

Folk & Fairy Tale™  
EASY READERS

# The Princess and the Pea

A retelling by Violet Findley • Illustrated by Rebecca Thornburg



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# Guided Reading Level

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Once upon a time, there lived a prince. He was very lonely and wanted to get married.



The prince looked high and low for the perfect wife, but had no luck. He could not find a real princess anywhere!





One stormy night, there was a knock on his door. When the prince opened it, he saw a girl. Her hair was wet. Her clothes were muddy. And she was shivering.



“Hello. I am a princess. May I stay here tonight?” she asked.

“Of course,” he said kindly.



The prince invited the girl in.  
"Come warm yourself by the fire.  
Have a cup of hot chocolate," he said.  
"Thank you," she said sweetly.





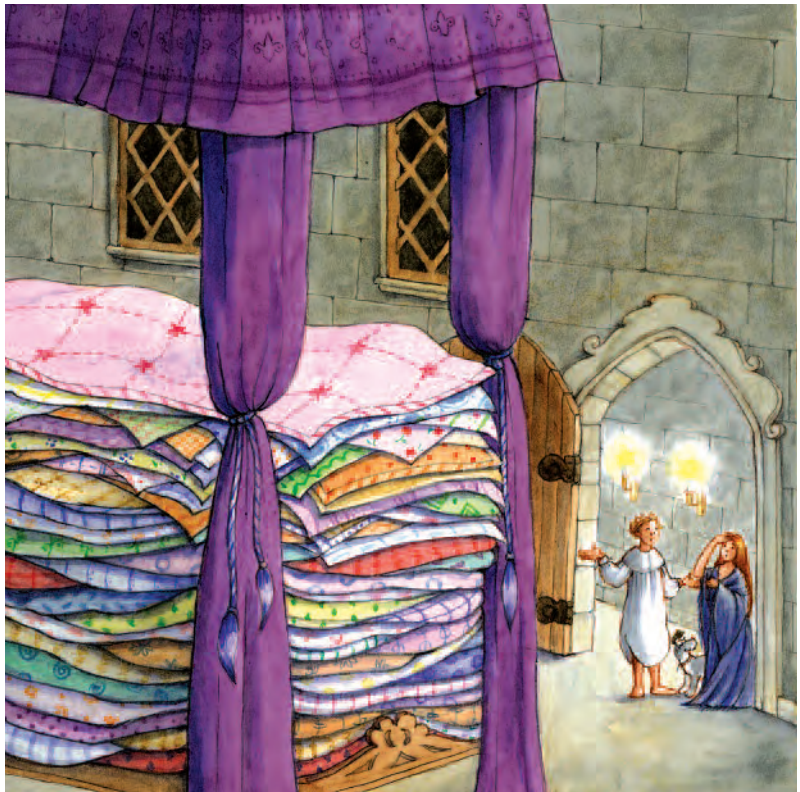
The girl seemed very nice. Could she really be a princess? The prince had a plan to find out.



First, he put a tiny pea on a bed.



Second, he piled 20 mattresses on top of the pea. Third, he piled 20 quilts on top of the mattresses.



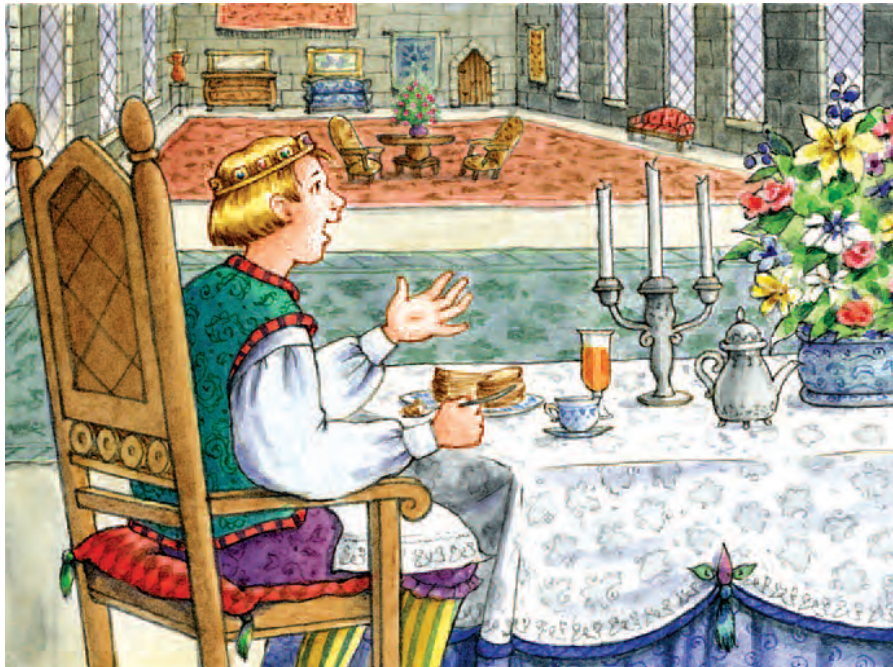
"Here is your bed. Sweet dreams," he said.





But the girl's dreams were not sweet. She tossed and turned. She barely slept at all.





The next morning, the prince invited the girl to have some pancakes.  
"How did you sleep?" he asked.



“I don’t mean to be rude, but I slept very badly. It felt like there was a boulder under my back!” she said with a yawn.



The prince smiled. Then, he got down on one knee and asked the girl to marry him.





Why? He knew that only a real princess could feel a tiny pea under 20 mattresses and 20 quilts!



The girl said yes, of course. Then they both lived, and snoozed, happily ever after.



# Glossary

**boulder** huge rock

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**rude** not polite

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**shivering**



shaking with cold

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**snoozed** slept

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**stormy** rainy or snowy with a lot of wind

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