

King Midas and the Golden Touch

as told by Charlotte Craft

King Midas loves his daughter, is devoted to his kingdom, but above all things, he loves the sound and feel of gold. Warm, golden hues permeate throughout this breathtaking retelling of one of Greek myths most well-known stories.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What would it be like to turn everything into gold?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if that rose will turn to gold when he touches it?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *King Midas and the Golden Touch*

- precious: worth a great deal of money
- throne: chair of a monarch or bishop
- bequeath: leave somebody something in a will
- realm: a country ruled by a monarch, a kingdom
- renowned: well known or famous especially for a skill or expertise
- fragrances: sweet smell, perfume
- exquisite: finely beautiful, delicate or intricate
- bouquet: bunch of flowers
- unbind: free somebody from restrictions
- dungeon: a prison cell, underground, especially beneath a castle
- wealth: a large amount of money
- mysterious: full of mystery, unknown or secretive
- enchantment: a magic spell
- bewildered: confuse somebody or puzzle somebody completely
- astonishment: great amazement, often eliciting shock
- spectacles: eyeglasses
- anxiously: feeling nervous, worried or afraid
- recoiled: move back suddenly and violently
- anguish: extreme anxiety or emotional torment
- transformed: change something dramatically, undergo total change

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What did King Midas love above all else?
- What did his daughter love?
- Who ate dinner with the king?
- What gift did King Midas want?
- What things did King Midas touch and turn to gold?
- What happened when he touched his daughter's hand?
- Where did King Midas go to break the curse of the golden touch?
- Was he able to change his daughter and garden back to normal? What did he leave gold?



Do

Watercolor Art

You will need: yellow watercolor paint, paint supplies, yellow construction paper and crayons.

Give each child a piece of yellow construction paper, paint supplies, crayons and yellow watercolor paint. Next, decorate the yellow construction paper by using any crayons and with any design. After they complete their drawing, have the children paint over the entire paper with yellow watercolor paint. Allow time to dry, and enjoy the golden picture.