

# Fairy Tales

Fairy Tales can be written in two ways:

- 1) From scratch (your own)
- 2) Fractured fairy tale – a classic fairy tale with a modern, newfangled twist

## WRITE YOUR OWN FAIRY TALE FROM SCRATCH

### 1. You need a hero...

You need a **character** your audience can relate with. It can be a human being, animal, plant or object. It really doesn't matter, but in practice humans and animals were always best for the main role.

The most important thing is set of **characteristics**. Your hero must have some characteristics the reader of fairy tale can relate to. Is he funny? Smart? Brave? Nice? Good-looking? And even more important: what are his shortcomings? Is he too small? Too weak? Too shy? Too lazy? Boring?

#### **Make your hero believable!**

Positive set of characteristics makes your character a hero. But only with some faults he can be believable hero!

### 2. Setting

Every single story needs a setting. Yours should be no exception.

**What is a setting?** Well, think about place and time of your story. Does it start once upon a time when young girl must leave her home because of poverty, or is it a modern tale about divorced parents who fight for their only kid?

**What is its range?** Will everything happen in couple of minutes, or will it last for decades?

**How important will your setting be?** Will it determine heroes' actions or will it just add some touch of credibility?

Don't forget the possible **symbolic meanings** of setting! Fairy tales are stories about growing up. So in most cases you should start a story with a kid or youngster facing a great challenge. Challenge should be bigger than him, it should be so big, the reader could feel the possibility of being lost in the situation.

And what is better place to be lost in than dark, dark woods?

### 3. Send your hero on the mission!

**What is his quest?** Is he searching for wealth? Love? Wisdom? Wants to rescue or protect somebody? Set his goal! Set it high! Then think again... Can you set it even higher?

Include the **obstacles** he has to overcome on his journey. The perfect opponent is of course...the evil witch! Put your hero in serious trouble.

But don't forget...in most of great stories the biggest obstacle to heroes' success is hero himself!

#### **Introduce a helper...**

In old stories for kids we have wise men, in fairy tales fairies, in Squidoo Squidangels...

With a helper you don't only introduce a new skill, you can open a whole new world of interactions among characters.

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## 4. Now you just need to add a pinch of magic!

Add an effective climax - a confrontation of the hero with his nemesis.

Don't be too easy on your hero or the audience.

We all know how fairy tale should end...

But if you want to write a great story, add something special, some surprise, maybe humor, unexpected twist, just something to remember.

Note: *harder the battle, more glorious the win!*

## 5. Give your audience a happy ending!

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### REWRITE A FAIRY TALE WITH A MODERN, NEWFANGLED TWIST

**Step 1:** Select a most favorite or a least favorite classic fairy tale to serve as the point of departure for an original story

**Step 2:** Decide which key elements in the original story you want to change. Here are some ideas to think about:

- **Time:** Set the story in the present or future, instead of "once upon a time, a long, long time ago."
- **Location:** Set the story in a different country, region, or city. Imagine **Rapunzel** set in Los Angeles or British Columbia or outback Australia.
- **Gender:** Change the gender of the main character for a new slant. Perhaps Rumpelstiltskin is a mischievous, grumpy female dwarf!
- **Ending:** Keep the original elements but change the ending.
- **Play "What If?":** Name as many original fairy tales as possible and brainstorm different scenarios, just to get the creative sparks flying.

**Step 3:** Now you need to outline a new plot. Keep the plot as surprising as possible.

**Step 4:** After outlining a new plot and before writing your fairy tale, build interest and suspense with "the rule of three." Three turns-of-the-plot build tension! Include three "somethings" in the revised stories: three towers to climb, three princesses to rescue, three dragons to ride, three witches or villains to outwit.

