

Lesson: Language Arts, Grades 2-3
Topic: Exploring Fairy Tales



What Makes a Fairy Tale?

Introduction

Students will explore the fairy tale genre, including the story of Rapunzel, and find common themes throughout fairy tale stories. Students will use these commonalities to create their own fairy tales.

Learning Outcomes

National Standard – Writing Applications

Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.

Ohio Standard

Use narrative strategies (e.g., dialogue and action) to develop characters, plot and setting to maintain a consistent point of view.

Grade 2 Benchmark

Compose writings that convey a clear message and include well-chosen details.

Indicator

Write stories that convey a clear message, include details, use vivid language and move through a logical sequence of steps and events.

Grade 3 Benchmark

Write narrative accounts that develop character, setting and plot.

Indicator

Write stories that sequence events and include descriptive details and vivid language to develop characters, setting and plot.

Materials

- A collection of fairy tale books
- Handout A checklist
- Ohio writing proficiency rubric

Vocabulary

- Contemporary
- Fractured
- Modern
- Genre
- Protagonist

Lesson

Orientation Activity

Hold up several books from the collection of fairy tales and ask students to generate a list of words to describe the collection of books. When the students correctly describe the books as fairy tales, ask, “What makes a fairy tale, a fairy tale?” Generate a list of fairy tale titles on the board. Choose one to read to the class out loud.

Learning Activity

Next, students will generate a list of common themes among fairy tales. Some answers may include:

- Starts with, "Once Upon a Time..."
- Ends with, "They all lived happily ever after."
- Usually some kind of magic or enchantment involved
- They usually include a bad character vs. a good character.
- A forest or castle is part of the setting

Sometimes there is a genre within a genre. The students should try to come up with titles of the fairy tales that are similar to Rapunzel. The list might include Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty. This 'prince/princess' genre of fairy tales have even more similarities to each other than other fairy tales. Have students generate a list of similarities between these fairy tales.

The list might include:

- A prince comes to rescue the main character
- The female character is very beautiful
- Damsel in distress
- The female character has some huge obstacle that keeps her from living a happy life
- The setting is in a kingdom
- The characters are often going in a forest
- A witch is the protagonist
- Often the female character is orphaned

Students should then create a prince or princess story that contains the common characteristics of the 'prince/princess' genre of fairy tales. Students can choose from creating a modern/contemporary version, a traditional version, a fractured version, or a version that has an odd setting such as outer space or the Sahara Desert.

Evaluation and Follow-Up

Assessment Tools and Methods

Use Ohio Proficiency Test Rubric to evaluate their writing.

Web site address - <http://www.lkwdpl.org/gr4test/wrirubr.htm>

Handout A - Checklist of elements of a fairy tale.

Interdisciplinary Connections

Reading and Social Studies

Students could read multi-cultural versions of fairy tales and then create a fairy tale that reflects their culture in the tri-state area.

Technology

Try one of these fairy tale webquests:

Fairy Tales

<http://www.manatee.k12.fl.us/sites/elementary/samoset/webquest/fairtale.htm>

Around the World with Cinderella

<http://www.d123.s-cook.k12.il.us/minigrantproj/lsarracino/lsstudent.htm>

Handout A
Fairy Tale Genre Writing Checklist



Name _____

_____ Starts with, "Once Upon a Time..."

_____ Ends with, "They all lived happily ever after."

_____ Magic/Spell/Enchantment

_____ Damsel in distress

_____ A prince comes to rescue

_____ Beautiful female main character

_____ Huge obstacle for female character that keeps her from living a happy life

_____ Set in a kingdom

_____ Forest or castle

_____ A witch is the protagonist

_____ The female character is orphaned

_____ They usually include a bad character vs. a good character.