

## Chapter 5

# Briar Rose

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A long time ago here lived a King and a Queen who were very unhappy because they had no children. One day, as the Queen was bathing and thinking of her wishes, a Frog skipped out of the water and said to her, "Your wish shall be fulfilled. Before a year passes you shall have a daughter."

Very soon a beautiful little girl was born to the Queen and the King ordered a great feast. He invited not only his relatives and friends, but all the wise women who were kind and loving toward children. Now, there were thirteen such women in his kingdom, but since he had only twelve golden plates out of which they could eat, one had to stay at home.

It was grand feast and the wise women presented the infant with their wonderful gifts of virtue, riches, beauty, and so on. Just as the eleven women had given away their presents, the thirteenth old lady stepped in suddenly. She was in a rage because she had not been invited, and without greeting or looking at any one, she exclaimed loudly, "The Princess shall prick herself with a spindle on her fifteenth birthday and die !" And without another word, she turned and left the hall.

Everyone was terrified. the twelfth wise woman, who had not yet given her wish, came forward. Although she could not take away the evil wish, she said, "the Princess will not die but shall fall into a deep sleep for hundred years."

Then the King, who naturally wished to protect his child from the curse, commanded that every spindle in the kingdom be burnt. With time, the princess became so beautiful, gentle and clever that every one who saw her loved her. The day came when she turned fifteen. The King and Queen were not at home, so she was alone in the castle. The young girl wandered about, going through all the rooms until she came to an old tower. She went up the narrow staircase and stopped at the door, which had a lock with a rusty key. She turned the key and the door sprang open, to show an old woman with a spindle spinning flax. "Good day, dear lady," said the Princess, "What are you doing here ?"

**Teacher's Note:** Help the pupils to understand the meanings of the difficult words given in the chapter.



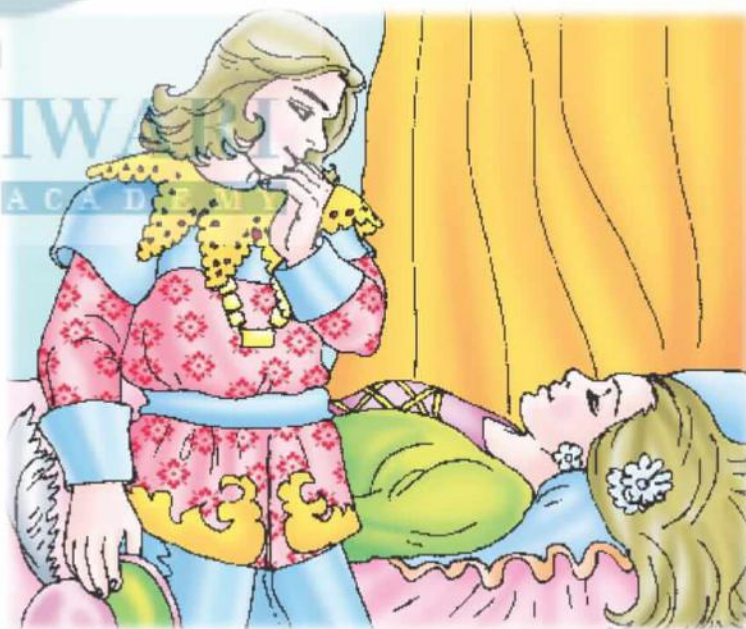
“I am spinning,” said the old woman, nodding her head.

“What is that thing moving to have a try. That very moment, the curse came true, for she pricked her finger and fell back upon a bed into a deep sleep. The sleep spread over the whole palace—to the King and Queen who had just returned, their courtiers, even the horses in the stables, the flies upon the walls, and the fire upon the hearth. Everything came to a stop—the meat that was cooking, the cook who was talking to the kitchen-boy, even the wind. Not a leaf rustled on the trees around the castle.

A thick hedge of thorns began growing around the palace, becoming higher and higher every year till it hid the castle completely. Even the flag on the tower could not be seen. The story about Briar Rose, as the sleeping Princess was named, spread far and wide. From time to time many Princes came and tried to cross the hedge into the castle, but none could succeed because the thorns held them back.

Many years later, another young Prince passed that way and heard the legend of Briar Rose from an old man. He too decided to try his luck. The old man warned him of the danger and the other princes but he would not listen.

It was the last day of the hundred years. As the young Prince came near the hedge, the thorns turned to fine large flowers, making way for him to pass through. In the courtyard he saw the horses and dogs lying fast asleep, and as he went into the palace, there were the flies on the wall, the cook with his hand on the kitchen-boy. In the hall he found the courtiers asleep, and by the throne were the King and Queen. At last he



came to the tower and opened the door for the little room. There slept Briar Rose, looking so beautiful that he bent over and touched her forehead. That very moment she opened her eyes and greeted him with a smile. Then they

went down together and immediately everyone awoke and stared at one another in wonder. The horses in the stable got up and shook themselves, the dogs, wagged their tails, the flies on the wall began to crawl, the fire began to burn brightly to cook the meat and the cook started talking. The whole palace was back in action as if nothing had happened, for the hundred years sleep had not changed anyone.

Soon the Prince and Briar Rose were married and to the end of their lives they lived happy and contented.

## Words to Learn

feast  
arrogant

virtue  
bellow

spindle  
craftily

terrified  
exhaustion

hearth

fiery

## ● Skill Test ●

### WORK OUT

**Answer the following questions :**

1. What did the frog say to the Queen ?  
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2. How many wise women were invited by the king for the feast ? Why ?  
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3. Why did the king order that every spindle in his kingdom be burnt ?  
.....
4. What happened when Briar Rose pricked her finger ?  
.....

### GRAMMAR

**Frame question for the following :**

1. The king and the queen were very unhappy because they had no children.  
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2. He invited not only his relatives and friends, but all the wise women.  
.....
3. The old man warned him of the danger.  
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## VOCABULARY

### A. Make sentence with the following phrases :

1. a great feast .....
2. exclaimed loudly .....
3. higher and higher .....
4. stared at one another .....
5. back in action .....

### B. Write the males of the following words :

queen .....	aunt .....
hen .....	washerwomen .....
lioness .....	mother .....
Goddess .....	grandmother .....

## COMPOSITION

If you were one of the wise women, what wish would you give the little princess.  
Write 5-6 sentence :

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