

A Reader's Theater Script for  
*Rump: the True Story of Rumpelstiltskin*  
Written by Liesl Shurtliff  
Script Adaptation by Betty Potter, TBA Committee Member

**Readers:**

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Rump

Red

**Narrator 1:** What's in a name?

**Narrator 2:** In the magical Kingdom, your name is your destiny.

**Rump:** My mother named me after a cow's rear end. It's the favorite village joke, and probably the only one, but it's not really true. At least I don't think it's true. My mother died when I was born. Still she held me close and whispered my name, a really wonderful name, in my ear. No one heard it but me. What my gran heard was "His name is Rump..." Then my mother took a breath and let out all the air and didn't take any more in. Ever.

**Narrator 1:** His name couldn't be changed or taken back, because in The Kingdom, your name isn't just what people call you. Your name is full of meaning and power. Your name is your destiny.

**Rump:** My destiny stinks.

**Narrator 2:** When Rump finds an old spinning wheel and discovers by accident that he can spin straw into gold--magical gold--his luck seems to change.

**Narrator 1:** It's not long before Rump begins to realize that his friend Red is right.

**Red:** All magic has consequences, Rump. Even small magic can have big consequences. You better leave it alone.

**Narrator 1:** But for a twelve-year-old boy who has been teased and bullied all his life because of his half-a-name, it is just too tempting.

**Narrator 2:** With each thread he spins, Rump weaves himself deeper into a curse.

**Narrator 1:** Finally, there is nothing to do except seek help from The Witch of the Woods, who tells him *WHAT* he needs to do to save himself, but can give him no clue as to how, when or where to do it.

**Rump:** There is only one thing to do. I'll have to leave everything I've ever known and go on a quest to find my true name--and my destiny.

**Narrator 2:** The odds aren't great for a small boy in a land of fairy-tale bullies, but somehow, Rump learns to move beyond the name he was born with, and the assumptions people make because of it. And in the process, gives us all hope with the promise of a true fairy tale...

**All speakers:** With enough courage and persistence, you can overcome any obstacle, conquer any foe!

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