Name: _____ Date: _____

Midas Touches a Rose

Reading level 7 (3rd grade) · 242 words

King Midas loved his treasure. Every evening he counted his golden coins. "I want more," he said.

One day, Midas was kind to a lost old man. The old man belonged to a god. The god said, "Make a wish!"

"Let everything I touch turn to gold," said Midas. "Are you sure?" asked the god. "Yes!" said Midas.

On his way home, Midas touched a little twig. It turned to gold! He touched a stone, and it turned to gold too.

"I am the richest king in the world!" he said. He hurried into his garden. He touched a beautiful red rose.

The beautiful rose turned to shining gold. It was heavy and cold. It did not smell sweet anymore.

Midas sat down to dinner. He picked up some bread. It turned into heavy gold in his hand.

He lifted a cup of water. The water turned to gold as well. Midas could not eat or drink anything.

He looked at his golden rose. "I would trade this gold for a real rose."

Midas hurried back to the god. "Please take your gift back," he begged. "I was foolish."

"Go and bathe in the river," said the god. "Go to the place where it begins."

Midas jumped into the river. The gold washed off his hands. It sank into the sandy bottom.

That night, he ate plain bread and drank cool water. Then he smelled a real rose. It smelled absolutely wonderful.

Questions

1. What did Midas wish for?

A. A pet bird
B. That all he touched would turn to gold
C. A bigger house

2. What happened when Midas touched the rose?

A. It grew bigger
B. It flew away

C. It turned to gold

3. Why could Midas not eat his bread?

A. It turned to hard gold
B. It was too hot
C. He was not hungry

4. Why did Midas want a real flower?

A. He did not like red
B. The garden was too far
C. Gold roses have no smell

5. In this story, what does "foolish" mean?

A. Full of gold
B. Not wise
C. Very rich

6. What does the story show?

A. More gold is not always better
B. Gold is easy to find
C. Rivers are cold

Words to know

wish: a thing you hope for
twig: a small stick
richest: with the most money
foolish: not wise
plain: simple

Answer key: Midas Touches a Rose

1. B. That all he touched would turn to gold
2. C. It turned to gold
3. A. It turned to hard gold
4. C. Gold roses have no smell
5. B. Not wise
6. A. More gold is not always better