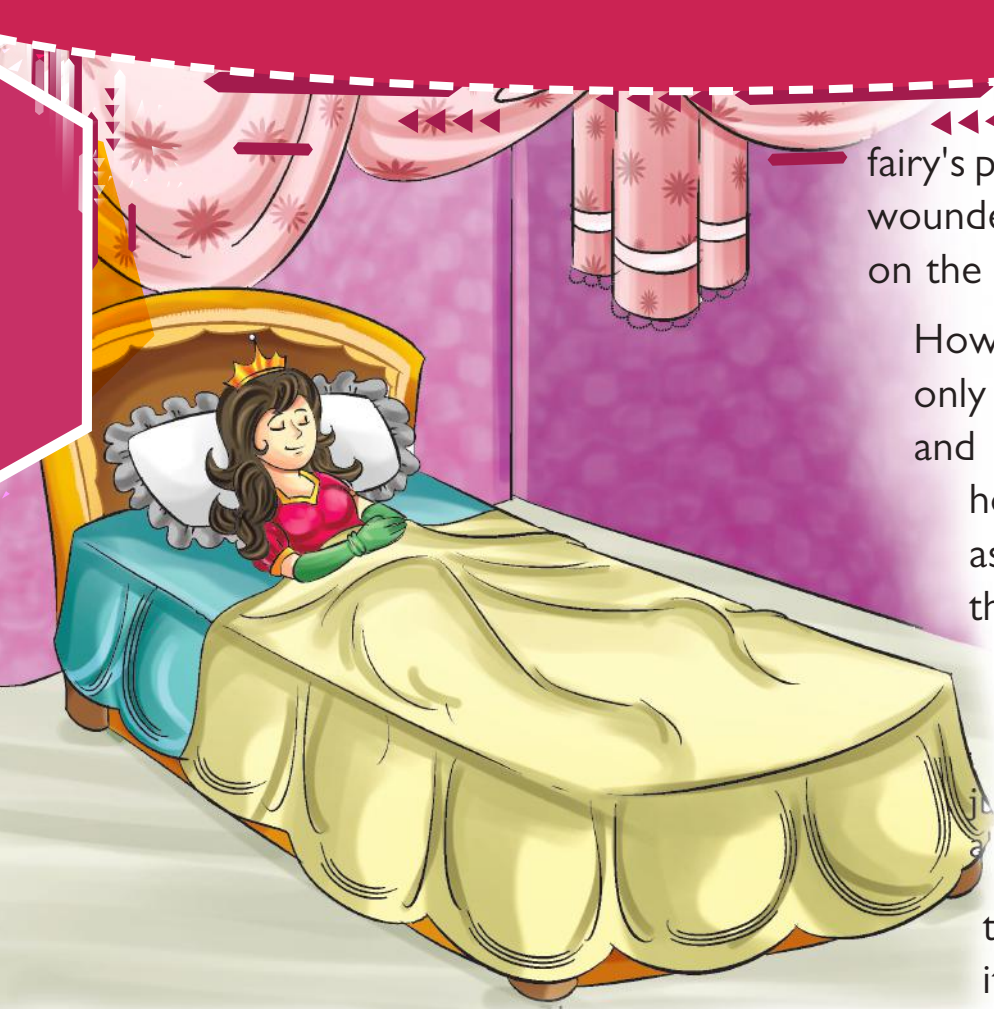
However, the king hoped still to save his dear child altogether from the **threatened** evil, so he ordered that all the spindles in the kingdom should be bought up and burnt. But all the gifts of the first eleven fairies came true in the meantime, for the princess was so beautiful, well behaved, good and wise, that everyone who knew her, loved her.

It happened that, on the very day she was fifteen years old, the king and queen were not at home and she was left alone in the palace. So she moved about by herself, and looked at all the rooms and chambers, until at last she came to an old tower, to which there was a narrow staircase ending with a little door. In the door there was a golden key, and when she turned it the door sprang open, and there sat an old lady spinning away very busily.

"Why and how now, good mother," said the princess, "What are you doing there?" "

"Spinning," said the old lady, nodding her head and humming a tune, while the wheel buzzed.

"How prettily that little things turns round!" said the princess, who took the spindle and began to try and spin. But scarcely had she touched it before the



fairy's prophecy was fulfilled. The spindle wounded her and she fell down lifeless on the ground.

