

ALAN v30n2 - Familiar Fairy Tale Picture Books Transformed into Teen Novels

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Edited by E. Thomas Ewing
and Katherine Randall

push the witch into the oven, and they are saved. Then have students read *The Magic Circle* by Donna Jo Napoli and search for the kernel of the Hansel and Gretel story, looking for similarities and differences. Several features of the novel will intrigue readers. For instance, the narrator is the witch who was a healer until she was tricked by demons. She isolates herself so that she will not be tempted to eat children. By the time Hansel and Gretel appear at her house, she has carefully arranged her life to avoid evil. But the children tempt her and she knows that she will not be able to resist eating them. She sacrifices herself in her own oven rather than live with the knowledge that she has eaten children.

Offering students the opportunity to compare a picture book with a teen novel allows us to review familiar tales with students. Some teens may not know traditional fairy tales. Here is a chance to acquaint them with an aspect of cultural literacy they may have missed in their childhood. For teens who loved fairy tales when they were younger, reading and discussing familiar tales will feel comfortable or even nostalgic. This feeling may entice reluctant readers to explore novels with the kernel elements of a fairy tale.

The titles of picture books and teen novels that follow are grouped by nine popular tales, for easy comparison. The picture books are traditional versions, beautifully illustrated. No parodies or other cultural variations are included. This is a selected list of titles based upon my fondness and admiration for particular illustrators. Certainly there are still more titles available. The teen novels recommended are suitable for middle school and high school students with some variation in age levels, as noted in the commentary. Through comparing picture books and teen novels, we have one last chance to introduce fairy tales to older readers, to introduce readers to the beauty of book illustration, to encourage critical thinking, and to expand cultural literacy. *Beauty, Beast, Cinderella, Hansel, Gretel, Jack, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, Rumpelstiltskin, Sleeping Beauty, and Snow White* can make all of that possible.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

■ Picture Books

Mayer, Marianne. *Beauty and the Beast*. Illus. by Mercer Mayer. New York: Sea Star Books, 2000.

Gr. K-3. Mercer Mayer's dramatic and richly painted illustrations enhance the familiar romantic story of the love between an enchanted prince and a beautiful young woman.

McCaughrean, Geraldine. *Beauty and the Beast*. Illustrated by Gary Blythe. New York: Carol Rhoda Books, 2000.

Gr. K-3. This spare retelling combined with almost surreal illustrations creates a mysterious feel to the classic tale.

■ YA Novels

McKinley, Robin. *Beauty: A Retelling of the Story of Beauty & the Beast*. New York: HarperCollins, 1985.

Gr. 5-10. This novel has mesmerized readers for years with its beautiful language, believable characters, and magically satisfying story.

McKinley, Robin. *Rose Daughter*. New York: Greenwillow, 1997.

Gr.6-12. Robin McKinley revisits and expands the Beauty and the Beast story as she explores the transforming power of love.

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Beast*. New York: Atheneum, 2000.

Gr.7-12. Orasmy, a Persian Prince, cursed by a fairy, becomes the Beast and tells an absorbing story from his viewpoint as a lion. Belle, a French beauty, plays a traditional role and redeems him.

CINDERELLA

Picture Books

Brown, Marcia. *Cinderella*. New York: Atheneum, 1971.

Gr. K-4. Winner of a Caldecott Medal, this French fairy tale follows a familiar story line enhanced by pastel illustrations that shimmer with delicate beauty, humor, and timelessness.

Craft, K. Y. *Cinderella*. New York: Seastar Books, 2000.

Gr. K-3. Adapted primarily from The Arthur Rackham Fairy Book and Andrew Tang's *The Blue Fairy Book*, Craft's lavish illustrations reflect an imaginary setting of seventeenth and eighteenth century France. The text is embellished elaborately with borders and illumination of the first letter on each page. Full-page illustrations rendered in oil over watercolor add romance and mystery to a familiar story.

YA Novels

Jukes, Mavis. *Cinderella 2000*. New York: Delacorte Press, 2000.

Gr.6-10. Ashley Ella Toral is plagued with an embarrassing stepmother and twin stepsisters when all she wants is to spend New Year's Eve at the Ocean Crest Country Club with a special boyfriend. Clever and humorous trappings of the traditional Cinderella story will entertain teens who dream of romance but are hampered with everyday problems.

Levine, Gail Carson. *Ella Enchanted*. New York: HarperCollins Juvenile Books, 1997.

