

KING MIDAS

RETOLD BY JENNIFER TETZLOFF

Long ago in ancient Greece, a king named Midas lived in a large, beautiful palace. Lush trees and flowers, including a famous garden of roses, surrounded his palace. He had a beautiful daughter who loved him very much. King Midas should have been content with his many riches, but he was a greedy man at heart. The more he had, the more he wanted.

One night, some of Midas' gardeners found a creature named Silenus sleeping in the garden. They tied him up and brought him before King Midas. To the gardeners' surprise, Midas recognized Silenus. The king knew him to be the friend of Dionysus, one of the gods of Mount Olympus. Midas allowed Silenus to stay in the palace for several days and nights. The king fed Silenus well and let him sleep in one of his best rooms, and Silenus entertained the king with tales and songs from distant lands.



Highlight the text evidence that supports your inference.



Text Evidence

Definition ↑

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To make an *inference*, you figure something out based on information in the text and your own experiences.

When Silenus was ready to continue his travels, Midas ordered one of his men to escort the creature safely back to Dionysus. The god was pleased that Midas had treated his friend so well. He appeared before Midas and said, "I will grant you any reward that you choose."

Midas said, "I wish that everything I touch will turn into gold."

"It is done," said Dionysus.

Midas touched a nearby bowl. It turned to solid gold! He smiled at his success. The king spent the afternoon testing out his new power. One by one, he turned the flowers and trees in the garden and the furniture of the palace into glittering gold. Midas was now wealthier than he ever imagined. He ordered a feast to celebrate his marvelous gift.

Not long into the feast, Midas stopped smiling. *Everything* he touched turned to gold. He could not eat because all the food turned to gold as soon as he touched it. He could not drink because any liquids turned to gold once they touched his lips. Midas left the feast early, but he could not sleep. His soft bed had turned into hard, solid gold.



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The next morning, Midas sat in his garden and looked at the golden flowers. What was the point of being surrounded by so much gold if he could not eat or drink? He bitterly regretted choosing such a gift. Midas' daughter saw her father in the garden and felt sorry for him. Before Midas could stop her, she put her arms around him. Midas watched as his beautiful daughter turned into a golden statue. He wept, and the tears turned to gold as they rolled down his face.

Midas prayed, begging Dionysus to take away his power. He had made the wrong choice and now his daughter was paying the price. The god appeared before Midas once again and told him to travel to the River Pactolus. If he bathed in the freezing waters, the gift would be reversed and his daughter cured.

King Midas did as Dionysus commanded. As soon as he touched the waters, the power left him. He and his daughter were freed from the curse of the golden touch. Midas vowed never to act in greed again.



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