The Princess and the Pea

by Hans Christian Andersen

Once upon a time there ..... (be) a prince who ..... (want) to marry a princess; but she would have to be a real princess. He ..... (travel) all over the world to find one, but nowhere ..... (can) he get what he ..... (want). There ..... (be) princesses enough, but it ..... (be) difficult to find out whether they ..... (be) real ones. There ..... (be) always something about them that ..... (be) not as it should be. So he ..... (come) home again and ..... (be) sad, for he would have liked very much to have a real princess.

One evening a terrible storm ..... (come) on; there ..... (be) thunder and lightning, and the rain ..... (pour) down in torrents. Suddenly a knocking ..... (be) heard at the city gate, and the old king ..... (go) to open it.

It ..... (be) a princess standing out there in front of the gate. But, good gracious! what a sight the rain and the wind (vave) made her look. The water ..... (run) down from her hair and clothes; it ..... (run) down into the toes of her shoes and out again at the heels. And yet she ..... (say) that she ..... (be) a real princess.

Well, we'll soon find that out, ... (think) the old queen. But she ..... (say) nothing, ... (go) into the bed-room, ... (take) all the bedding off the bedstead, and ..... (lay) a pea on the bottom; then she ..... (take) twenty mattresses and ..... (lay) them on the pea, and then twenty eider-down beds on top of the mattresses.

On this the princess ..... (have) to lie all night. In the morning she was asked how she had slept.

"Oh, very badly!" ..... (say) she. "I have scarcely closed my eyes all night. Heaven only knows what was in the bed, but I was lying on something hard, so that I am black and blue all over my body. It's horrible!"

Now they ..... (know) that she ..... (be) a real princess because she had felt the pea right through the twenty mattresses and the twenty eider-down beds.

Nobody but a real princess ..... (can) be as sensitive as that.

So the prince ..... (take) her for his wife, for now he ..... (know) that he ..... (have) a real princess; and the pea was put in the museum, where it may still be seen, if no one has stolen it.

There, that is a true story.

LIVEWORKSHEETS