Gr. 4-7. Lucinda, a fool of a fairy, gives Ella the curse of unerring obedience. The result is a miserable childhood as Ella struggles against becoming a victim to whichever child discovers her curse. This novel has won important recognition as a 1998 Newbery Honor, a 1998 American Library Association's Notable Book, and a 1999 International Reading Association's Young Adults' Choices.

HANSEL AND GRETEL

Picture Book

Lesser, Rika. *Hansel and Gretel*. Illus. by Paul O. Zelinsky. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1999.

Gr. K-3. Based on the first transcription and first printing of the Grimm tale, this winner of a 1985 Caldecott Honor, presents the tale of two children who outwit a witch to return to their grateful father. Zelinsky's beautifully shadowed illustrations complement the spare but dramatic text.

YA Novel

Napoli, Donna Jo. *The Magic Circle*. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1995.

Gr. 5-8. The Ugly One, with her twisted back and her eye for beauty, is the village midwife and healer. She learns to be a sorceress and to call demons while protected in a magic circle. One small mistake, one break in the circle, and she "is snatched by a demon and becomes the Ugly Witch. Demon voices urge her to eat a child. To escape people she isolates herself in a forest until Hansel and Gretel appear to tempt her. This is a fascinating story from the witch's viewpoint.

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

Picture Books

Howe, John. *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1998.

Gr. K-3. John Howe's version shows a terrifying, black-armored giant from whom Jack steals the hen, a sack of gold, and the golden harp. The classic English fairy tale is embellished with elegant visual sweeps of the beanstalk and the castle in the sky

Kellogg, Steven. *Jack and the Beanstalk*. New York: William Morrow and Company, 1991.

Gr. K-3. Kellogg's familiar humor marks detailed illustrations of a plucky young boy and a grotesque ogre and his wife.

YA Novel

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Crazyjack*. New York: Delacorte Press, 1999.

Gr. 4-7. Seven years after his father's disappearance, Jack plants the beans and begins a search for his father. He finds a giant who's a wife beater and treasures that differ from those found in the traditional story. Jack wins back Flora, his true love, and comes to terms with the death of his father. This novel is a well-written adventure with a satisfying ending.

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

Picture Books

The Brothers Grimm. *Little Red-Cap*. Illus. by Lisbeth Zwerger. New York: North-South Books, 1995.

Gr. K-3. This translation from the German presents a close retelling of the original story. In her art Zwerger brings out a surprising comic side to the tale while maintaining a somber background of muted earth tones.

Hyman, Trina Schart. *Little Red Riding Hood*. New York: Holiday House, 1983.

Gr. K-3. The detailed, charming country feel of this Grimm fairy tale is due primarily to Hyman's signature illustration style of pretty borders and expressive characters. A Caldecott Honor.

YA Novel

Cross, Gillian. *Wolf*. New York: Holiday House, 1991.

Gr.7-9. A vagabond mother, an educational program on wolves, a terrorist for a father, and a grandmother who banishes Cassy from her home combine brilliantly in this psychological thriller. Winner of the 1991 Carnegie Prize, the novel's narrative subtly dances around and through the tale of Little Red Riding Hood.

RAPUNZEL

Picture Books

Grimm, Jacob and Wilhelm. *Rapunzel*. Illus. by Maja Dusikova. New York: North-South Books, 1997.

Gr. 2-4. Dusikova's dreamy illustrations picture Rapunzel and the prince much younger than the characters in Hyman's retelling. Also, in this version Rapunzel does not give birth.

Rogasky, Barbara. *Rapunzel*. Illus. by Trina Schart Hyman. New York: Holiday House, 1987.

Gr. 2-4. This traditional retelling is enhanced by Hyman's beautifully detailed illustrations using full pages for important events and smaller pictures built into borders for lesser events.

Zelinsky, Paul O. *Rapunzel*. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1997.

Gr. 2-4. Winner of the 1993 Caldecott Medal, this distinctive book reveals definite Italian and French influences in the architecture, landscape, and characters' costumes contained in Zelinsky's exquisite oil paintings.

YA Novels

Geras, Adele. *The Tower Room*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1998.

Gr. 7-10. In the first of three books readers meet three young women: Megan, Alice, and Bella. In this book Megan is a modern-day Rapunzel. She falls in love with Simon, a young man who climbs the scaffolding into the Tower Room that Megan shares with her two best friends at an all-girls boarding school. The updated covers for paperback editions of this trilogy will appeal to teens wanting to read about romance.

Napoli, Donna Jo. Zel. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1996.

