

5 Reasons Why Fairy Tales Are Good for Children

Many middle and high school students have little, if any, knowledge of the fairy tales considered part of a repertoire of an educated person's experience. Often these stories are necessary background information for a novel being studied in class as fairy tales are frequently alluded to in literature and in life. To read, speak, and understand as educated adults, students must become acquainted with this genre.

Five reasons why fairy tales are in fact great for children...

1. They boost a child's imagination and cultural literacy.

Fairy tales expand our ideas of what's possible in this world. The stories add fairies, magicians, giants, and trolls to our ordinary world, pushing our imaginations to soar. A child's imagination is a powerful and unique thing. It's not only used to make up stories and games, it's a key factor in their creative thoughts and can define the type of education, career, and life they have. With this imagination comes a cultural literacy; fairy tales often include different cultures and ways of doing things. They teach children about cultural differences in the world outside their own, gifting them a curiosity to learn new things and experience new places.

2. They teach us right from wrong.

Standing strongly within fairy tales of magic horses and glass slippers is a moral backbone. It's in a fairytale's DNA to have a strong moral lesson, a fight between good & evil, love and loss, and these lessons rub off on children. Fairy tales help to teach children an understanding of right and wrong, and that while temptations face us each and every day, the moral choice is the right one. Good almost always defeats evil; this lesson is not lost on young readers. The more wicked and evil the antagonist, the more horrible the consequence while the virtuous, good and kind protagonist achieve magnificent rewards.

Fairy tales teach children that good will always triumph, and, while this may not be true in aspects of the real world, the lesson is simple and important: Be the hero, not the villain. Learn to hope for better.

3. They develop critical thinking skills.

Fairy tales teach children critical thinking and help children learn to navigate life. They see the consequences of characters' decisions and learn that what will happen to them depends on the choices they make. Not all characters can be good role models; even 'the goodies' can be damsels in distress, or reckless princes. What the stories do teach though is that when bad things happen, you have decisions to make. Characters in fairy tales often must make difficult decisions, and those decisions may have life-altering consequences. This helps children see the relationship between choices and consequences. Children can learn alongside these characters and think of how *they* might solve the problems.

4. Fairy tales offer hope.

Not only do fairy tales prepare kids for society and making moral decisions, they teach them how to deal with conflict within themselves. In fairy tales, children are often the main character and more often than not will win against the story's evil. Readers can relate to this and find a fairy tale hero in themselves. Fairy tales help build mental muscles in children, so they can hang on in hard times and persevere. Because when faced with unimaginable hardship, suffering, and adversity, the young heroes of fairy tales are somehow able to succeed. These stories provide readers with the hope, determination, and courage that they, too, can overcome despair and become successful in a challenging world - just like the young protagonists in fairy tales!

5. And finally, they are great fun!

I have very fond memories of curling up in bed and disappearing into another world where dragons fly and princes fight. Fairy tales are stories filled with richness and complexity, yet are short and easy to read, the perfect length for a story shared with family or friends. Priceless memories can be created sharing a bedtime story with parents, grandparents, or siblings.

Whether it's for indirect moral lessons, improving their imaginations, or because children can't put that book down, reading fairy tales should be encouraged.