

Monday, 10 December 2012
Day 9 Post 12 Lang Lit

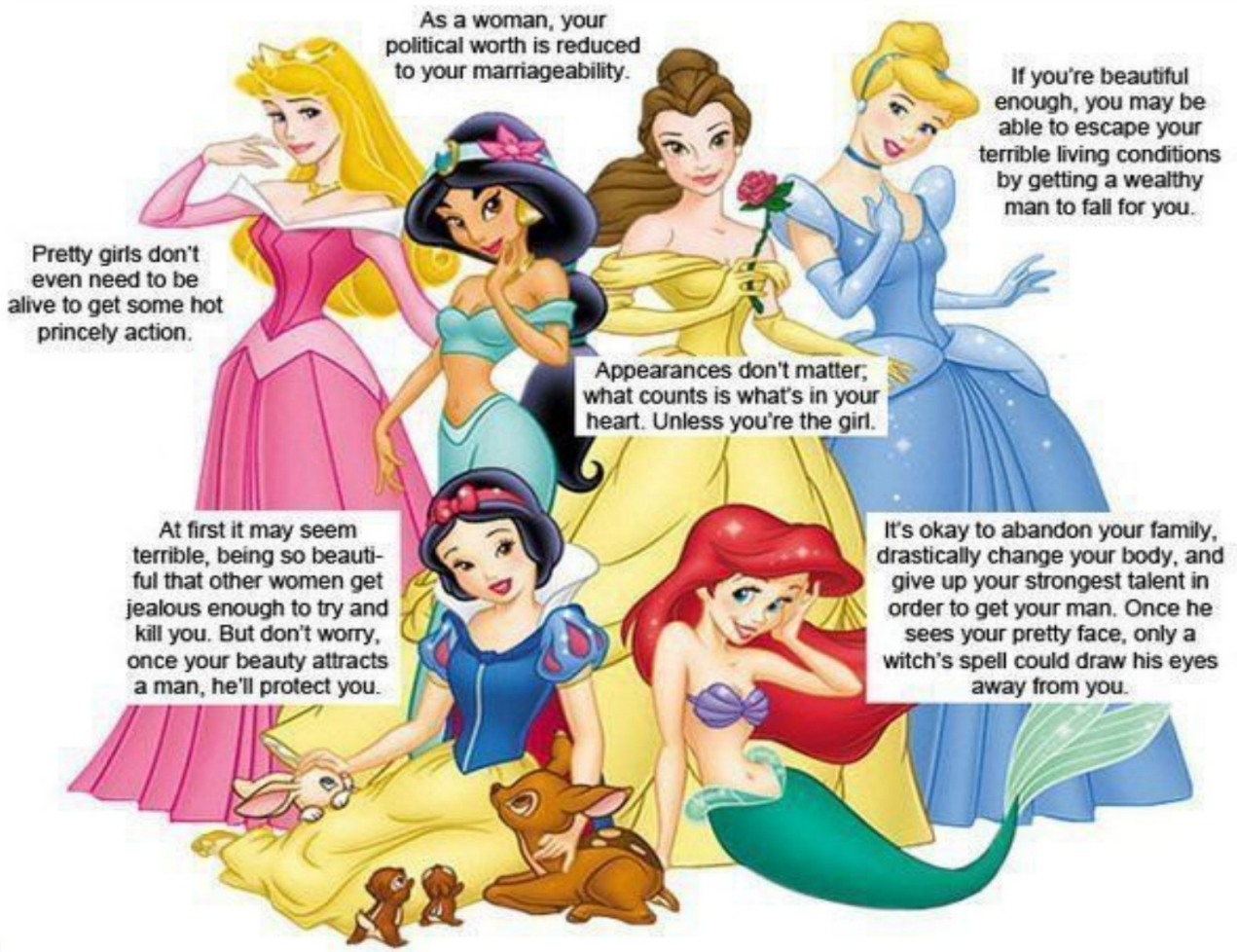
Objectives:

I can analyze gender roles.

Class Business:

Agenda:

1. FOA task sheets
2. How to analyze a fairy tale
3. Article: "Things Walt Disney Never Told Us"
4. Distribution of fairy tales



As a woman, your political worth is reduced to your marriageability.

If you're beautiful enough, you may be able to escape your terrible living conditions by getting a wealthy man to fall for you.

Pretty girls don't even need to be alive to get some hot princely action.

Appearances don't matter; what counts is what's in your heart. Unless you're the girl.

At first it may seem terrible, being so beautiful that other women get jealous enough to try and kill you. But don't worry, once your beauty attracts a man, he'll protect you.

