

Lesson 25: Fairy Tales

"Her mother said fairy tales didn't have anything to do with the world, but Ofelia knew better. They had taught her everything about it."

—Pan's Labyrinth

Social Justice Standards: Identity 2, Diversity 8

Summary

Fairy tales are remnants of times when oral traditions prevailed. The short stories in this lesson share several commonalities and use similar themes despite the fact that they have independently originated within many traditions across the world. They give us a terrific opportunity to use our imagination, be curious, and explore what's possible!

Booklist

- *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale* by John Steptoe
- *Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story from China* by Ai-Ling Louie, illustrated by Ed Young
- *Adelita: a Mexican Cinderella Story* by Tomie dePaola
- *Sootface: An Ojibwa Cinderella Story* retold by Robert D. San Souci, illustrated by Daniel San Souci
- *Sukey and the Mermaid* by Robert D. San Souci, illustrated by Brian Pinkney

Consider This

- What were some of your favorite fairy tales as a child? What do you remember liking about them?
- How do you feel some of your favorite fairy tales have aged? Well or not so well? Are there any parts that you used to love that you now see as problematic?

Talk Together

- What fairy tales do you know? What do you like about them?
- Do you ever wish there were a different ending to a fairy tale you know? What is it?
- Are fairy tales real?

Engage

- How can you use what you know to create your own fairy tale? Or perhaps make up a new ending to a story you already know?

Elements of a Fairy Tale

- Typically set in the past (might start with “Once upon a time...”)
- Involves a magic or enchanted setting (such as talking animals)
- Usually the good character prevails over bad
- Often the story helps to teaches a lesson
- There is often a happy ending

Explore More

- Literacy Central's “Fairy Tales from Around the World”
- Fairy Tales by Region from FairyTalez