LA COUNTY LIBRARY

Activity Idea

FAIRYTALES

READ AND CREATE

Recommended for Ages 7 – 12

What is a fairytale?

- Fairytale
  - A fictional story featuring humans, animals or magical characters that may or may not teach a lesson or moral
- Myth
  - Story that attempts to answer larger questions about life and frequently includes divine characters whose actions have an effect on the world on a larger scale
- Fable
  - Short story featuring non-human characters that teaches a moral lesson based on cultural values
  - Example: The Ant and the Grasshopper specifically tells the reader to work hard and not be lazy or try to find the easy way out.

Fairytale Characteristics

- Set in the past
- Includes fantasy or supernatural elements like magical people, objects, or animals; magic can be good or bad
- Characters are typically either clearly good or clearly evil
- Teaches a lesson or a "moral" which is a lesson based on the values considered to be important to the culture

Common themes

- Coming of age/growing up
- Loyalty
- Beauty
- Justice-bad people are punished, and good people are rewarded
- Sibling rivalry
- Quests

Can you name a few fairy tales?

1. Cinderella

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Fractured Fairytales

- Changes a traditional story in a surprising or unexpected way
- Frequently done by changing the point of view of the storyteller, for example, from the traditionally "bad" character's perspective or the perspective of a side character watching the story happen
- Can be rewritten into a more modern setting and uses more modern values

Choose a Fairytale

1. Read the fairytale
2. Who is the good character? Who is the bad character?
3. What themes did you find in the story?

Get Creative!

Create a diorama of your favorite scene in the story you read. When it is complete, get an adult's help to share your work on social media, use @lacountylibrary

You will need:

- Shoebox or similarly sized box
- Paper or cardstock
- Markers, colored pencils, crayons, or paint
- Scissors
- Glue
- Optional, get permission from an adult to use small household objects to represent things in the story

Directions:

1. Gather all your materials together
2. Think about the scene you want to create, and whether your box should be horizontal or vertical

3. Decorate the “background” of the scene, which is the inside of your box (i.e. sky, fields, city, etc.)
4. Create your characters from paper by drawing and cutting them out or by using your objects
5. Lay out where you want everything to go before gluing them in
6. Glue or place your items in the box to create your scene

Read More on Overdrive!

Fairytales
Cinderella by Kinuko Y. Craft, https://tinyurl.com/y7ydebrn
The Rough Faced Girl by Rafe Martin, https://tinyurl.com/y9b5yypc
The Complete Grimm’s Fairy Tales by Brothers Grimm, https://tinyurl.com/ydh84bpz
The Ugly Duckling and other Fairy Tales by Hans Christian Anderson, https://tinyurl.com/ybebx35k
Snow White and the Seven Dwarves by Brothers Grimm, https://tinyurl.com/y9529ff9
How the Raven Got His Crooked Nose by Barbara J. Atwater, https://tinyurl.com/ycrj2fun

Fractured Fairytales
The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka, https://tinyurl.com/y8vlvt7y
The Three Ninja Pigs by Corey Rosen Schwartz, https://tinyurl.com/y77tquzb
Rump by Liesl Shurtliff, https://tinyurl.com/y7pez93k
After the Fall by Dan Santat, https://tinyurl.com/yd73fgwa
Nian, the Chinese New Year Dragon by Virginia Loh-Hagan, https://tinyurl.com/yak6p9l5

Fables
Aesop’s Fables by Aesop, https://tinyurl.com/y9n5jzg6
We are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom, https://tinyurl.com/ycd7kqku
The Tale of Rabbit and Coyote by Tony Johnston, https://tinyurl.com/ycn5ek9d
The End of the Rainbow by Liza Donnelly, https://tinyurl.com/ybt8noyw
The Gingerbread Man by Eric A. Kimmel, https://tinyurl.com/yaawcn9w

Myths
Olympians Series by George O’Connor, https://tinyurl.com/y9u7qaxe
Treasury of Greek Mythology by Donna Jo Napoli, https://tinyurl.com/ybqlveoy
Explore Ancient Chinese Myths by Anita Yasuda, https://tinyurl.com/ybvyvmxx
Norse Mythology by Jim Ollhoff, https://tinyurl.com/yam2tyvy