

Fractured Fairytales

(Target Audience: Ages 6–8, 9–12)

1. Share some jokes and riddles from folk in fairytale land.

Examples:

Q: How does a frog prince feel when he has a broken leg?

A: *Unhappy*

Q: Why did Cinderella get kicked off the baseball team?

A: *She was always running away from the ball.*

Q: What did the sea say to the Little Mermaid?

A: *Nothing...it just waved.*

Q: Where do you go to learn how to fight dragons?

A: *Knight school.*

Q: How did Jack know how many beans to sell his cow for?

A: *He used a cow-culator.*

Q: What side of the Ugly Duckling has the most feathers?

A: *The outside.*

Q: Why does Goldilocks have so much trouble sleeping?

A: *She keeps having night-bears.*

2. Adapt a fractured fairytale into a play or puppet show. Plays can either be presented by staff or done as reader's theatre with the kids.

Here are a few books that can be adapted quite easily. Check your shelves for other possibilities.

Falling for Rapunzel by Leah Wilcox

Golden Goose by Barbara Reid

Over the Moon by Rachel Vail

3. Listen to some fractured fairytales and nutty nursery rhymes on CD.

Judy & David's *Once Upon a Tune Series*

Beanstock: A Groovy New Spin on Jack & the Beanstalk

Goldirocks: A New Spin on Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Pigmania: A New Spin on the Three Little Pigs

Red's in the Hood: A New Spin on Little Red Riding Hood

Mother Goose Rocks Series

Traditional nursery rhymes sung to the tune of popular songs with sound-alike artists like ME2, Share, and Gwen Stuffy.

Check out the website at www.mothergooserocks.com

4. Have fun with fairytale Mad-Libs.

To prepare for the program, search the Internet for some possibilities or create one of your own by taking a familiar fairytale and removing things like colours, numbers, and descriptive words and letting the children supply alternatives.

For example, "Goldilocks and the number Bears"; "Little colour Riding Hood"; "body part - alina" etc.

5. Play a Fairytale Inspired Game

a. **"Pin the Lips on the Frog Prince/Princess"**

b. **Trivia Challenge – "Are You Smarter Than Mother Goose?"**

Use your knowledge of folktales, fairytales, and nursery rhymes to come up with a trivia game that can either be played individually or in teams. Make the questions as easy or difficult as you like depending on the age of the participants.

Examples:

1. A version of the Cinderella story can be found in...

- a. Ireland
- b. China
- c. Canada
- d. All of the above (**correct answer**)

2. Which of the following stories does not have a "big bad wolf" in it?

- a. Little Red Riding Hood
- b. The Three Little Pigs
- c. Henny Penny (**correct answer**)
- d. The Wolf and the Seven Young Kids

3. Fill in the blank from the rhyme "Little Jack Horner."
"He put in his thumb and pulled out a _____"

- a. Strawberry
- b. Plum (**correct answer**)
- c. Drum
- d. Rabbit

c. **Fairytale Quick Change Dress-Up Race**

The object of this game is to be the first team to successfully transform one person into a fairytale character that changes from one thing to another (see examples below).

- i. Divide the group into teams; half of each team should be positioned at either side of the program room and one person from each team should be made “it” (i.e. the person who will be dressed as the fairytale character).
- ii. When the race starts, half of the people on each team dress “it” up as the first part of their chosen character (see examples below).
- iii. “It” runs down to the other end of the room and then quickly takes off their fairytale clothes.
- iv. The other half of the team (who were waiting for “it” at the other side of the room) then dress “it” up as the second part of their transforming character (see examples below).
- v. “It” races back to the starting point and whichever character gets there first is the winner!

**Remember to use clothing that is big enough to go over the children’s regular clothing.

(As an added challenge, “it” could be asked to pick up a particular object from a table full of “fairytale things” on their way back to the start/finish line. “It” must choose the object that comes from their story from among many other things (see examples below).

Examples:

- **Big Bad Wolf** – *Little Red Riding Hood*
from “Wolf” (hat with wolf ears, oversized shirt, overalls, furry slippers) to “Grandma” (nightcap with wolf ears, nightgown, stockings, glasses)
Fairytale Object: Basket of Goodies
- **Fa Mulan** –*Mulan*
from “Girl” (kerchief, robe, apron, sandals) to “Warrior” (helmet, tunic, pants, shoes)
Fairytale Object: Sword
- **Aladdin** – *The Arabian Nights*
from “Poor Boy” (cap, vest, ripped pants, sandals) to “Prince” (sheik’s hat, cape, tunic, fancy slippers)
Fairytale Object: Magic Lamp

- **The Wicked Queen** – *Snow White and the 7 Dwarves*
from “Queen” (crown, dress, cape, high heels) to
“Witch” (white wig, cloak, black slippers, mole)
Fairytale Object: Poisoned Apple

- **The Frog Prince** – *The Frog Prince*
from “Frog” (green cap with ping-pong ball eyes glued on,
green sweatshirt, green pants, flippers) to
“Prince” (crown, fancy shirt, cape, men’s dress shoes)
Fairytale Object: Golden Ball

- **Cinderella** – *Cinderella*
from “Rag Girl” (kerchief, tattered dress, apron, old
shoes) to “Princess” (tiara, ball gown, shawl, glass
slippers)
Fairytale Object: Pumpkin

Other Fairytale Objects could include *magic wand, harp, beans, thimble, red rose, shield, stuffed mouse, sheep, or dragon, bowl of porridge, cauldron, etc.*)

For more fractured fairytale fun, why not check out *Mother Goose Unplucked: Crazy Comics, Zany Activities, Nutty Facts & Other Twisted Takes on Childhood Favorites* by Helaine Becker.