



ONCE UPON A
TIME, THERE WAS
A LITTLE OGRE
NAMED SHREK

FAIRY TALES

INTRODUCTION

Fairy tales, as far as we know, date back to Egypt in at least 1300BC. They were passed down orally from generation to generation. Fairy tales usually feature folklore characters such as fairies, goblins, elves, trolls, dwarves, giants or gnomes, and usually magic or enchantments. The term fairy tale itself was first used by Madame d'Aulnoy, a 17th century French writer, who used the term to describe her own fairy tales which she called contes de fee. Perhaps most famously, the Brothers Grimm began to write down and publish stories, often collected from rural storytellers in the early 19th century.

ALL TEDDY BEARS AND UNICORNS

Using the links in the resources section, print out a variety of traditional fairy tales.

Provide these to your students. Ask them to read at least four of them, in small groups, making notes on what they think the codes and conventions of fairy tales are. In other words, what must be present in a story, in order for it to be classified as a fairy tale. Once they've completed this task, come together as a class and discuss the findings of each group. There may not be complete agreement here, which is fine – there has been disagreement amongst scholars on the same subject for years! Try to come up with a list of elements that the class is happy to agree on.

Next, using the synopsis of **SHREK THE MUSICAL** from this pack, ask students to compare the agreed list of codes and conventions to the story of Shrek. In what ways does it conform to the conventions of a fairy tale and in what ways does it subvert these?

Next, in their groups, ask students to come up with their own 'modern' fairy tale, ideally one that has a moral outcome; that either conforms, or deliberately subverts the conventions that they have identified. They should try to come up with something original, rather than update an existing story – something that is suitable for the X-Box generation!

YOU WANT ME TO READ YOU A BEDTIME STORY?

Having written their new modern fairy tale stories, ask students to divide them into small sections, each section equivalent to one page of a children's book. Now, they should come up with dramatic images that illustrate each page of the book. They should create these as tableaux, using themselves to represent the characters, considering their body language and facial expressions. Take photographs of these, put them together with the text using a desktop publishing programme, print and donate to the library of your local feeder Infant or Primary School.



RESOURCES

Once upon a time, there was a little ogre named Shrek, who lived with his parents in a bog by a tree. It was a pretty nasty place, but he was happy because ogres like nasty.

from SHREK THE MUSICAL
Book by David Lindsay-Abaire

FAIRY TALES ONLINE

A comprehensive collection of *Grimms Fairy Tales* is available free at:

<http://www.familymanagement.com/literacy/grimms/grimms-toc.html>

Some of the work of Hans Christian Anderson can be found for free at: <http://hca.gilead.org.il/#list>

Aesop's Fables can be found free at: <http://www.aesopfables.com/>

A large selection of Norwegian folktales can be found for free at: <http://oaks.nvg.org/norwegian-folktales.html>

Lots of other out of copyright children's stories can be found at: <http://people.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/storclas.html>