However, she was not dead, but had only fallen into a deep sleep. The king and the queen, who had just come home, and all their courtiers, fell asleep too. The horses slept in the stables, the dogs in the court, the pigeons on the house-top and the vary flies slept upon the walls. Even the fire on the heart left off *blazing* and went to sleep and the spit that was turning about with a goose upon it for the king's dinner stood still. The cook, who was at that

moment pulling the kitchen-boy by the hair to give him a box on the ear for something he had done amiss, left him go, and both fell asleep. The *butler*, who was slyly tasting the ale, fell asleep with the jug at his lips. And thus everything stood still, and slept soundly.

A large *hedge* of thorns soon grew round the palace and every year it become higher and thicker. At last, the old palace was surrounded and hidden, so that not even the roof or the chimneys could be seen. But there went a report through all the land of the beautiful sleeping princess, so that, from time to time, several king's sons came and tried to break through the *thicket* and get into the palace. This however, none of them could ever do, for the thorns and bushes laid hold of them, as it were with hands and there they got stuck and could not escape.

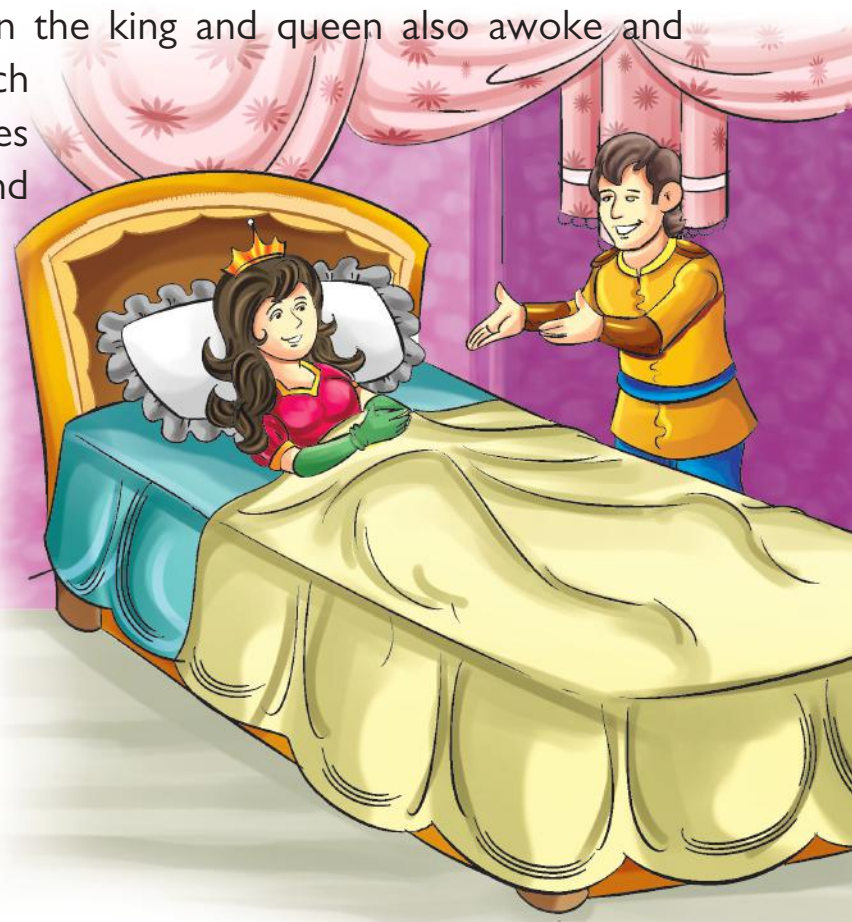
After many, many years there came a king's son into that land and an old man told him the story of the thicket of thorns, how a beautiful palace stood behind it and how a wonderful princess lay in it asleep, with all her court. He told too, how he had heard this from his grandfather that many, many princes had come and had tried to break through the thicket, but that they had all stuck fast in it.

Then the young prince said, "All this shall not *fighten* me; I will go and see this sleeping princess." The old man tried to *hinder* him, but his mind was made up to go.

Now that very day the hundred years were ended and as the prince came to the thicket he saw nothing but beautiful flowering shrubs. He got through them with ease and they shut in after him as thick as eve. Then he came at last to the Place and there in the court lay the dogs asleep. The horses were standing in the stables and on the roof sat the pigeons fast asleep, with their heads in their wings. And when he came into the palace, the flies sleeping on the walls, the spit was standing still, the butler had the jug of ale at his lips, the maid sat with a chicken in her lap ready to be plucked and the cook in the kitchen was still holding up her hand, as if she was going to beat the boy.

