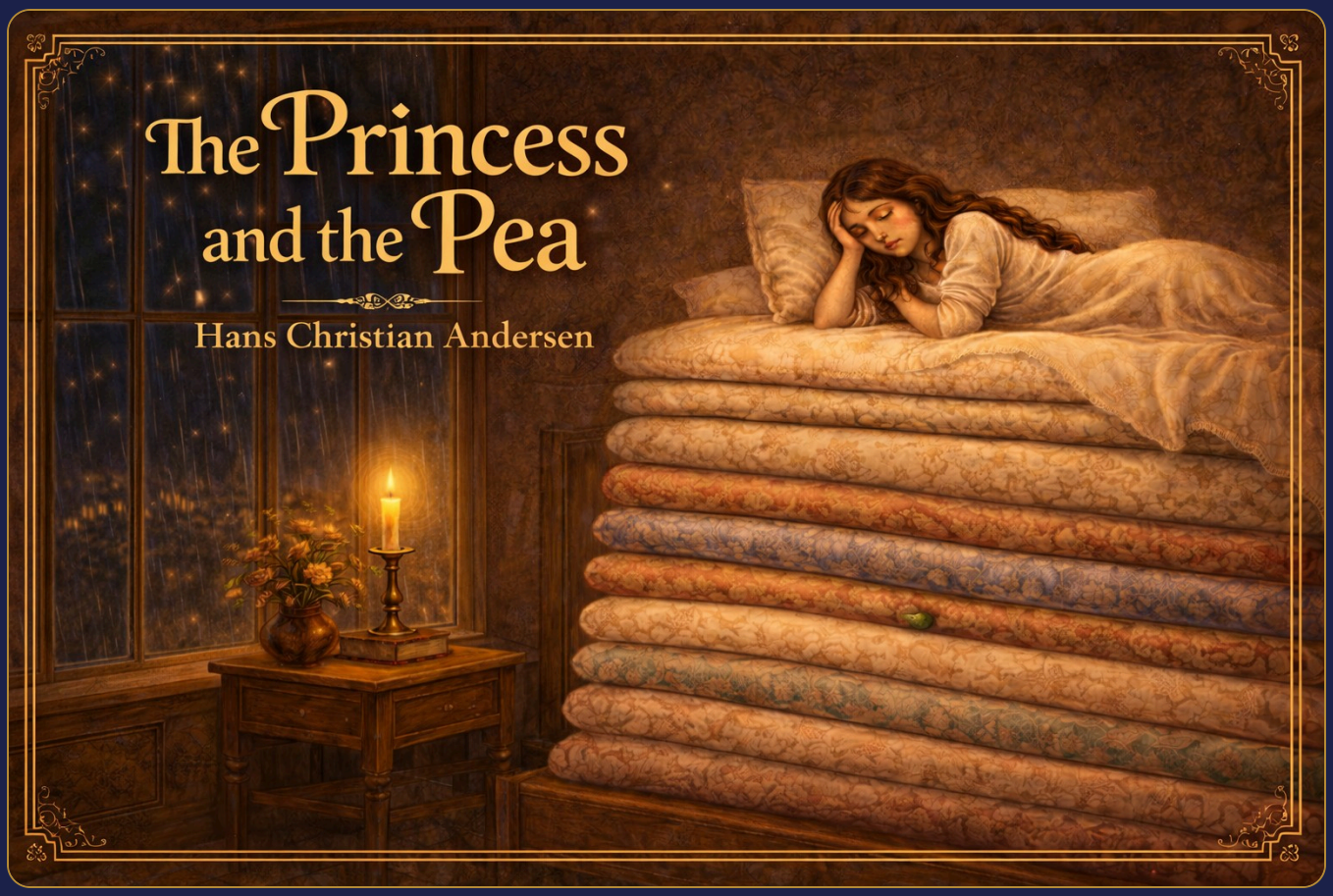
Storyland Classics

FREE STORY GUIDE

A fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen (1835)



- ✦ Meet the Author
- ✦ The Big Idea & Try It
- ✦ Yes or No & ABC Order
- ✦ Read It With Voices
- ✦ Standards
- ✦ Story Map
- ✦ Word Match & Sort
- ✦ Put It in Order
- ✦ Handwriting
- ✦ Let's Talk
- ✦ Word Search
- ✦ Who Said It? & Feelings
- ✦ Answer Key

Ages 4–8 ✦ Pre-K to Grade 2 ✦ Aligned to Common Core

This cover is for your screen. Print from page 2 to save ink.

