

**CONSULT**

**4**

**KIDS**

**A Unit on Fairy Tales  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

# Fairy Tales

A Fairy Tale is a story often intended for children that has some sort of “fanciful creature” or “extraordinary adventure”. Fairy tales may also include “lesson to be learned”, a take-away from the adventure or the situation. Fairy tales are found in almost every culture and region in the world, and all will have these universal elements.

In core English Language Arts Standards, third grade has been identified as the appropriate grade level to begin the analysis of Fairy Tales. Following is how this task is defined in California:

## Narrative Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

- 3.2 Comprehend basic plots of classic **fairy tales**, myths, folktales, legends, and fables from around the world.
- 3.3 Determine what characters are like by what they say or do and by how the author or illustrator portrays them.
- 3.4 Determine the underlying theme or author's message in fiction and nonfiction text.
- 3.6 Identify the speaker or narrator in a selection.

In this unit we are going to look at 3 Fairy Tales: Beauty and the Beast, Sleeping Beauty, and Snow White.

**Beauty and the Beast:** There are a number of versions of this story that you can get on the internet for free. The story is this: A merchant was traveling and came to a castle. He thought that he was alone at the castle and as he was leaving, he picked a rose to take to his daughter. At that moment, the Beast appeared and in exchange for his life, the merchant agrees to send his daughter Rose to the Beast. Because she loves her father, Rose agrees to stay with the Beast who is kind and gentle to Rose. Finally, Rose can see past the fact that he is a Beast and falls in love with him. The Beast and Rose marry and when that occurs the Beast turns into a handsome prince. He had finally released from a spell that had been cast on him earlier.

<http://ivyjoy.com/fables/>

**Sleeping Beauty:** In this Fairy Tale, a princess is born to a loving King and Queen. They invite the wise women (or fairies) to a celebration of the birth of their daughter. Now in one version, they do not invite all 13 of the wise women because they only have 12 plates, and in another, they purposefully do not invite the one that they think is mean, but whatever the reason, all but one is invited. While the wise women are giving the infant daughter gifts, the 13<sup>th</sup> arrives and “gives” the child the gift of an early death caused by plucking her finger on a spinning wheel. The final wise woman cannot undo the evil gift, but she can and does soften it so that the princess will only fall into a 100 year sleep. The kind tries to protect his daughter, but alas, she does prick her finger on a spinning wheel, falls into a deep sleep and in order to keep the family in tact, the entire castle is put into a deep sleep and a briar of thorns springs up around the castle to protect those sleeping inside. After many years a young man comes, conquers the brambles, finds the sleeping princess, and awakens her with a kiss. The whole castle wakes up and they live happily ever after.

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**Snow White:** A king and queen had a beautiful daughter with skin as white as snow and hair as black as ebony and they named her Snow White. The queen fell ill and died and the king remarried a wicked woman. The new queen was jealous of Snow White and arranged for a huntsman to take Snow White into the woods and kill her. Instead, the huntsman took Snow White into the woods and told her to run away. Snow White finds the home of the 7 Dwarfs, who take her in. She is living there happily, but through a magic mirror, the evil queen discovers that Snow White is still alive. The wicked queen disguised herself as an old lady who is sharing apples with people. She gets Snow White to take a bite of the apple and Snow White appears to have died. The 7 Dwarfs make her a bed and cover it with glass. A prince come along, removes the glass, lifts Snow White and kisses her. The evil spell is broken and they all live happily ever after.

