Fairy Tale Elements

A fairy tale is a fictional story that may feature folkloric characters (fairies, goblins, elves, troll, witches, giants and talking animals) and enchantments or magic. They have their roots in oral storytelling. Fairy Tales with similar plots, characters, and motifs are found spread across many different cultures.

Special beginning and/or ending words: Once upon a time… and they lived happily ever after. Sometimes there is a surprise ending.

**Good Character:** Do you see a kind, innocent character? Is the good character clever? Is s/he helped by others?

**Evil Character:** Do you see a witch? A mean animal? An evil stepmother? A sinister gnome?

**Royalty:** Is there a castle? A prince? A princess? A king? A queen?

**Poverty:** Do you see a poor working girl? A poor family? A poor shepherd? Is someone struggling to just make it?

**Magic:** Do you see magical things happening? Talking animals/objects? Fairies, trolls, elves, goblins, witches, etc?

**Problem/Solution:** Does the good character have a problem? Does the evil character interfere in the solution?

**Recurring Patterns/Numbers:** Do you see any patterns? You may see things, phrases, tasks appear in “threes” and/or “sevens”.

**Common Motifs:**

*Talking animals/objects * Cleverness/trickster/word games * Traveler’s tales * Triumph of the poor * Youngest VS Oldest

*Struggle between good and evil * Sleep * Guardians * Magic words or phrases/repetition of phrases * Keys, passes

*Human weakness explored (greed, laziness, superiority) * Human strengths glorified (kindness, generosity, patience)

*Impossible tasks * Common lessons learned – with bigger meanings not just for children

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<th>Name of Fairy Tale</th>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Good Char.</th>
<th>Evil Char.</th>
<th>Magic</th>
<th>Problem and Solution</th>
<th>3’s or 7’s</th>
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