

Welcome to Fairy Tales



Here, we love all things magical, mystical, and moral. Take a look around and get to know some of the oldest stories known to man. Then, if you like what you see, [subscribe to our newsletter](#) and [join our Fan Club](#).

What is a Fairy Tale?



Fairy tales, sometimes called fables, are a certain kind of folk tale. Folk tales are popular stories that are passed down by word of mouth. Because fairy tales were passed down from generation to generation orally, they are considered a type of folk tale. Other folk tales include legends, epics, and myths. So then what makes a fairy tale a fairy tale? And do they always have fairies in them?

Elements of a Fairy Tale

- They don't take place in any particular location. Unless you agree that all fairy tales take place in the land of Faërie.
- The stories usually contain magic. But not always.
- They usually contain a talking animal. But that's not a requirement.
- Fairy tales can usually be defined by their plots: quests, obstacles, the prize of marrying a princess. Unless there is no princess, or obstacle, or quest.
- They usually teach a moral. Sometimes.



There are many elements of fairy tales that make them hard to define. The various types of fairy tales and the many cultures that have made them popular ensure that elements of the stories aren't exact for all fairy tales overall.

[Stith Thompson](#), a renowned folklorist, described fairy tales in his book *The Folktale* (1977) as:

A tale of some length involving a succession of motifs or episodes. It moves in an unreal world without definite locality or definite creatures and is filled with the marvelous. In this never-never land, humble heroes kill adversaries, succeed to kingdoms and marry princesses.

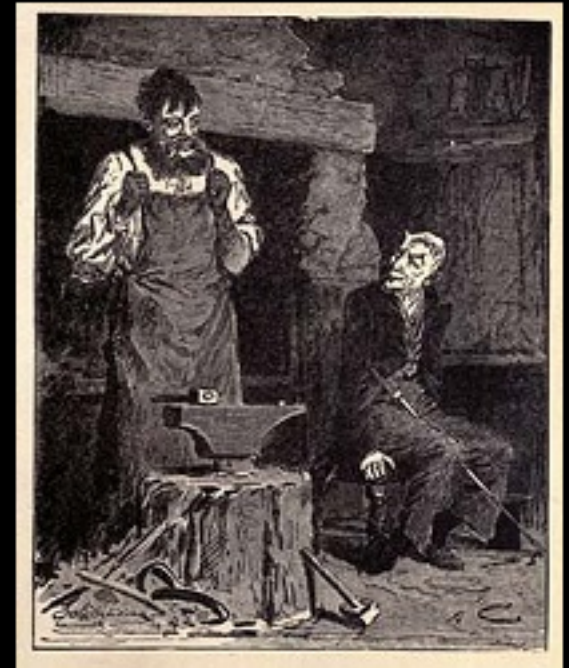
You can see why stories such as these have been handed down generation after generation. These fantastical worlds with magical witches, evil curses, and where good triumphs over evil are universally adored.

The History of Fairy Tales

Fairy tales are some of the oldest forms of stories created by humans. Due to the stories being told instead of being written down, the exact history and age of certain fairy tales are hard to pin down.

Fairy tales come from all across the world. Historians have found Egyptian fairy tales that date back to 1300 BCE! Other old fairy tales of note include those from Rome and India from 100-200 CE respectively. The oldest European fairy tale, *The Smith and the Devil* is thought to be over 6,000 years old.

Though today we think of fairy tales as stories for children, originally this was not the case. Fairy tales reached a wide audience and many of the original versions were filled with adult themes such as sex, violence, murder, and cannibalism. However, as fairy tales were collected in later years, many of the collectors changed or eliminated themes deemed not suitable for children. In fact, The Brothers Grimm changed their collection of *Children's and Household Tales* due to societal pressure that deemed the stories too gruesome for children.



If you're interested in hearing fairy tales as they were originally intended, click the [image](#) to listen to the podcast *Tales* by Parcast.

Fairy Tales Today



Fairy tales are some of the oldest stories we as humans have created. The themes they discuss transcend geographical boundies, time, and language. It's no wonder that today, many artists are creating fairy tales of their own. Here are some of our favorite "new" fairy tales and remixes of beloved favorites. Have a suggestion we should add to our list? [Send us an email!](#)

The Three Brothers

One of our favorite "new" fairy tales comes from one of the most popular book series of all time: Harry Potter. In the movie, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1*, Hermione reads the tale of *The Three Brothers*. You'll notice fairy tale elements including magic and morality. The story even pays homage to original fairy tales with dark themes like suicide. You can watch the clip below.



Pan's Labyrinth

In 2006, Guillermo del Toro received rave reviews for his movie *Pan's Labyrinth*. [David Germain of Today.com](#) wrote that the movie was a "*visually wondrous fairy tale for adults*". Though the movie follows Ofelia, a girl of about 10, the violence and adult content in the movie earned it an **R** rating. You can watch a trailer for the movie below.



Once Upon a Time

Were you a fan of ABC's *Once Upon a Time*? The TV show centers around, Storybrooke, a small town in Maine whose residents are all fairy tale characters. The television series lasted six seasons and was nominated for multiple awards shows. Watch the season one trailer below.



Still Hankering?

