

LEVELED BOOK • J

The Princess and the Pea



A retelling of the classic tale
by Hans Christian Andersen
Illustrated by Shih-Fen Lin

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Focus Question

How can the way someone looks
be misleading?



Once upon a time, there was
a **prince** who wanted to **marry**
a **princess**.

She had to be a real princess,
though.



The prince looked all over the world, but he couldn't find who he wanted.

Many young women said they were princesses, but were they really?

It was hard to know for sure!

There was always something about them that did not seem quite right.



So the prince came home again
and was sad.
He still wanted to find a real
princess to marry.



One evening, there was a terrible storm with thunder and lightning. The rain came down hard as the wind howled. Suddenly, someone knocked at the castle door.



A young woman stood outside.
She said she was a princess who
had been caught in the storm.



But what a sight the rain and wind
had made her look!

The water ran down from her hair
and clothes.

It ran into the toes of her shoes
until they overflowed.

Still, she said that she was a real
princess.



We'll soon find out! thought
the old queen.
She went into the bedroom
and stripped all the bedding off
the bed.



She took a pea and laid it on the bare bedframe.

Then she took twenty **mattresses** and placed them on top of the pea. Finally, she put twenty blankets stuffed with goose feathers on top.



On this bed, the princess had to lie all night.



In the morning, the queen asked her how she had slept.

“Oh, very badly! I barely closed my eyes all night,” said the princess.

“Goodness knows what it was, but I was lying on something hard,” she added.

“I am black and blue all over my body—it was horrible!” she cried.



Now they knew that she was a real princess.

She had felt the pea right through twenty mattresses and twenty goose-feather blankets.

Nobody but a real princess could be that **sensitive**.



So the prince married her, for now he knew that she was a real princess.



The pea was given to a museum.
You can still see it there, if you like.

Glossary

- lie** (v.) to rest on a flat surface with the body in a horizontal position (p. 11)
- marry** (v.) to join with a wife or husband in marriage (p. 3)
- mattresses** (n.) the parts of a bed that one's body rests on (p. 10)
- prince** (n.) a son of a ruling king or queen; a boy or man in a royal family (p. 3)
- princess** (n.) a daughter of a king or queen; a girl or woman in a royal family (p. 3)
- sensitive** (adj.) able to feel or notice small changes (p. 13)

Words to Know

lie

marry

mattresses

prince

princess

sensitive

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Correlation

LEVEL J	
Fountas & Pinnell	J
Reading Recovery	17
DRA	18

The Princess and the Pea

A Reading A-Z Level J Leveled Book

Word Count: 351



Connections

Writing and Art

Retell the important events of the story in a *Princess and the Pea* comic strip.

Math

The princess wants to take the pea out from under the mattresses. If she puts the mattresses into four piles, how many mattresses will be in each pile? Show your work.

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