Gr.7-12. Once again Napoli humanizes a witch in a fairy tale. Most of the story is told through the viewpoint of Zel's "mother," a witch who sold her soul to the devil and stole another woman's child. The setting for this Rapunzel story is fifteenth-century Switzerland.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

- Picture Book
Zelinsky, Paul O. Rumpelstiltskin. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1986.
Gr. K-3. Zelinsky expands his simple text with elegant illustrations. Winner of a 1987 Caldecott Honor, this retelling is based upon the 1819 Grimm version.
- YA Novel
Napoli, Donna Jo and Richard Tchen. Spinners. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2000.
Gr. 6-10. Questions about Rumpelstiltskin's past are answered in this newly created story of two spinners. One spinner is a beautiful young woman, the other is a deformed man, scorned by the one he loved.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

- Picture Book
Hyman, Trina Schart. The Sleeping Beauty. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 2000.
Gr. K-3. At once sinister and richly illustrated, Hyman brings this classic tale to life with fascinating artistic details of a romantic world of kings, queens, knights, ladies, and fairies.
- YA Novels
Geras, Adele. Watching the Roses. San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1998.
Gr. 8-12. On Alice's eighteenth birthday she is attacked and withdraws to her bedroom where she lies as if in a coma, but readers learn about her as she writes in a diary. References to roses abound, and Alice must ultimately save herself from her "sleeping death."

McKinley, Robin. Spindle'S End. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2000.
Gr.7-12. McKinley expands the story of Sleeping Beauty in this spellbinding novel of adventure, love, humor, and magic. Much more than a retelling of a familiar tale, this one will surprise with a twist at the end.

Yolen, Jane. Briar Rose. New York: Tor Books, 1993.
Gr. 8-12. This fascinating and unusual story blends the tale of Sleeping Beauty with the tragedy of the Holocaust. After her grandmother'S death, Becca discovers a mysterious box of memorabilia and begins a search for her grandmother'S origins. The novel is part of a fairy tale series created by Terri Wind ling.

SNOW WHITE

- Picture Books
Reins, Paul. Snow White. Illus. by Trina Schart Ryman. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 2000.
Gr. K-3. Cozy illustrations show Snow White looking like a young Elizabeth Taylor, and the seven dwarves looking fatherly. The Queen, Snow White's jealous stepmother, is surrounded by appropriately evil trappings in this classic, beautiful rendition of the Grimm tale.

Jarrell, Randall. Snow-White and the Seven Dwarfs. Illus. by Nancy Ekholm Burkert. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1972.
Gr. K-3. This large format book presents the familiar Grimm tale, and Burkert's illustrations emphasize a rich, majestic medieval setting. A Caldecott Honor Book.
- YA Novel
Geras, Adele. Pictures of the Night. San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1998.
Gr. 9-12. The third novel in the trilogy of YA fairy tales by Geras features Bella as Snow White. Eighteen-year-old Bella is a dynamic, independent character with a lovely singing voice. The summer before college she lives a carefree life touring with a band of seven musicians in London and Paris. Bella suspects her jealous stepmother of trying to kill her after encounters with two mysterious women.

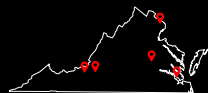
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Fairy tales help to fuel the imagination of children, as it takes them into another world that is so different from ours, where there are, fairies, mermaids and magic. 2. Enhances Understanding of the Abstract. An abstract concept is the concept of an idea or thought. For example, in *Beauty and the Beast*, we see that the beast was cursed for being cruel, but later, he was transformed into a handsome prince. Your children can have a good mental work out, discussing what changes in his character enabled Belle to develop feelings for him and eventually break the curse. *Fairy Tales Transformed?: Twenty-First-Century Adaptations and the Politics of Wonder*. By Cristina Bacchilega. Length: 458 pages 4 hours. Description. Fairy-tale adaptations are ubiquitous in modern popular culture, but readers and scholars alike may take for granted the many voices and traditions folded into today's tales. In *Fairy Tales Transformed?: Twenty-First-Century Adaptations and the Politics of Wonder*, accomplished fairy-tale scholar Cristina Bacchilega traces what she terms a "fairy-tale web" of multivocal influences in modern adaptations, asking how tales have been changed. Maurice Sendak's Caldecott Medal-winning picture book has become one of the most highly acclaimed and best-loved children's books of all time. A must for every child's bookshelf. Introduce a new generation to Max's imaginative journey with this special anniversary edition. —*Teen Vogue* This title has Common Core connections. #1 New York Times bestseller, March 14, 2018. (show less). Recommended by Genevieve Nnaji. A quirky, cautionary tale from beloved New York Times bestselling picture book creator Oliver Jeffers! There was once a man who believed he owned everything and set out to survey what was his. "You are mine," Fausto said to the flower, the sheep, and the mountain, and they all bowed before him.