Then he went on still farther, and all was so still that he could hear every breath he drew. At last he came to the old tower and opened the door of the little room in which the princess was and there she lay, fast asleep on a couch by the window. She looked so beautiful that he could not take his eyes off her, so he stooped down and gave her a kiss.

But the moment he kissed her, she opened her eyes and awoke, smiled upon him and they went out together. Soon the king and queen also awoke and all the courtier awoke and gazed on each other with great wonder. And the horses shook themselves, the dogs jumped up and barked, the pigeons took their heads from under their wings and looked about and flew into the fields, the flies on the walls buzzed again, the fire in the kitchen blazed up, round went the spit, with the goose for the king's dinner upon it; the butler finished his drink of ale, the maid went on plucking the fowl and the cook gave the boy the box on his ear.



Word Treasure

reigned : rule

kinsmen : a man who is one of a person's blood relation

spindle : a device to spin fibers into cloth

threaed : endanger

blazing : very hot

hedge : fence of trees

thicket : dense growth of shrubs

hinder : obstacle

frighten : make someone afraid

butler : domestic worker

tremendous : very great in amount

feast : a large meal.

scarcely : barely

slyly : clever or cunning



EXERCISE TIME

Comprehension Skills

A. Tick (✓) the correct option :

1. The queen helped a :

a. Frog

b. Fish

c. Crab

2. There were _____ fairies in kingdom :

a. Eleven

b. Twelve

c. Thirteen

3. The princess slept for :

a. 100 years

b. 500 years

c. 1000 years

4. Who came to the kingdom after 100 years to the princess?

a. King

b. A Prince

c. A Queen

B. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements :

1. The king and queen was blessed with a daughter.

2. The king wished to invite all the fairies.

3. There were fifteen fairies in the kingdom.

4. The king invited only twelve fairies.

5. The princess got asleep for 100 years.

C. Answer the following questions :

1. Why was the king and the Queen upset?
2. Why did the king invited only twelve fairies?
3. What happened when the thirteenth fairy came there?
4. What was the blessing given by the twelfth fairy?
5. What happened after 100 years?

Fun with Words

D. Write the quality that these people have :

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. A sincere man. | S I N C E R I T Y |
| 2. A successful man. | S _ _ C _ _ _ _ S |
| 3. A happy child. | H _ _ P _ _ I N _ _ _ S |
| 4. An angry boss. | A _ _ _ E _ _ |
| 5. A clever boy. | C _ _ E V _ _ R N _ _ _ S |
| 6. A beautiful flower. | B _ _ A _ _ _ Y |
| 7. A proud woman. | P _ _ I D _ _ |
| 8. A cruel lady. | C _ _ U E _ _ _ Y |

Essential Grammar

ABSTRACT NOUN : An abstract noun is the name of some quality, feeling or idea, we can only think of or feel these, but can never touch or see such feelings.

For e.g.

The baby cried in **pain**.

Here '**pain**' is an abstract noun.

E. Tick (✓) the correct abstract nouns to complete these sentences :

1. Sohan is very clever. He is known for his _____.
a. Anger b. Pride c. Brilliance
2. Rama always speaks truth. She is known for her :
a. Honesty b. Bravery c. Misery
3. Mrs. Gupta always shouts. She is known for her _____.
a. Anger b. Kindness c. Humbleness

4. Sachin Tendulkar is very famous in the world. All Indians should be proud of his:
a. Information b. Success c. Pride
5. Ramesh works very hard. He is known for his _____.
a. Determination b. Education c. Knowledge
6. We were enjoying ourselves. The room filled with :
a. Truth b. Charity c. Laughter

Essential Speaking

F. Here are some words formed by the addition of two words, read them carefully :

Bench + mark - benchmark

Common + sense - commonsense

Ear + phones - earphones

Hand + writing - handwriting

Knee + cap - kneecap

Off + spring - offspring

Essential Writing

G. Complete the given story in your own words :

A wolf had a bone stuck in his throat. Being much in pain, he ran about. He then met a crane and requested him to pull out the bone. The crane know how dangerous it was, to put his head inside the wolf's mouth.
