

THUMBELINA

By Hans Christian Andersen
Illustrated by Brian Pinkney
A Greenwillow Book

Tr 0-688-17476-0 • Lb 0-688-17477-9

BAD BOYS

By Margie Palatini
Illustrated by Henry Cole
Katherine Tegen Books

Tr 0-06-000102-X • Lb 0-06-000103-8



GOLDIE AND THE THREE BEARS

Written and illustrated by Diane Stanley
Tr 0-06-000008-2 • Lb 0-06-000009-0

RUMPELSTILTSKIN'S DAUGHTER

Written and illustrated by Diane Stanley
Tr 0-688-14327-X
Lb 0-688-14328-8 • Pb 0-06-441095-1



THERE WAS AN OLD WOMAN WHO LIVED IN A BOOT

By Linda Smith
Illustrated by Jane Manning
Tr 0-06-028691-1 • Lb 0-06-623746-7

DEAR TOOTH FAIRY

By Pamela Duncan Edwards
Illustrated by Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick
Katherine Tegen Books
Tr 0-06-623972-9 • Lb 0-06-623973-7



RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

www.nationalgeographic.com/grimm/


This National Geographic site presents the original text to tales by the Brothers Grimm.

www.darsie.net/talesofwonder

Tales of Wonder: Folk and Fairy Tales from Around the World is a superb site that archives multicultural folk and fairy tales.

www.surlalunefairytales.com

Visitors to this site will learn about the history of fairy tales and find original versions of "The Three Little Pigs," "Rumpelstiltskin," and "Rapunzel," among others.

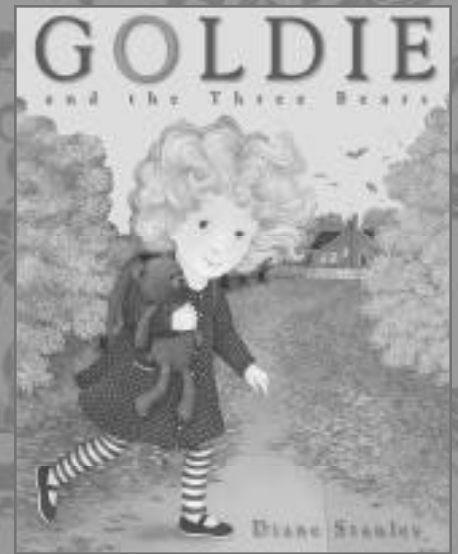
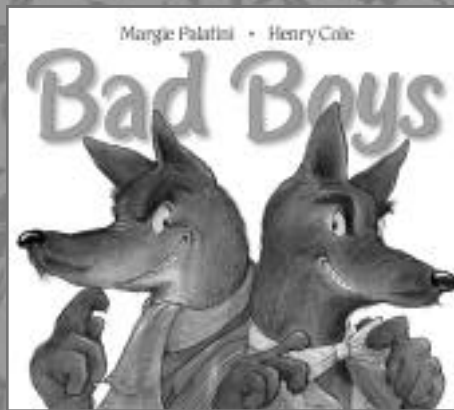
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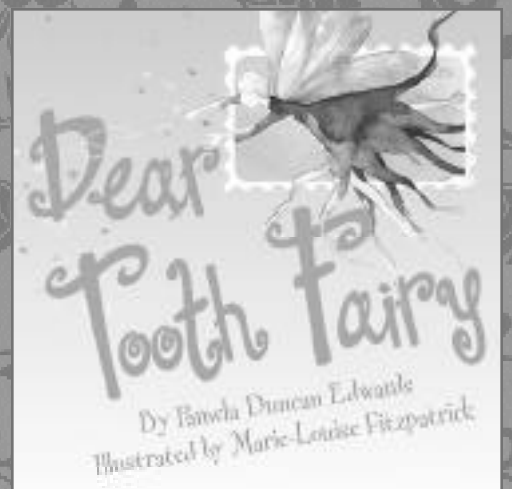
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Teaching ideas prepared by Jaime Joyce, Educational Consultant, Brooklyn, NY



