

## Play Synopsis

### Act I

As the play begins the two narrators are singing about the wonderful world of fairy tales, when they are interrupted by the appearance of Rumpelstiltskin. He sings about his ability to grant wishes, especially to greedy people. Soon we see the king. He is complaining about his need for a new cook when the Miller arrives to pay his taxes. He tells the King about a rumor that the King is looking for a wife. The Miller tries to convince the King that his daughter, Rowena can cook and clean for him. He says that she has a special talent of spinning straw into gold and pledges his own life as a guarantee of truth. The King is most interested and asks that she be brought to the palace. The Miller goes to tell his daughter of his tale. She thinks the King has heard of her dancing, but the Miller tells her he made a promise that she could spin straw into gold. Rowena tries to convince the King that her dancing is wonderful, but all he wants is his straw turned into gold. As the Act ends, Rowena and the King each sing about what they want. In the meantime the Miller is in immediate peril. End of Act I

### Act II

As the second act begins, Rowena suddenly has an urge to begin spinning. The King takes her to a room with lots of straw and a spinning wheel. He promises to return the next morning to see Rowena's work. Rowena is left alone knowing that she and her father are doomed. Suddenly, Rumpelstiltskin appears and offers his help. He tells Rowena he will spin straw into gold in return for some small trinket. He asks for the hair ribbon she is wearing. As he starts to spin, Rowena falls asleep. When she awakens, the straw has turned into gold. The King enters and is amazed at her accomplishment. He orders more straw so he can watch her spin, but she tells him she must be alone or the special talent does not work. After the King leaves, Rumpelstiltskin reappears. This time he takes Rowena's bracelet as payment. Once again when Rowena awakens, the straw has turned to gold. The King, still amazed, orders even more straw be brought to Rowena. Rowena says she is getting an allergy to the straw. Even when the King mentions straw, it makes her sneeze. The king, however, decides a clothespin is all that is necessary for her to keep spinning. He promises to marry her after one last spin from her magic fingers. He leaves and she begins to cry. Rumpelstiltskin appears to console her. Rowena tells him she doesn't have anything to give him this time, but if she becomes Queen she promises to give him anything he asks for. He sits at the spinning wheel and spins again. The King and Rowena are married, and the gold that was spun from the straw, make the King and his kingdom prosperous and happy. Soon there is news that a new prince has been born and everyone is joyous. One day however, as Rowena is alone with the baby, Rumpelstiltskin again appears. He asks if she has forgotten her promise. Rowena explains that she thought he had forgotten. He tells her he was just waiting for her to have something he wanted. Rowena asks what he wants and Rumpelstiltskin points to the baby. She says he can have anything except the child. He thinks she is greedy like everyone else. He gives her a chance to get out of her agreement by guessing his name. After several tries she fails to come up with his name. Rumpelstiltskin agrees to give her some time to think about it. He will return that night and if she knows his name the agreement is off, otherwise he will leave with the baby. After he is gone, Rowena orders the Page to follow him. She explains their fate to the King and her father. Soon the Page finds Rumpelstiltskin in the woods and overhears him use his name. The Page hurries back to the castle where she tells of her discovery. Rumpelstiltskin returns for a final try. After several tries, Rowena calls out the correct name. Rumpelstiltskin cannot believe that someone has guessed his name. He is sad because he will still be all alone. Rowena offers to let him be the baby's nanny. He is happy to stay and be part of the royal family. The End.