

Independent Study: Fairy Tales

Each quarter in reading, you will be assigned an independent study project to be done at home. This will be your reading homework. Each week, on Friday, you must turn in one part of the assigned project. The grades on these weekly projects will become part of your reading grade for each quarter.

This quarter, you will be reading fairy tales. Fairy tales have these characteristics:

- they were originally told orally. Thus, there may be different written versions of the same story.
- they have stock characters who are either "all bad" or "all good."
- they feature unrealistic, fantastic, or magical events.
- they teach an obvious lesson about life and how it should be lived.
- they are set in the vague historical past and usually have happy endings.

Fairy tales are also short and easy to read. You may already know some of the stories by heart. As you reread fairy tales for this assignment, please notice the traditional story elements that are found in each one. As you finish each story, fill out a story map for that story, being sure to include the theme, or lesson the story tells.

You are to read and complete a story map for three fairy tales each week. If you have any questions about the exact stories you can read for this assignment, please ask me. I will have a collection of fairy tales in our classroom, you may use your own books from home, or you can get books from the library. Some books are anthologies and have many stories in one book. If you get a book that only has one fairy tale in it, that book will usually have beautiful pictures. I think you will enjoy revisiting these stories from your childhood - and learn a little more about story elements at the same time!