

Name _____



The Goose Girl

Once upon a time, in a kingdom far away, there lived a kind and gentle princess named Anneliese. Anneliese was known for her beauty, grace, and her remarkable bond with her favorite pet, a talking horse named Falada. They were inseparable companions, and the horse was both loyal and wise.

One day, Anneliese's mother, the queen, decided it was time for her to marry. She arranged a marriage between Anneliese and the prince of a neighboring kingdom, whom she had never met. Anneliese was heartbroken at the thought of leaving her beloved Falada and her home.

The day of the wedding arrived, and Anneliese, with Falada by her side, set out on the journey to her future husband's kingdom. The queen also sent along a maid to accompany the princess. Along the way, the maid grew jealous of Anneliese's beauty and her bond with Falada. She hatched a wicked plan to steal Anneliese's identity.

As they approached the kingdom, the deceitful maid convinced Anneliese to switch clothes with her. She then threatened Anneliese to keep her silence or face dire consequences. Terrified, Anneliese agreed, and the maid took her place as the bride-to-be.

The true princess, now dressed as a common goose girl, was assigned to tend the royal geese in the fields. She confided in Falada, who promised to help her regain her rightful place. Each day, as she passed the talking horse, Falada recognized her but couldn't reveal her identity.

One day, as they neared the marketplace, Falada spoke to the princess and advised her to collect her tears in a cup. He explained that these tears could reveal the truth about her situation. Anneliese followed his advice and collected her tears in a cup as she cried over her plight.

Upon her arrival at the marketplace, her tears in hand, the cup spoke aloud, "Look at the false bride! She has deceived everyone!" The truth was revealed, and the people were shocked. Anneliese was recognized as the true princess, and the deceitful maid was exposed.

The wicked maid was punished for her treachery, and Anneliese was free to marry the prince. She forgave Falada for not revealing her secret sooner, and they continued to share their special bond. The kingdom celebrated their union, and the talking horse was honored as a wise and loyal friend.