FOR GROWN-UPS

How to Use This Guide

This free guide goes with the Storyland Classics read-aloud of "The Princess and the Pea." Every page is ready to print, and no sign-up is needed. Pick the pages that suit your child or class.

ABOUT THE STORY

A prince travels the world looking for a real princess, but he can never be sure. One stormy night a soaking-wet girl knocks at the city gate and says she is a real princess. The queen secretly puts a single pea under twenty mattresses and twenty eider-down beds. In the morning the girl says she slept very badly, because something hard kept her awake. Only a real princess could be so sensitive, so the prince marries her, and the pea goes into a museum.

SKILL FOCUS

Exaggeration: how a story makes things bigger and sillier than real life to be funny

WATCH AND READ ALONG

Scan the code to watch the read-aloud and read the full story, or visit storylandclassics.com/princess-pea-guide. Hans Christian Andersen (1835), in the English translation heard in the read-aloud. Public domain.

A simple routine

1. **Day 1.** Watch the read-aloud together, then fill in the Story Map.
2. **Day 2.** Meet the author, then use Let's Talk and The Big Idea.
3. **Day 3.** Learn the words with the word match, word sort and word search.
4. **Day 4.** Put the story in order, then perform it with voices.

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Standards

Every activity is aligned to the Common Core State Standards for kindergarten to grade 2. Codes appear at the bottom of each page, and the full table is on the last page.

Younger children

Children who aren't writing yet can answer out loud or tell a grown-up what to write.

Name _____ Date _____

MEET THE AUTHOR

Hans Christian Andersen

1805–1875 ✦ The Danish storyteller

Hans Christian Andersen was born in Odense, Denmark, in 1805. His father was a poor shoemaker who read stories aloud and built him a toy theater. At fourteen Hans went alone to Copenhagen to become an actor. That did not work out, but he became a writer instead. He made up more than 150 fairy tales, including *The Ugly Duckling*, *The Princess and the Pea* and *The Little Mermaid*.

Questions About the Author

1. In what country was Hans Christian Andersen born?

2. What job did his father have?

3. Andersen made up most of his own stories. What story would you make up?

Name _____ Date _____

STORY MAP

The Princess and the Pea



Look at the picture from the read-aloud. Who do you see? Then fill in the story map.

Characters

Who is in the story?

Setting

Where and when does it happen?

Problem

What goes wrong?

Solution

How is it fixed? How does it end?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

The Princess and the Pea

Young children can answer out loud. Older children can write their answers.

REMEMBER

1. What was the prince looking for?

2. What did the queen put under the mattresses?

3. How many mattresses were on the bed?

THINK

4. How did the queen's test show she was a real princess?

5. Do you think anyone could really feel a pea under all those beds? Why is the story funny?

CONNECT

6. What helps you get a good night's sleep?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the story back in your own words. How did the queen find out the girl was a real princess?

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Name _____ Date _____

THE BIG IDEA

What Does the Story Teach?

THINK ABOUT IT

You can't always tell who someone really is from how they look on the outside. The princess looked like a soggy mess at the gate, but she was a real princess after all!

What does this mean to you? Tell or write about a time it was true in your life.

Try It

SKILL FOCUS

Exaggeration: how a story makes things bigger and sillier than real life to be funny

Draw the tall bed with all its mattresses, and hide the tiny pea at the bottom. Count and number the mattresses as you draw.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

prince	a door in a wall or fence
princess	able to feel even tiny things
storm	the son of a king and queen
gate	soft duck feathers used in bedding
mattress	strong wind, rain and thunder
eider-down	a place where special things are kept
sensitive	the daughter of a king and queen
museum	the soft, thick part of a bed

Word Sort: Soft or Hard?

Write each word in the right box.

mattress · pea · pillow · city gate · eider-down · stone · feathers · crown

Soft	Hard

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Princess and the Pea

Find the words from the story. Words go across (left to right) and down (top to bottom). Circle each word, then check it off.

