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The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood

Charles Perrault · *1697* · *Robert Samber, revised by J. E. Mansion*

There were formerly a King and a Queen, who were so sorry that they had no children, so sorry that it cannot be expressed. They went to all the waters in the world; vows, pilgrimages, all ways were tried and all to no purpose. At last the Queen proved with child, and was brought to bed of a daughter. Robert Samber, revised by J. E. Mansion, Project Gutenberg #29021. For grades 3–8. Short, complete as hosted. Quote this English, not a later film. If you read past the sleep, teach the close with tact.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood in this Samber–Mansion English—as Perrault's tale, opening with a King and Queen so sorry they had no children that it cannot be expressed—rather than as a later film, and with tact if the class reads past the sleep?

"There were formerly a King and a Queen, who were so sorry that they had no children, so sorry that it cannot be expressed. They"

Opening

Robert Samber's English, revised by J. E. Mansion, Project Gutenberg #29021, is this short, complete tale. There were formerly a King and a Queen, who were so sorry that they had no children, so sorry that it cannot be expressed. They went to all the waters in the world; vows, pilgrimages, all ways were tried, and all to no purpose. At last the Queen proved with child, and was brought to bed of a daughter. Teach that opening, for grades 3–8. Quote this English, not a later film. Perrault's telling, after the long sleep, continues further than some later children's versions; if a class goes that far, teach the close with tact, and do not make a spectacle. This file is this tale, not Cinderella, which is another hosted Perrault file from the same Gutenberg number. Name Samber and Mansion.

KEY CHARACTERS

The King and the Queen
Who were so sorry they had no children that it cannot be expressed, and who tried all the waters in the world

The daughter
Of whom the Queen was at last brought to bed, after vows and pilgrimages

Robert Samber, and J. E. Mansion
Translator, and reviser, of this hosted English

HOW TO BEGIN THIS SLEEPING BEAUTY

> *"There were formerly a King and a Queen, who were so sorry that they had no children, so sorry that it cannot be expressed. They"*
>
> Opening

> *"They went to all the waters in the world; vows, pilgrimages, all ways were tried and all to no purpose. At"*
>
> Opening

Grades 3–8
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

So Sorry That It Cannot Be Expressed

OPENING

There were formerly a King and a Queen, who were so sorry that they had no children, so sorry that it cannot be expressed. The tale begins with a sorrow, named twice.

- Keep "formerly," and "so sorry that it cannot be expressed."
- 3–8.
- Samber, revised by Mansion.
- Not a later film.

> *"There were formerly a King and a Queen, who were so sorry that they had no children, so sorry that it cannot be expressed. They"*
>
> Opening

02

Vows, Pilgrimages, All Ways

OPENING

They went to all the waters in the world; vows, pilgrimages, all ways were tried and all to no purpose. The sorrow has been carried everywhere, and has not yet been answered.

- Keep "all the waters in the world" and "all to no purpose."
- 3–8.
- Quote this English.
- The later christening is not this first trying.

> *"They went to all the waters in the world; vows, pilgrimages, all ways were tried and all to no purpose. At"*
>
> Opening

03

Brought to Bed of a Daughter

OPENING

At last, however, the Queen proved with child, and was brought to bed of a daughter. There was a very fine christening. The child arrives after the sorrow, in this wording.

- Keep "at last" and "brought to bed of a daughter."
- 3–8.
- The later gifts, and the spindle, follow.
- Quote this telling.

> *"At last, however, the Queen proved with child, and was brought to bed of a daughter. There"*
>
> Opening

04

Past the Sleep, with Tact

THE LATER TALE

Perrault's telling does not always stop where later children's versions stop. If a class reads past the long sleep, teach the close with tact, and do not make a spectacle. For grades 3–8. Quote this English, not a later film.

- Tact in the later pages.
- This telling, not a studio script.
- 3–8.
- The opening sorrow and the daughter come first.

> *"There were formerly a King and a Queen, who were so sorry that they had no children, so"*
>
> Opening

05

Samber and Mansion, This Tale Only

THE EDITION

Project Gutenberg #29021 holds this tale in Robert Samber's English, revised by J. E. Mansion. Name both. Cinderella is another hosted file from the same Gutenberg number; quote the file you are in. For grades 3–8. Short, complete as hosted. Not a later film.

- Name Samber and Mansion.
- This is The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood, not Cinderella.
- 3–8. Tact at the close if you go past the sleep.
- A King and Queen, and a daughter long waited for.

> *"There were formerly a King and a Queen, who were so sorry that they had no children, so sorry that it cannot be expressed. They"*
>
> Opening

A sorrow that cannot be expressed | Vows, waters, and pilgrimages | A daughter, long waited for | This English, not a later film | Tact, if the tale goes past the sleep

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 3–8

1. "There were formerly a King and a Queen, who were so sorry that they had no children, so sorry that it cannot be expressed." Keep the doubled sorrow.
2. They went to all the waters in the world; vows and pilgrimages were tried, all to no purpose, before a daughter was born.
3. Samber, revised by Mansion, PG #29021, for grades 3–8. This file is this tale, not Cinderella (another hosted file from the same Gutenberg number).
4. Quote this English, not a later film. If a class reads past the sleep, Perrault continues further than some later versions; teach that close with tact, and no spectacle.

Quotations are verbatim from the Robert Samber, revised by J. E. Mansion, Project Gutenberg #29021, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/perrault-sleeping-beauty/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.