

The Princess Who Never Smiled

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

The Princess Who Never Smiled

Many long years ago, there was a Tsar in Russia. The Tsar had a beautiful daughter who grew more and more lovely every year. To keep her happy, the Tsar gave her everything she could want. She had the finest clothes, the most beautiful jewelry, the most delicious food, and the best entertainment. Still, the princess never smiled. This pained the Tsar, and each night he asked, "Are you happy, my dear?"

"Yes, Father. I am very happy," the princess replied.

The Tsar did not believe her. After all, happy people smiled, and the princess never did.

After years and years of watching his beautiful daughter's sad face, the Tsar announced that whoever made her smile would have her hand in marriage.

Young men came from all over Russia.

A clown dressed in colorful stripes and polka-dots juggled glasses filled with water. The princess didn't smile.

A troupe of actors performed a skit dressed as donkeys. The princess did not smile.

A comedian told jokes dressed as a giant chicken. The princess didn't smile.

The Tsar looked on with tears in his eyes. Would anyone ever be able to make his beautiful daughter smile?

The seasons passed. The birds sang in the spring. The crops grew in the summer. Gorgeous colors stretched as far as the eye could see in the autumn. Snow covered the land and shown like crystals in the winter.