Fun with Fairy Tales: A Teacher's Guide

FROM HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN'S BOOKS



DEAR TEACHERS:

From "The Three Little Pigs" to "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," "Rumpelstiltskin" to "Rapunzel," chances are you've read your share of fairy tales to students. You've most likely read them a fair amount of so-called fractured fairy tales too—humorous, often over-the-top versions of well-known stories in which the authors turn tradition on its ear. In this guide we've put the focus on these reconfigured classics, with discussion questions and activities for a handful of selected titles. The goal? To immerse students in the genre and introduce them to the writer's craft by examining how authors draw on time-honored texts to create something entirely new. We hope you'll find this guide to be a useful companion as you share these stories with your students.

The HarperCollins Children's Books Educational Marketing Team



LAY THE GROUNDWORK

- Find out what students already know. Ask: "What is a fairy tale?" Follow up by asking students what fairy tales they have read or heard. List responses on chart paper. Come back to this question at the end of the unit. At that time ask students if they can identify the common characteristics of a fairy tale. Compare the later answers to the original answers. This activity can be set up as a K-W-L chart and used to track what students think they know about fairy tales, what they want to find out about fairy tales, and what they actually learned about fairy tales. (This can include story characteristics, plot similarities, history of fairy tales, famous tales, etc.)
- Make fairy tales part of your classroom library. Read stories aloud. Have students listen to readings of stories and/or read them independently or with a partner. Treat this as a unit or a year-long study.
- Explain to students that they will be studying new versions of classic fairy tales. Ask: "Have you heard or read any new versions of classic fairy tales?" List the titles on chart paper.

READY, SET, READ!

Keep track of the reading with these two activities:

- Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast different versions of stories.
- Create story maps to compare characters, plot, setting, problems, and solutions in each story. Record responses in chart form, listing titles across the top and the different story elements down the side.

Thumbelina

By Hans Christian Andersen • Illustrated by Brian Pinkney

In this retelling of the Hans Christian Andersen tale, a thumb-sized girl is taken from her home by a large toad and experiences great adventure before finding the perfect suitor .

QUESTIONS

- How does Thumbelina get her name?
- Who captures Thumbelina? Why?
- Why does Thumbelina agree to marry the mole? What will she gain by marrying him? What will she have to give up?
- How does Thumbelina escape the marriage? What happens as a result?

ACTIVITIES

- Pinkney's version of this Hans Christian Andersen story stays true to the original. Have students come up with funny and outrageous ways to update the story. For example, Thumbelina could be named after a different body part, such as the big toe. Instead of preparing to marry the mole she could be engaged to a warthog. Examine the story's key elements (character, plot, setting, etc.), then brainstorm a list of ways to change them to create a brand-new tale.
- Have students create shoebox dioramas of Thumbelina's small-sized world. Encourage students to incorporate natural elements such as walnut shells, flower petals, and stones into their diorama. You may wish to go on a nature walk to collect ingredients necessary for the diorama.
- Danish author Hans Christian Andersen's original fairy tales were first published in the early 1800s. Take students to the school library and have them find other tales by Hans Christian Andersen. Don't miss the Caldecott Honor Book *The Ugly Duckling* by Jerry Pinkney (HarperCollins ISBN 0-688-15932-X).
- Display copies of *Thumbelina* by Brian Pinkney and *The Ugly Duckling* by Jerry Pinkney and ask students if they notice anything similar (i.e., author's last name). Conduct an author/illustrator study focusing on the talented Pinkney family. One activity suggestion is to focus on the father/son artist styles, or to do a family tree and compare all their award-winning works. The wonderful Pinkney family includes Jerry (father), Gloria Jean (mother), Brian (son), Andrea Davis Pinkney (daughter-in-law; Brian's wife).