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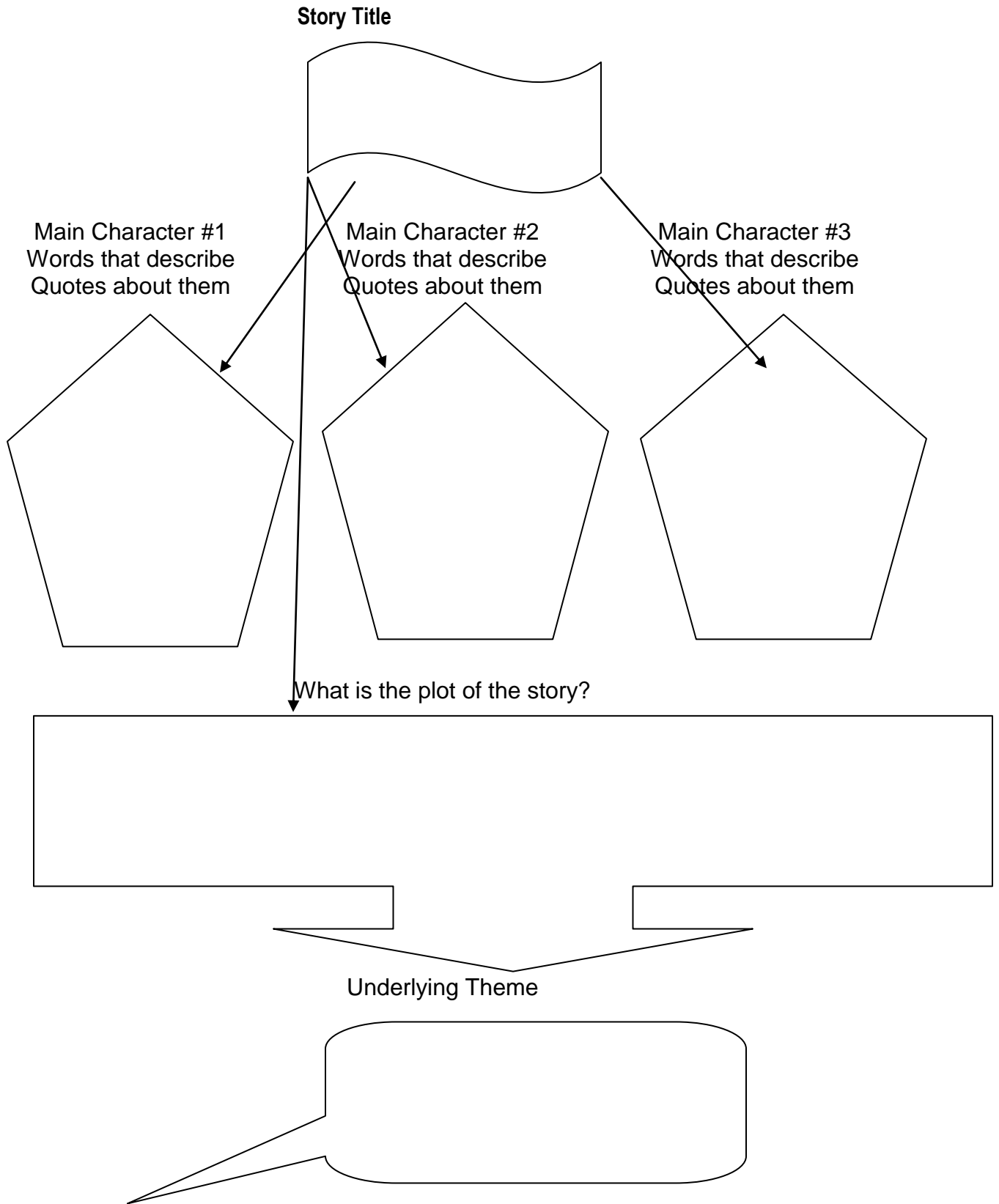
With each of these stories you are encouraged to share them with students in a variety of ways. You can certainly read them the simple story that you downloaded from the internet (website above). You can also read them the same story (maybe with a slight different twist from any number of books that include pictures). There are also a number of film versions of each of these stories and you might want to consider showing that as well. After exposing students to the story, have them create either a drama or a reader's theater script to practice and present to other classes.

Complete a Story Map (attached) for each story as well. Each one of the sections of the Story Map will address a different section of the standards identified above.

When the Story Map for each story is complete, have the students compare any two of the stories in a Venn Diagram—with the overlap of the circles being the parts of the story that are alike.

At the end of this process, debrief with the students and have them share any "lessons learned" with the group.

# Fairy Tale Story Map





For more information, contact  
Consult 4 Kids at

[www.consultfourkids.com](http://www.consultfourkids.com)