

Traditional Fairytales

- Simple form of a short story
- Conflict typically involves a fight between good and evil
- Teaches the reader a moral lesson
- Uses a predictable pattern or motif but details of plot and particulars make it interesting.
- Characters are extreme examples of good and evil
 - o E.g. Cinderella (good) vs. Stepmother (evil)

Traits of good characters			Traits of bad characters		
Innocence		Patience	Ugliness		Arrogance
Gentleness		Selflessness	Greed		Selfishness
Beauty		Honesty			Dishonesty



Think about it: How do fairytales condition kids to think a certain way?

Character Motifs – typical characters in a fairy tale	
Elder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King or father • Gives advice
Messenger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bright news for the help of the hero
Hero (male or female)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endures challenges • Typically better off in the end
True Love (male or female)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Object of hero's affection • Hero battles for true love
Villain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposes hero • Force of evil • Monster
Helper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often powerful and magical • Offers hints or gifts • Tests the hero for the better
Friend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hero's companion often of lower class • Shares a binding relationship

Place Motifs – typical settings in fairy tales.	
Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordinary place, not magical • Often the starting / end point of the story
Paradise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal. • Where the hero gets his/her heart's desire • May need to overcome villain in Paradise or to get to paradise
Bad Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location that poses a threat or challenge • Hero desires escape
Limbo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shadowy and mysterious, often a forest • Hero goes through transitions in limbo • Hero makes deals

Traditional Fairytales – Character Motifs

Below are two charts that correspond to the fairytale character motif note.

On the left, complete the chart for *Little Red Riding Hood*. On the right, complete the chart as you watch *Shrek*.

<i>Little Red Riding Hood</i>		
MOTIF	NAME CHARACTER	EXPLAIN EXAMPLES OF WHAT THE CHARACTER DOES TO EARN THIS TITLE
ELDER	•	•
MESSENGER	•	•
HERO (MALE OR FEMALE)	•	•
TRUE LOVE (MALE OR FEMALE)	•	•
VILLAIN	•	•
HELPER	•	•
FRIEND	•	•

<i>Shrek</i>		
MOTIF	NAME CHARACTER	EXPLAIN EXAMPLES OF WHAT THE CHARACTER DOES TO EARN THIS TITLE
ELDER	•	•
MESSENGER	•	•
HERO (MALE OR FEMALE)	•	•
TRUE LOVE (MALE OR FEMALE)	•	•
VILLAIN	•	•
HELPER	•	•
FRIEND	•	•