CHECK OUT THESE OTHER CLASSIC FAIRY TALES FROM HARPERCOLLINS:

The Book of Fairies

Selected and illustrated by Michael Hague
Tr 0-688-10881-4

Jack and the Beanstalk

Written and illustrated by Steven Kellogg
Tr 0-688-10250-6
Lb 0-688-10251-4
Pb 0-688-15281-3

Rose Red and the Bear Prince

By the Brothers Grimm
Illustrated by Dan Andreason
Tr 0-06-027966-4

The Steadfast Tin Soldier

By Hans Christian Andersen
Illustrated by Fred Marcellino
Pb 0-06-205900-9

The Twelve Dancing Princesses

As told by Marianna Mayer
Illustrated by Kinuko Y. Craft
Tr 0-688-08051-0
Pb 0-688-14392-X

Bad Boys

By Margie Palatini • Illustrated by Henry Cole

Willy and Wally, two very bad wolves on the run, are in for a surprise when they try to blend in with a flock of sheep.

QUESTIONS

- What fairy tale and nursery rhyme is the book based on?
- What has the author added or changed to create this new version?
- Why are Willy and Wally on the run?
- How do they disguise themselves?
- How do the lambs learn Willy and Wally's true identities?



ACTIVITIES

- Write a newspaper article that describes why Willy and Wally are in trouble. Include information about what have they done, why they are on the run, and who is hot on their tails. Where were they last seen? What do they look like and how might they be disguised?
- The reader is able to identify the wolves as characters from the original "Three Little Pigs" fable by the art on the first page. Write a sequel to *Bad Boys* by bringing Willy and Wally into another famous fairy tale or nursery rhyme setting. What happens to them next? Do they get into more trouble? Or do they change their ways?
- Ask students if they can retell the classic fairy tale "The Three Little Pigs." Then read Steven Kellogg's version. Use the reproducible of the Venn diagram and have students note the similarities and differences between the versions. Model an example first. For younger students, you may choose to do this as a whole group activity.



FOR HUMOROUS ADAPTATIONS OF "THE THREE LITTLE PIGS" CHECK OUT:

The Chicken Sisters

By Laura Numeroff
Illustrated by Sharleen Collicott
Tr 0-06-026679-1
Pb 0-06-443520-2

The Three Little Pigs

Written and illustrated
by Steven Kellogg
Tr 0-688-08731-0
Lb 0-688-08732-9
Pb 0-06-443779-5

Wait! No Paint!

Written and illustrated
by Bruce Whatley
Tr 0-06-028270-3
Lb 0-06-028271-1

Goldie and the Three Bears

Written and illustrated by Diane Stanley

A girl named Goldie searches for the perfect friend, and she finds one when she pays an unexpected visit to the home of three bears.

QUESTIONS

- What fairy tale is *Goldie* based on?
- How is Stanley's version different from the original?
- Do you think it was a good idea for Goldie to enter the bears' home? Why or why not?
- What would you do if you got off at the wrong bus stop or were lost?

ACTIVITIES

- Create a "friend wanted" ad for Goldie. What qualities is she looking for in a friend? What kinds of activities would she like to enjoy with a friend? Include a picture of Goldie to go with her ad.



Rumpelstiltskin's Daughter

Written and illustrated by Diane Stanley

A greedy king captures a woman he believes can spin straw into gold—but her real skill turns out to be beating the king at his own game, and reaping rewards for the benefit of the poor villagers.

QUESTIONS

- What fairy tale is *Rumpelstiltskin's Daughter* based on?
- How is Stanley's version different from the original?
- Why does Rumpelstiltskin's daughter decide to play along with the king's demand for gold?
- How does she trick the king? What reasons does she have for deceiving him?
- How does Rumpelstiltskin's daughter help others?

ACTIVITIES

- Draw pictures to show what the village looked like before and after Rumpelstiltskin's daughter tricks the king into giving away gold.
- Take a tip from Rumpelstiltskin's daughter and organize community service projects in your school and neighborhood. Collect gently used clothes for a local shelter. Volunteer to read to younger students. Brainstorm ideas about how to help others and take on initiatives as a class.

