



# Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin

**Shurtliff, L.**

Based on the fairy tale, Rumpelstiltskin, this is the story of Rump, a young boy who struggles with his name and the bullies that mock him because of it. But with the help of his friend Red, Rump embarks on a journey of self-discovery, while also learning to manage his special magical talent and turn it into something good. The book's themes may encourage intermediate-level students to reflect on relationships, wealth, and the impact these have on our lives. In the classroom, Rump also lends itself as a whole-class read-aloud and in literature circles. Its positive messages may inspire a study of personal identity and the significance of names as well as writing activities related to the book's fairy tale genre.

**Subjects:** English Language Arts, Physical and Health Education

Grades 4-7

**Evaluation Date:** Dec 2020



Social Considerations

# Resource Evaluation

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## CURRICULUM FIT

### Does the resource support BC curriculum?



Extensively

This novel supports the intermediate-level Language Arts Big Idea that "exploring stories and other text helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and the world." It also supports the Physical Education and Health Grade 6-7 Big Idea that "we experience many changes in our lives that influence how we see ourselves and others," and the Grade 4-5 Big Idea that "developing healthy relationships helps us feel connected, supported, and valued." There is also a strong tie to the Core Competency of Positive Personal and Cultural Identity.

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## SUGGESTED CLASSROOM USAGE

This novel could be used as a whole-class novel, in literature circles, and as a read-aloud. It would make a good springboard into writing a fairy tale or could be used as part of a study of the fairy-tale genre. It could also be used as part of a study of personal identity and the significance of names, tying into the Indigenous Principles of Learning and the Core Competencies.

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## SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

### Age

Elders are portrayed as wise and supportive.

### Socio-Economic

The socio-economic disparities are highlighted with some characters being rich and greedy while others struggle to get by.

### Violence

There are mildly violent situations such as when the main character is bullied, threatened by trolls, and kidnapped.

### **Do the social considerations support, rather than detract from, student learning?**



Extensively

Many of the social considerations in this novel have positive messages. The characters provide opportunities for the reader to experience challenging life situations. The grandmothers in the story provide important and insightful advice to the characters. Red is a young girl who is prone to outbursts of anger and physical violence in stressful situations, and Rump is a young boy who tends to make the easy choice, rather than facing his problems. Their relationship is supportive; however, the faults of each character impact their ability to get along. Overall, the book gives readers a lot to think about in terms of relationships, wealth, and the impact these have on our lives.

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## GENERAL CONTENT

### Content

#### **Is the resource engaging?**



Extensively

#### **Is the content current for the intended curriculum and grade?**



Extensively

#### **Is the content accurate for the intended curriculum and grade?**



Extensively

#### **Is the content relevant and important for student broad understandings?**



Extensively

#### Audience

**Is the content appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?**



Extensively

**Does the resource provide opportunities for creative and critical thinking?**



Moderately

**Is the level of detail appropriate?**



Extensively

**Is the language use appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?**



Extensively

The concepts in this novel are engaging for students as the author takes a familiar story and recreates background context and plot. It makes the characters more well-rounded and allows us to understand and empathize with the decisions they make. The themes are a good fit for this age group as this is when children begin to search for who they are, independent of their parents. While this is not an Authentic First Peoples Text, the main character's search for his identity creates a strong link, making this novel timely and relevant.

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#### TECHNICAL DESIGN

**Is the use of font, text size and presentation suitable?**



Extensively

This novel has no images, but there is a table of contents listing chapter titles. There are thirty-two short chapters and an epilogue. There are small breaks within the chapters, highlighted with a leaf image that could be handy for a teacher to know where it is a good spot to stop. The book also comes in e-book and audiobook versions.

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**Does the text show insight into the complexity of the human condition?**

Extensively

**Does the text broaden students' experiences and understanding?**

Extensively

**To what degree is this text stylistically rich?**

Extensively

**Plot description**

This novel is based on the fairy tale, "Rumpelstiltskin." The main character is Rump, a young introverted boy who is bullied because of his name. He and his grandmother live in poverty in a small mountain village that is dependent on mining for gold. When Rump discovers he has a special talent for spinning straw into gold, it looks as though he may be able to turn his life around. Despite the misgivings of the people around him, he uses his talent to help his grandmother who is ill. This leads to a string of misfortunes that ultimately help Rump discover the truth about his ancestry and true identity.

**Genre**

- Other
- Fairy tale/legends

**Literary Highlights**

- Point of view

**Type**

- Audiobook

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**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS****Reading Level**

- At intended grade level(s)

The novel has won numerous state book awards in the United States. There are several Reader's Guides and lesson plans available online with discussion questions, activities, and games. The author's website has links to some of the guides available.

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**GRADES AND SUBJECTS****Subjects**

- English Language Arts: 4-7
- Physical and Health Education: 4-7

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