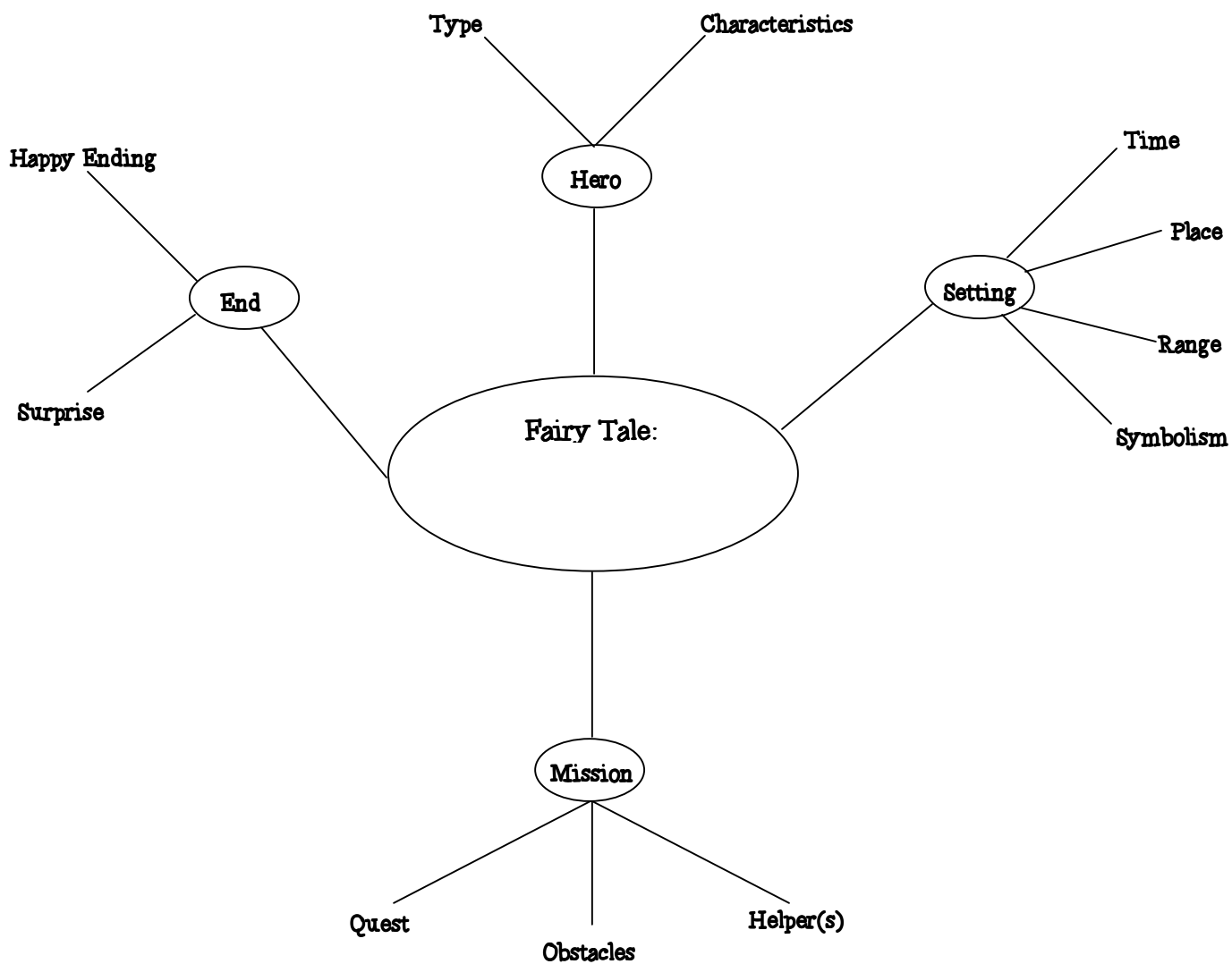
**Step 5:** Illustrate and read aloud your finished fractured fairy tale!

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### Marks are awarded as follows: (see below)

1. Description of Setting and Characters – **5 marks**
2. Interesting, creative Plot – **5 marks**
3. Writing process – planning, draft, refining, proofreads final draft – **5 marks**
4. Language – punctuation, spelling and grammar – **5 marks**

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|   | 5  | 4  | 3   | 2  | 1  |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Setting and characters</b>   | Skillful, creative description of setting, characters  | Good description of settings, characters   | Adequate description of setting, characters   | Setting and characters stereotypical, lacks originality  | Vague description of setting, characters lack personality  |
| <b>Plot</b>   | Interesting, creative plot; original ideas, makes for sustained interest                                       | Plot is developed adequately; some originality   | Correct sequencing of action but unoriginal, predictable  | Plot is weak and unclear, some gaps in sequencing of action  | Plot poorly developed; significant gaps in sequencing of action  |
| <b>Use of the writing process: Plans, drafts and refines the text, edits first draft and proofreads final draft</b> | Excellent use of the writing process has produced a refined final draft. Proof reading has eliminated mistakes | Good use of writing process; evidence of progressive improvement in writing piece, mistakes still evident                          | Has used the writing process but has not translated it into a well-developed piece of writing                             | Some use of parts of writing process (very basic planning or evidence or editing of first draft) but many errors still remain          | Little or no proof reading or editing done: writing still has many uncorrected errors  |
| <b>Language use: punctuation, grammar and spelling</b>  | Excellent use of language; correct sentences, punctuation and spelling. No errors in subject-verb concord      | Creative use of language; mostly correct sentences, punctuation and few spelling errors. One or two errors in subject verb concord | Most sentences are correct; some errors in language use, punctuation and spelling. Several errors in subject-verb concord | Sentence structure fair but very basic; several errors in language use, punctuation and spelling. Has not grasped subject-verb concord | Poor sentence structure; many errors in punctuation and spelling. Many errors in subject-verb concord; understanding compromised |