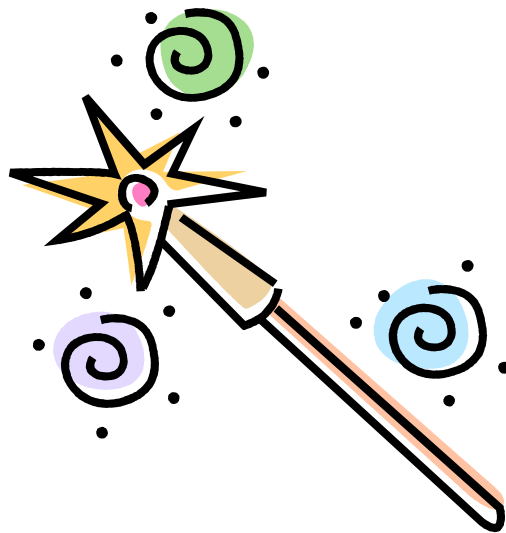




Tips on Writing a Fairy Tale



Writing a Fairy Tale: Step-by-Step Instructions

How to Write a Fairy Tale

If you ever thought you could pen a better story than Cinderella, then writing fairy tales might be for you. Many modern fairy tales are re-makes of classics such as “Cinderella” or “Little Red Riding Hood,” but if you’re imaginative and follow these simple rules of writing a fairy tale, then your story may be mentioned with one of the classics one day. Read on to learn more!

Instructions

Step 1

Decide what lesson your fairy tale is going to teach before you write it. At their core, fairy tales are morality tales from the horror of stepmothers to not talking to strangers. They are generally teaching something and yours should do the same.

Step 2

Create a good character. A fairy tale needs someone to root for. They don’t have to be perfect. Just think Jack in “Jack and the Beanstalk” or Red in “Little Red Riding Hood” but your readers should like them and want them to succeed.

Step 3

Devise an evil character. A fairy tale must have an evil character that works as an antagonist to the good character. The evil character usually has special powers of some sort and they must use those powers in a way to cause the good character pain.

Step 4

Design a magical character or object to write into the fairy tale. The magical character can be the evil character but many fairy tales have both good and evil magical characters that work to off-set the other’s influence.

Step 5

Identify what obstacles your good character is going to have to face. Whatever the obstacle, it should seem insurmountable and genuinely require a bit of creativity by your good character and a little magical assistance.

Step 6

Write a happy ending. A fairytale isn’t a fairytale unless it has a happy ending. Your good character must succeed and your evil character must lose and lose in a big way so you can write your “happily ever after.”

Key Components in How to Write a Fairy Tale

A Moral

Generally, a fairy tale is also described as a fable that teaches an important moral. The message of the story may be subtle, but it is what makes the fairy tale endure for generations of readers.

Examples of morals that can be found in fairy tales include:

- Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.
- Good things come to those who wait.
- Be careful what you wish for.
- Don't be greedy.
- Respect your elders.
- Hard work is its own reward.

Memorable Characters

To be successful, a fairy tale needs to have characters that readers can relate to. Generally, a fairy tale needs both a hero and a villain. The interaction between good and evil is a critical element in the success of your story. When learning how to write a fairy tale, keep in mind that your characters don't necessarily have to be human. Plenty of fairy tales have been created using animal characters as a starting point. Remember *The Three Little Pigs*? Elves, goblins, fairies, witches, and other magical characters can also be incorporated into a fairy tale fantasy world. In this type of writing, the sky is the limit!

An Obstacle to Overcome

Having an obstacle to overcome gives your characters something to accomplish during the story.

Some examples of obstacles that may be part of a fairy tale story theme include:

- A destination to travel to
- A person to rescue
- A curse to break
- An illness to cure
- Finding true love
- Helping a family member

A Happy Ending

What would a fairy tale be without a happy ending? Even though we don't always get what we wish for in real life, the world of fairy tales makes us believe that anything is possible. A successful fairy tale has a resolution to the plot that is believable, if not a bit optimistic. The ugly duckling turns into a beautiful swan, the pretty girl gets kissed by a prince, and "happily ever after" is just a song away.

These characteristics mark a story as a fairy tale:

- It usually begins with "Once upon a time," "Long ago," or "Once there was a ..."
- The story takes place in a distant or make-believe land.
- It features imaginary characters such as dragons, fairies, elves, and giants.
- Things happen in threes and sevens (three bears, three wishes, seven brothers).
- Wishes are often granted.
- A difficult problem is solved at the end of the story.
- Good triumphs over evil.
- The story has a happy ending.

In addition, a fairy tale will often include:

- Royal characters such as kings and princesses
 - Talking animals
 - Magical elements such as magic beans, fairy dust, enchanted castle
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How to Write a Fairy Tale

1. Who is the hero or heroine?

Pick a likeable character. Usually it is someone humble, innocent, or kind-hearted - someone the reader cares about—the hero of the story!

Examples: Aladdin, Snow White, Rapunzel, the Three Little Pigs

2. Who is the villain?

Every fairy tale has a villain, someone who has evil intentions toward the main character. This **evil character** wants to control or harm the main character, sometimes using magic powers to do so.

Examples: Big bad wolf, evil queen, Cinderella's stepmother

3. What is the magical element of the story?

Most fairy tales include a magical ingredient – something or some magic element that helps the hero and **adds enchantment to the story**. This is a good place to include those magic numbers of three or seven.

Examples: Fairy godmother, genie in a magic lamp, three gifts

4. Where will the story take place?

The setting can affect the mood of the story. For example, a forest can be filled with friendly critters and patches of sunlight, or it can be dark, gloomy, and scary.

Examples: woods, castle, tower, cottage, garden

5. What lesson will the story teach?

A fairy tale usually **teaches a lesson about excellence in conduct or character**.

Examples: loyalty, bravery, kindness, integrity, hard work, sacrifice

6. What is the story plot?

Our hero needs to **face a challenge**. The obstacle might be a destination the character must reach. There may be a person to rescue or a spell to break, or the main character may need to find true love.

Examples: Snow White must stay safe from the evil queen, the giant wants to eat Jack, true love will break the Beast's spell

7. What is the happy ending?

It isn't a fairy tale without a happy ending! How is the challenge resolved? What leads to **happily ever after**? How does the villain get what is coming to him?

Examples: The glass slipper fits Cinderella's foot, the Beast turns back into a prince, the Ugly Duckling turns into a lovely swan.