



## *Rump*

by Liesl Shurtliff

2016 Rebecca Caudill Young  
Readers' Book Award Nominee;  
2016 Bluestem Award Nominee

### Recommended Ages:

8-12



[helenplum.org](http://helenplum.org)

**Summary:** When his mother dies without revealing his full name, Rump endures teasing for his half-name until he discovers his ability to spin gold. Rump's talent entangles him in a dire curse and prompts a fantastical quest to discover his true identity.

**Discussion Questions: Spoiler alert!** Some of the questions contain key elements of the plot. Do not read if you don't want to know what happens!

1. In the book, a name determines a person's identity. How do you think names affect people? If you had a different name, do you think you or your life would be different?
2. Rump thinks he isn't smart, mostly because of his name. Do you agree? Does Rump's belief about himself change how he sees the world? How does this affect the decisions he makes?
3. What events or actions from the original Grimm's tale of Rumpelstiltskin are explained or clarified in *Rump*? What liberties did the author take in changing the original tale?
4. The original fairy tale of Rumpelstiltskin is written in a third-person point of view, while *Rump* is written in Rump's first-person point of view. How does that affect the two stories and what we understand about them? How might point-of-view affect other stories or even history?
5. Who is Red? What do we know about her? What things do she and Rump have in common? In what ways are they different? How do those things shape their friendship?
6. What are pixies? Would you consider them to be helpful or harmful? How does their presence change the story or cause certain events to happen?
7. Throughout the story, there are many secrets that are kept and revealed. Find at least five instances of someone keeping an important secret from someone else. What reasons do they have for keeping the secret? Does keeping the secret accomplish what each character was hoping it would?
8. Red repeatedly warns Rump that magic has dangerous consequences, and the trolls go to great lengths to protect The Kingdom from the use of magic. What are some examples of the effects of using magic? Do you think these consequences make sense? How is the magic in *Rump* similar or different from other stories of magic you have read?

Adapted from the author's website, <http://lieslshurtliff.com>.