H	D	H	H	A	O	I	R	N	Y
N	Y	F	G	A	T	E	B	G	B
S	T	N	V	F	G	P	E	K	G
S	T	O	R	M	F	E	D	A	D
S	I	Y	P	Y	E	A	Q	K	L
T	A	A	P	O	F	D	U	I	O
R	P	R	I	N	C	E	E	N	G
A	S	T	I	P	B	U	E	G	P
I	P	T	B	R	H	N	N	A	V
N	B	I	I	A	N	U	M	J	V

WORD BANK

- ☐ PRINCE
- ☐ PEA
- ☐ BED
- ☐ QUEEN
- ☐ STORM
- ☐ RAIN
- ☐ GATE
- ☐ KING

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Name _____ Date _____

CHECK YOUR READING

Yes or No?

Read each sentence about the story. Circle **Yes** if it is true. Circle **No** if it is not.

1. The prince wanted to marry a real princess. Yes No
2. The princess came on a sunny day. Yes No
3. The old king opened the city gate. Yes No
4. The queen put a pea under the mattresses. Yes No
5. The princess slept very well. Yes No
6. The pea was put in a museum. Yes No

ABC Order

Write these words from the story in ABC order.

queen · pea · storm · bed · gate

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

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Name _____ Date _____

PUT IT IN ORDER

What Happens First?

Read each sentence. Write 1 in the circle next to what happens first, 2 next to what happens next, and so on up to 6.

- ◯ The queen puts a pea under the mattresses.
- ◯ The prince looks all over the world for a princess.
- ◯ The pea is put in a museum.
- ◯ A wet princess knocks at the gate.
- ◯ The princess says she slept very badly.
- ◯ A terrible storm comes.

Retell the Story

Use the order words to tell the story in your own words. Say it out loud, or write it.

First, _____

Next, _____

Then, _____

Last, _____

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Name _____ Date _____

CHARACTERS

Who Said It?

Read each line from the story. Write who said it. Use the name bank to help.

the princess | the queen (to herself) | the storyteller

"Well, we'll soon find that out," _____

"Oh, very badly!" _____

"I have scarcely closed my eyes all night." _____

"I was lying on something hard." _____

"And that is a true story." _____

How Did the princess Feel?

Write a feeling word for each part of the story. Use the word bank, or choose your own.

cold | wet | tired | grumpy | uncomfortable | happy | surprised

When...	the princess felt...
she was out in the storm	
she knocked at the gate	
she climbed onto the tall bed	
she tried to sleep	
they asked how she slept	
she married the prince	

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Name _____ Date _____

PERFORM IT

Read It With Voices

Three readers take the parts. The princess should sound very, very tired and grumpy!

NARRATOR	One evening a terrible storm came. Suddenly a knocking was heard at the city gate.
PRINCESS	"I am a real princess!"
QUEEN	(to herself) "Well, we'll soon find that out."
NARRATOR	The queen put one pea under twenty mattresses and twenty eider-down beds.
QUEEN	"Good morning, my dear. How did you sleep?"
PRINCESS	"Oh, very badly! I have scarcely closed my eyes all night. I was lying on something hard!"
NARRATOR	And that is a true story.

My Favorite Part

My favorite part is _____

_____

because _____

_____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

The Princess and the Pea

Trace the gray words, then write them on your own on the empty lines. Tall letters touch the top line; small letters reach the dotted line.

Oh, very badly!

Oh, very badly!

Oh, very badly!

Only a real princess.

Only a real princess.

Only a real princess.

☐ I started with a capital letter. ☐ I left spaces between words. ☐ I copied the end mark.

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CCSS L.K.1a · L.1.1a · L.K.2a

FOR GROWN-UPS

Answer Key & Ideas

Story Map

Characters: the prince, the princess, the old king, the queen. Setting: a castle on a stormy night, long ago. Problem: the prince can't tell whether a princess is real. Solution: the queen's pea test shows the girl is a real princess, so the prince marries her.

Let's Talk

1. A real princess to marry. 2. A single pea. 3. Twenty mattresses, plus twenty eider-down beds. 4–6. Answers will vary (she felt the pea through all the beds; the story exaggerates to be funny).

