

Once upon a time, there lived a shepherd and his daughter. One day as the girl sat spinning, the king came riding by. "What fine wool you spin!" he said.

"Oh! That's nothing," boasted the shepherd. "My daughter is so clever that she can even spin straw into gold."  
"Straw into gold!" cried the king. Bring her at once to the royal palace! If she can spin straw into gold I shall make her my queen."

That night the king led the girl into a small room filled with straw. "Spin this straw into gold by morning," he commanded. Then he locked the door and went away.

The shepherd's daughter began to cry, because she knew she could not spin straw into gold. Then suddenly she heard a sound, and a little man appeared.

"I can spin straw into gold," said the little man. "Give me your necklace and I will do it for you."  
"Oh thank you, thank you!" said the girl. The little man took the necklace and he began to spin.

By morning the room was full of glittering gold. When the king saw the gold he was amazed. "Tonight you must spin even more!" he commanded.

1. Where did the king tell the shepherd to take his daughter?

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2. Why did the girl sob?

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3. What did the girl hear?

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That night the king led the girl into a large room filled with straw. "Spin this straw into gold by morning," he commanded. Then he locked the door and went away.

The shepherd's daughter cried and cried but soon the little man appeared again.

"I can spin straw into gold," said the little man. "Give me your scarf and I will do it for you."

"Oh thank you, thank you!" said the girl.

The little man took the scarf and he began to spin.

By morning the room was full of glittering gold. When the king saw the gold he was astonished. "Tonight you must spin even more!" he commanded.

That night the king led the girl into an enormous room filled with straw.

"Spin this straw into gold by morning," he commanded, "and you shall be my queen." Then he locked the door and went away.

Once more the little man appeared.

"I can spin even this much straw into gold," he said.

"What will you give me this time?"

"I have nothing left," sobbed the girl.

"Well then," said the little man, "you must promise to give me your first born child."

Sadly the girl gave her promise.

4. What did the girl give the man?

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5. Which words describe how the king reacted when he saw the gold?

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6. What does the girl promise to give the man?

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