Fairy Tale-Inspired Fun!

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The Evil Princess vs. the Brave Knight

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Pre-Reading Activity: Favorite Fairy Tale Survey

Fairy tales have been told and written down for millennia. In recent years they have also appeared in movies and on television. Ask students to fill out the Favorite Fairy Tale Survey reproducible, and then find at least three friends or family members to survey. Each student can create a large poster or can compile responses on the board, including the names of the people surveyed, their ages, the title of their favorite fairy tale, and its country of origin, if known. After the data is collected, analyze which tales are most popular. Discuss why people like a particular tale, where fairy tales are typically encountered, and the different itineraaries of fairy tales across cultures. Have students use the data to create a graph.

Favorit Fairy Tales: A Survey

Name: ____________________________
Age: ____________________________
Title of favorite fairy tale: ____________________________
Country of origin, if known: ____________________________
Where you first heard it, read it, or saw it: ____________________________
Five-sentence summary of tale: ____________________________
Why you like it: ____________________________

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Design Your Own Fairy Tale Castle or Village

Two of the stories are set in castles, while the third is set in an old-fashioned village. Have students imagine that they are creating a setting for a fairy tale, which takes place in either a castle or a village. Students should consider what elements they would like in the setting, such as a drawbridge for the castle or a blacksmith shop for the village. Students may want to do some research about medieval castles or villages before they begin. They should then draw and color the outside and inside of the castle or the layout of the village, including labels to identify various parts or buildings.

What Makes It Funny?

Once Upon a Goat is funny from cover to cover. As a class, discuss the elements that can add humor to a picture book, such as illustrations, words and phrases, and plot twists. Talk about how this story differs from traditional fairy tales. Assign students to small groups in which they will analyze the humor in the book and come up with twenty specific examples of art or writing that they consider funny. Fairy Tale Theater

Fairy tales are perfect for readers’ theaters because they typically have strong plots and a variety of characters. Ask students to divide into groups and perform one of the three books or a traditional fairy tale. They should rewrite the story so it is mostly dialogue, including the part of a narrator to set the scene and help make transitions. Students can perform the story for classmates.

What’s Next for the Evil Princess and the Brave Knight?

 Invite students to imagine that the Evil Princess and the Brave Knight are going on a quest outside of their castle. Using the storyboard graphic organizer reproducible, students should write a story about that quest, adding new characters (possibly animals or monsters) and describing the new setting. Have students share the stories in small groups, noting similarities and differences.

Find the Folklore

In Goldilocks for Dinner, the story and illustrations contain a number of references to folktales and nursery rhymes. Working in small groups, have students make a list of as many references as they can find. Then have each student choose a nursery rhyme not used in Goldilocks for Dinner, decide where a reference to it could go, and create a drawing to demonstrate. For example, Little Boy Blue could be blowing his horn on one of the hills behind the village.

FAVORITE FAIRY TALES: A SURVEY

Name: ____________________________
Age: ____________________________
Title of favorite fairy tale: ____________________________
Country of origin, if known: ____________________________
Where you first heard it, read it, or saw it: ____________________________
Five-sentence summary of tale: ____________________________
Why you like it: ____________________________

STORYBOARD YOUR STORY

Use the space provided to organize your story before you write it. List the characters and describe the setting. For the plot, decide on the beginning, middle, and end, and then add details for each section. The middle of your story will have the most content and the most details.

Name: ____________________________

Characters

Setting

Plot

Beginning

Middle

End

Details

Details

Details

Details

Details

Details

Details

Details