Another Classic: Cinderella

Over the years there have been hundreds of versions of the classic fairy tale "Cinderella." Although the tales vary within different cultures, the premise is basically the same. Find a handful of the most popular versions and entitle your lesson "Cinderella Around the World." Some book suggestions are listed below .

ACTIVITIES

- Instead of a Venn diagram, post a chart on the wall. Label each column of the chart as follows: Title, Similarities, Differences, and Part of the World.
- Use the books as a springboard to geography lessons and study the land, people, and cultures of the various locales.

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale

Written and illustrated by John Steptoe

Tr 0-688-04045-4

Lb 0-688-04046-2

Pb 0-688-12935-8

Pb 0-688-15481-6 (Spanish Edition)

The Irish Cinderlad

By Shirley Climo

Illustrated by Loretta Krupinski

Tr 0-06-024396-1

Pb 0-06-443577-6

The Korean Cinderella

By Shirley Climo

Illustrated by Ruth Heller

Tr 0-06-020432-X

Pb 0-06-443397-8

The Egyptian Cinderella

By Shirley Climo

Illustrated by Ruth Heller

Tr 0-690-04822-X

Lb 0-690-04824-6

Pb 0-06-443279-3

YET ANOTHER CINDERELLA!

Cinder Edna

By Ellen Jackson • Illustrated by Kevin O'Malley

Tr 0-688-12322-8 • Pb 0-688-16295-9

- Ask students what it means to live "happily ever after," as is the ending of most fairy tales. Then read *Cinder Edna* aloud to the class. What makes this variation of the classic tale so different? How does the addition of a similar character change the appeal of the story? Ask students who they think lived happily ever after—Cinderella or Cinder Edna. Why?

WRAP IT UP

Bring your study of fairy tales to a meaningful conclusion by giving students the opportunity to share their learning with others. Have students:

- Write and illustrate an updated version of a classic fairy tale.
- Conduct a survey to determine the class's favorite fairy tale. [See reproducible.]
- Stage a play. Students should write their own version of a fairy tale in script form and design costumes and props, then perform the play for classmates.
- Create a fairy tale museum. Focus on four or five classic tales and the new stories they've spawned. Create posters tracing the evolution of these tales. Summarize the originals. Explain how the stories have changed over time in the hands of different authors.

JUST FOR FUN

Fairy tales aren't the only stories authors modify and have fun with. Mother Goose and the Tooth Fairy get their turn in the spotlight in these two titles:

There Was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Boot

By Linda Smith • Illustrated by Jane Manning

In this new version of the classic Mother Goose rhyme, a grumpy old woman's plan to quiet the children next door backfires and she must learn to live with the consequences.

QUESTIONS

- What problem does the old woman encounter in this story?
- How does she attempt to solve the problem?
- How is the situation finally resolved?

ACTIVITIES

- Read the original Mother Goose rhyme "There Was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe." Have students experiment with verse using the Mother Goose original and Smith's updated version as examples. Imagine other scenarios with different neighbors. For example, how would the old woman respond if a family of musicians moved in next door and kept her up all night practicing their instruments? What if a family who had a lot of pets moved in?



Dear Tooth Fairy

By Pamela Duncan Edwards • Illustrated by Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick

A girl named Claire enjoys corresponding with the tooth fairy .

QUESTIONS

- What questions does Claire ask of the Tooth Fairy?
- How does the tooth fairy respond?
- How do you get your loose teeth to come out?

ACTIVITIES

- Create a list of questions students have for the tooth fairy. Have students write a letter to the tooth fairy addressing one of these questions.
- Research what children in different countries do when they lose a tooth. Have students share what they do in their own household when they lose a tooth.
- With adult supervision, have students sew a special case for lost teeth.
- Have children survey classmates to find out at what age they lost their first tooth. [See reproducible.] Students can graph the results.

