

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

Sample Intro: *Stardust*

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 *Stardust*, the 2007 film directed by Matthew Vaughn. Vaughn crafts a modern-day fairy tale by weaving in the classic motifs of royalty, prison, and cannibalism.

Sample Body Paragraph

Royalty is a prominent motif in *Stardust*. Following the death of the king, the princes vie for the gem that will make one of them Stormhold's next king. The pursuit of the throne drives the princes to deception, treachery, and murder. Only Tristan, the humble boy who values love and honesty above power, is deemed worthy of kingship. The princes, despite losing the throne, are still of royal blood, and are ultimately granted a place in the heavens among the stars.

Sample Conclusion: *Stardust*

Stardust is a fantasy film filled with familiar fairy tale motifs, like royalty, prison, and cannibalism. Although magical curses and stars in the form of humans do not exist in reality, people still face villains of many kinds. They may not look like witches or evil princes; instead, modern villains look like war, injustice, and addiction. Stories like *Stardust* show that it is possible for good to triumph and that true love is a powerful – if not *the* most powerful – force in the world.