



FAIRY TALES

Fairy Tale: Definition

- A fictional story that may feature:
 - folkloric characters (fairies, goblins, elves, trolls, witches, giants, and talking animals)
 - enchantments, often involving a far-fetched sequence of events

Fairy Tale: Literary Genre

- Fairy tales have their roots in the oral tradition
- Fairy tales with similar plots, characters, and motifs are found across many different cultures

Fairy Tales: Common Elements

- Special beginning and/or ending
 - “Once upon a time...”
 - “...and they lived happily ever after.”
 - Sometimes, there is a surprise ending
- Universal Truths
 - The tale touches on universal experiences (i.e. coming of age) or hopes (i.e. to have enough food, to find love, etc.)

Fairy Tales: Interpretations

- *Jungian Archetypes*
 - Man's collective dream, shared experiences, deepest desires/fears
- *Freudian Psychoanalysis*
 - our primal needs at odds with our consciences
- *Feminist Theory*
 - aims to understand the nature of inequality
 - focuses on gender politics, power relations, and sexuality
 - themes: fertility, stereotyping, objectification, oppression, and patriarchy
- *Historic Analysis*
 - tales preserve history, legend, and customs
- *Moral Lessons*
 - some versions end with a lesson

Little Red Riding Hood

- FRANCE

- Charles Perrault (1628-1703)
- "Little Red Riding Hood" (Le Petit Chaperon rouge)
- 1697

- GERMANY

- Grimm Brothers
- Jacob Grimm (1785-1863) Wilhelm Grimm (1786-1859)
- "Little Red Cap" 1812

Little Red Riding Hood: Themes

- Coming of age
- Man as predator
- Woman as naïve and innocent