

# Fractured Fairy Tale

Length: *minimum* two pages

Apologia: half a page

Format: typed, 12 pt., double-spaced

Fairy tales, like most short stories, follow a planned path of introduction, inciting spark, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution. Fairy tales, like any short story, are comprised of other literary elements as well: characters, theme, plot, setting, etc.

Fractured fairy tales do the same thing as traditional fairy tales, but differently. They are traditional tales that have been rearranged to create new plots with different meanings or messages. In order to fracture a tale, you first must decode the original tale's motifs (patterns) and plot and then encode them in a new pattern.

Your assignment is to take a traditional fairy tale from any culture and fracture it. Here are the steps you should follow:

1. Select a tale you like. It doesn't have to be a really popular or widely known tale, but if you like it, you will enjoy fracturing it.
2. Read and reread the tale, look closely at archetypes, stereotypes, plot, character, conflict, language, setting, style, and any other element that is relevant to your story. I have a number of links on my websites to fairy tales. Check them out! Bring in a copy or link to your story on Thursday, 2/11, and make sure you have a brief summary to present to the class. This is worth 5 points.
3. In addition, make sure you have a good understanding of the moral, message, and meaning of your story.
4. Play with the story. Mix things up. Have fun. How do you want to change your story? What do you want to say? Do you want to empower Hansel and Gretel and make them children's rights activists? Do you want to make Sleeping Beauty an insomniac? How about giving Repunzel head lice? (After all, hygiene in that tower must have been an issue.) Your message can be serious or comic or both.
5. Thursday we will be sharing our original stories and ideas to fracture.
6. Take the comments from the class and factor them into your ideas and start drafting
7. You will need to bring a rough draft to class on Thursday, February 18. That's lots of time, so it should be very complete by then. Your story rough draft is worth 10 points and your apologia rough draft is worth 5, so both must be complete.

8. Finally, you will need to compose your apologia. This should be at least half a page long and must point out:
- The message of the original story
  - The revised message of the story (it may be the same as the original)
  - What you changed and why you changed it
  - Examine the didactic quality of the original vs. that of your creation.
  - Somewhere in your story you must use the word *phantasia* (“making visible”) correctly.

Here the calendar; the rubric is attached:

Thursday, 2/11 ideas	Identify original story ( <b>5 points</b> ), discuss fracturing Work day in class
Friday, 2/18	Rough draft workshop ( <b>10 points</b> for story and <b>5 points</b> for apologia)
Tuesday, 2/22	Final draft due: <b>sharing</b>