

Fractured Fairy Tale

Original Tale Workday: 2/16 (Wednesday)

Rough Draft Due: 2/18 (Friday)

Final Draft Due: 2/22

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, irony, and setting, to name a few. 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. **Due 2/16, 5 points. Bring to class for credit.**
2. Make a copy of the tale and read it (you will need either hand in a copy of the tale or a link to the tale online—I prefer the link). As you read and reread it, look closely at archetypes, stereotypes, plot, character, conflict, language, setting, style, and any other element that is relevant to your story.
3. Make sure you have a good understanding of the moral, message, and meaning of your story. If not, spend some time getting together with friends or members of the class to determine what your story might be saying.
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. Write up a draft and bring to class to share in a peer review workshop. Please have the draft typed so all can read what you have written, and make sure you have a total of three copies. **Due 2/18, 10 points.**
6. Take the comments from the class and factor them into your draft.

7. Finally, you will need to compose your apologia. This should be at least half a page long and must point out:
 - The original message of the story
 - The revised message of the story (it may be the same as the original)
 - What you changed and why you changed it
 - The components of Freytag's pyramid in your rewritten version

Rubric? See attached.