Word Search

H	D	H	H	A	O	I	R	N	Y
N	Y	F	**G**	**A**	**T**	**E**	**B**	G	B
S	T	N	V	F	G	**P**	**E**	K	G
S	**T**	**O**	**R**	**M**	F	**E**	**D**	A	D
S	I	Y	P	Y	E	**A**	**Q**	**K**	L
T	A	A	P	O	F	D	**U**	**I**	O
R	**P**	**R**	**I**	**N**	**C**	**E**	**E**	**N**	G
A	S	T	I	P	B	U	**E**	**G**	P
I	P	T	B	R	H	N	**N**	A	V
N	B	I	I	A	N	U	M	J	V

Word Match & Sort

prince: the son of a king and queen · princess: the daughter of a king and queen · storm: strong wind, rain and thunder · gate: a door in a wall or fence · mattress: the soft, thick part of a bed · eider-down: soft duck feathers used in bedding · sensitive: able to feel even tiny things · museum: a place where special things are kept. Sort: Soft: mattress, pillow, eider-down, feathers. Hard: pea, city gate, stone, crown.

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. Yes · 4. Yes · 5. No · 6. Yes. ABC order: bed, gate, pea, queen, storm.

Put It in Order

the prince looks all over the world → a terrible storm comes → a wet princess knocks at the gate → the queen puts a pea under the mattresses → she slept very badly → the pea goes in a museum.

Who Said It?

1. the queen (to herself) · 2. the princess · 3. the princess · 4. the princess · 5. the storyteller

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Stack cushions over a dried pea or button and see who can feel it.
- Count to twenty with mattress-shaped paper strips.
- Read it with The Emperor's New Clothes, another short Andersen tale with a royal family.

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

The Princess and the Pea ✦ Common Core State Standards, kindergarten to grade 2

STANDARDS	WHAT CHILDREN PRACTICE	WHERE IN THIS GUIDE
RL.K.1 RL.1.1 RL.2.1	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	Let's Talk and Yes or No?; Let's Talk
RL.K.2 RL.1.2 RL.2.2	Retell stories and poems, including key details, and show understanding of their message.	Put It in Order and Retell; Put It in Order and Retell; The Big Idea; The Big Idea
RL.K.3 RL.1.3 RL.2.3	Identify and describe characters, settings and major events.	Story Map and Character Feelings; Character Feelings
RL.K.4	Understand words and phrases, including rhyme, rhythm and words that appeal to the senses.	Word Match
RL.K.6 RL.1.6 RL.2.6	Identify who is speaking and use a different voice for each character when reading aloud.	Meet the Author; Who Said It?; Read It With Voices
RL.K.7 RL.1.7	Use illustrations and words together to describe characters, setting and events.	Story Map picture
RL.K.10 RL.1.10	Engage in group reading of poems and stories with purpose and understanding.	Reading the story together
RF.K.1b RF.K.1d	Understand the organization of print (left to right, top to bottom).	Word Search; ABC Order
RF.K.3c RF.1.3	Read common high-frequency words by sight.	Word Search
RF.1.4b RF.2.4b	Read aloud with accuracy, appropriate rate and expression.	Read It With Voices
SL.K.1 SL.1.1	Take part in conversations about the text with classmates and adults.	Let's Talk (discussion)
SL.K.2	Ask and answer questions about a text read aloud or presented through media.	Read-aloud video (QR code)
SL.K.5	Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.	Try It (drawing to add detail)
SL.K.6	Speak audibly and express ideas clearly.	Read It With Voices
L.K.1a L.1.1 L.1.1a	Print upper- and lowercase letters and use common position words.	Handwriting Practice; ABC Order
L.K.2a	Use capital letters and end punctuation.	Handwriting checklist
L.K.4 L.1.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown words and phrases.	Word Match
L.K.5a	Sort words into categories, connect words to real life and act out shades of meaning.	Word Sort
W.K.1 W.1.1	Use drawing and writing to share an opinion and give a reason.	My Favorite Part
W.K.2	Use a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to compose informative texts.	Try It
W.1.8	With guidance and support, recall information from experiences or gather information to answer a question.	Try It

Codes are Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. Find free read-alouds and guides at storylandclassics.com.

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