When you dive down to the most basic elements of fairy tales, you'll quickly start to see the myriad ways in which other art forms borrow from them. For example, *Beauty and the Beast* is, at its core, a story of loving someone for who they are instead of what they look like. Many books and movies today repeat the same sentiment fairy tales have long told us - but it's always fun to see updated and remixed versions! Peruse our table below for a starting point of modern fairy tales.

Title	Type	Based on
Snow White & the Huntsman	Movie	Snow White
Howl's Moving Castle	Movie	Beauty & the Beast
Cinder	Book	Cinderella
The Saga of Shahrzad & Khalid	Book	One Thousand & One Nights
The Shape of Water	Movie	Beauty and the Beast & Little Mermaid
Thorn	Book	The Goose Girl
Ever After	Movie	Cinderella
Big Fish	Movie	<i>Original</i>
Stardust	Movie & Comic Book	<i>Original</i>
Pretty Woman	Movie	Cinderella
Spirited Away	Movie	<i>Original</i>
The Princess Bride	Movie	<i>Original</i>

Interested in more books based on fairy tales? [Bookriot has a great Must Read list.](#)

Young adult fiction, graphic novels, and fantasy storytelling borrow many themes, plots, and ideas from fairy tales. Visit these websites to see just how much in common YA, fantasy, graphic novels, and fairy tales all have in common.

Subscribe to our Newsletters!



Fairy Tales has multiple newsletters that keep you informed on all things *magical*. Sign up and select the ones you want to receive in your inbox.

Fairy Tails is a monthly newsletter where we highlight the cutest animals from around the world, all named after fairy tale characters.

FAIRy Tales is a monthly newsletter where we highlight new books and movies that do justice to the original fairy tale they portray.

Fauxy Tales is a monthly newsletter where we highlight new books and movies that completely modernize the original fairy tales they portray.

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Rapunzel

Little Red Riding Hood

Hansel and Gretel

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After you've submitted your form, you'll receive an automatic email ensuring that you want to opt-in. Simply click the link in the email so that we can confirm your participation.

Need Even More Magic?

If monthly newsletters aren't enough to quench your fairy tale thirst, we've got you covered.

Become a Fairy Tale Fan Club Member!

Members receive exclusive access to never-before-seen content, first pick of new merchandise, and goodies on your birthday. Plus, you help ensure that Fairy Tales keeps bringing interesting content to folklorists everywhere.

Hansel	Gretel
Welcome Packet	Welcome Packet
Member Only Content	Member Only Content
5% Discount	20% Discount
Birthday Card	Online Birthday Shoutout
<div>\$ 10</div> <div>per month</div>	<div>\$ 25</div> <div>per month</div>
<div>Sign Up</div>	<div>Sign Up</div>

About the Fairy Tales Website

This website started as a project for my Website Development class. Tasked with picking something interesting enough to make a complete website - I decided to tackle fairy tales. Fairy tales have always fascinated me because of their enduring qualities. The stories have traveled all over the world, for thousands of years, and they are still relevant to this day. Growing up I thought all fairy tales were for children; it wasn't until I was much older that I learned many of the original fairy tales I knew were watered down to meet acceptable societal standards. Though we've heard them over and over again, the stories never get old. So many artists are reinventing them and creating new ones of their own. To me, there's something very magical about that. I hope you enjoy and find some new ways to enjoy some old fairy tales!

Resources Used:

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About Me



Hi, there. I'm Valerie Darling. I'm in my second semester of Library Science graduate school. I currently intern full-time at a special library tailored to STEM research and development. My main focus is creating screencast video tutorials so staff can learn how library platforms integrate with each other. However, my boss also asked me to help create a digital repository of rare books and asked if I could help design the webpage. So I enrolled in the class to gain a better understanding of website development.

Coming into the Web Development class, I had a basic understanding of HTML. I knew how to take templates and make adjustments to them because I used to have a Blogger back when it was cool. However, learning the correct words, terms, and the integration of HTML and CSS was something I didn't have to deal with until this class. I really liked that we created a website *from scratch*. Looking between Assignments 1 and 4 (before templates were used) is indictative of the work I learned having to implement so many different elements and features in my website. The more you do something, the more comfortable you become with it. I also appreciated that the class was self-paced. I was able to complete and work on projects as I wanted and was able to get ahead when I had the time.




One of the major challenges I faced was learning how to edit and write in an HTML editor as opposed to a word processor. There were many times I deleted something and forgot to delete the open tag. And other times, I started typing paragraphs into tables or headings. After fiddling with the settings of Notepad++, I utilized some keyboard shortcuts that greatly helped in my writing workflow.

As I mentioned, I took the class to help my boss with our library website. Having two people who can edit and update the website will help us stay relevant to our staff. But I also wanted to take this class because I wanted to ensure that I had a place to showcase my educational and workplace experience. I started graudate school after the graduation requirements switched from End of Program exam to the ePortfolio capstone experience. So, even though I have a Foliotek ePorfolio that I must work on, I'm not sure how long after graduation the website will be active. Knowing that I can take and archive my work accomplishments into a useful, interesting, and built-to-suite website gives me confidence that I'll be able to showcase my educational and work talents online even if I lose access to Foliotek.

What I would like to learn next is Bootstrap and APIs. Because our staff are researchers, learning how to integrate APIs from say *Scopus* to their websites or some other format would greatly benefit them and the library as well.

Overall, this has been one of my most practical and useful classes I've taken so far. It has been so fun and fulfilling to end the semester with a fully functioning website.

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