

Sample Intro: *Penelope*

G.K. Chesterton once said, “Fairy tales tell children the dragons can be killed.” Fairy tales are mistakenly relegated to bedtime stories and children’s books; however, these timeless narratives have been read, beloved, and retold for hundreds of years because of their universal appeal and message. Even the modern film industry draws inspiration from these centuries-old stories. One such example is *Penelope*, the 2006 film directed by Mark Palansky. Palansky crafts a modern-day fairy tale by weaving in the motifs of transportation and true love.

Sample Body Paragraph

Transportation is an object motif that is prominent in *Penelope*. Annie is a delivery person, so when Penelope rides on her vespa, she is carried all around the city with her friend. Cinderella had no way to get to the ball, so her fairy godmother turned a pumpkin into a magical carriage. Likewise, Penelope, after being stuck inside for 25 years, is ready to step outside, but she doesn't know where to go or how to get there. Thanks to Annie's vespa, Penelope is not only transported around the city, she has a friendly and knowledgeable guide to help her along the way.

Sample Conclusion: *Penelope*

Penelope is a fantasy film filled with familiar fairy tale motifs, like transportation and true love. Pig-faced girls and pumpkin carriages do not exist in real life, but people still long for a bit of magic. We may not have fairy godmothers, but stories in books and movies help people temporarily escape the harsh realities of life. These fairy tales, old and new, have the power to transport us into new worlds.

Purpose



- ▶ Synthesis of fairy tale motifs and modern film adaptations
- ▶ Focus on the writing process
 - ▶ Highly-structured essay template
 - ▶ Break down of paragraph content
 - ▶ Focused attention on intro and conclusion
 - ▶ Emphasis on structure and organization
 - ▶ Importance of revision and editing

Tips & Strategies



▶ Avoid

- ▶ “in the movie” or “beginning of the movie”
- ▶ 2nd person
- ▶ Rhetorical questions
- ▶ Ewww words (*being, I think, etc.*)

▶ Do this

- ▶ Elevate your vocab (not conversational)
- ▶ Capitalize consistently
- ▶ Use literary present tense