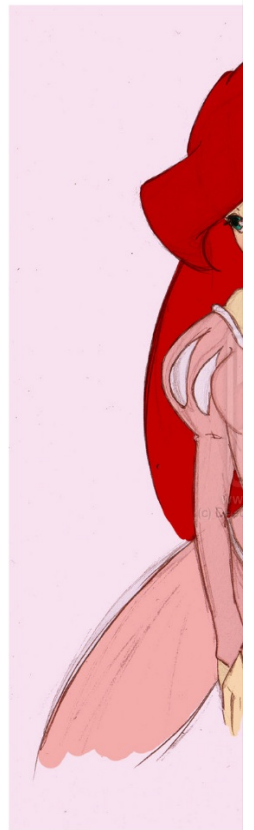
It's okay to abandon your family, drastically change your body, and give up your strongest talent in order to get your man. Once he sees your pretty face, only a witch's spell could draw his eyes away from you.

Gender Stereotypes and Gender Roles

- How does your fairy tale play into gender roles and gender stereotypes?
- What ideals are presented in your story?
- Does your fairy tale defy any gender stereotypes?

The Heroine

- How does she act? Adjectives to describe her personality characteristics
- What does she look like? Adjectives to describe her physical characteristics
- Is she submissive or dominant?
- Where do we see her play out these characteristics?
- What does the heroine symbolize?



The Hero

- How is the hero described?
- What is his role in the story?
- Are there any significant conclusions you can draw from the presence of the hero?
- How might the hero's presence influence the audience?
- What does the hero symbolize?



The Villain

- Is the villain male or female? Why might that be?
- What are his/her physical and personality characteristics?
- How and why does the villain play the opposing role in the story?



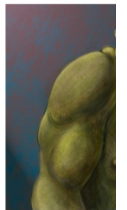
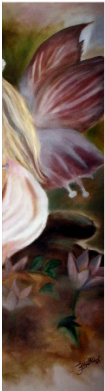
Cultural and Historical Significance

Does your story contain

- a witch
- a fairy
- an ogre
- a damsel in distress

Investigate the historical and cultural significance of these characters.

- What role have they played throughout history?
- What role do they play in the story?
- What might they symbolize?



Imagery

The Little Mermaid by Hans Christian Anderson

"They were six pretty children, but the youngest was the loveliest of them all. Her skin was as clear and delicate as a rose-leaf, her eyes were as blue as the deepest lake, but like the others she had no feet; her body ended in a fish's tail" (217).

- Emphasis on beauty and looks - no mention of personality characteristics
- described as delicate and fragile
- simile - rose
- fish tail - symbolic of her entrapment

Characterization

The Little Mermaid by Hans Christian Anderson

"She was a curious child, silent and thoughtful" (217).

- still a child - dependent and unable to think for herself
- curious and thoughtful - some suggestion of being able to think for herself
- silent - positioned between the other two adjectives, she is shown to be submissive and unwilling to share her thoughts

Symbolism

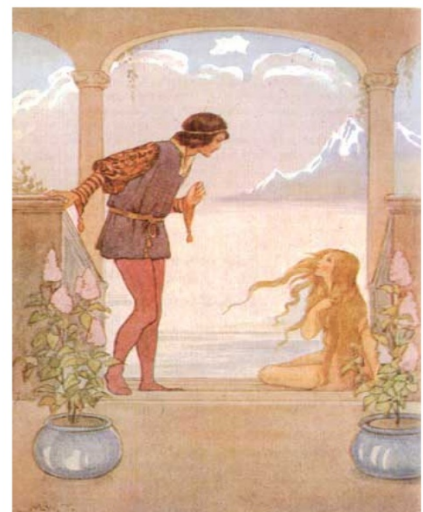
Photo:

Man gazing down and woman gazing up

- Symbolic of the dominance and submission necessary in a relationship

The little mermaid's nakedness

- A symbol for innocence and purity



Their analysis also showed that 94 percent of the Grimms' fairy tales acknowledged physical appearance, and the average references per story were 13.6. In one story, there were 114 beauty references for women. In comparison, the number of beauty references for men did not exceed 35 per story.

"What is striking is the way in which women's beauty is mentioned," Grauerholz says. "In 'The Pink Flower' a maiden is described as 'so beautiful that no painter could ever have made her look more beautiful.' In 'The Goose Girl at the Spring,' a character's beauty is compared to a miracle. In other tales, a woman is so beautiful it can cause her danger."

Purdue News, "Experts Say Fairy Tales Not So Happy Ever After" (2003).
<http://www.purdue.edu/uns/html4ever/031111.Grauerholz.tales.html>

We have not formed that ancient world [of fairy tales] -- it has formed us. We ingested it as children whole, had its values and consciousness imprinted on our minds as cultural absolutes long before we were in fact men and women. We have taken the fairy tales of childhood with us into maturity, chewed but still lying in the stomach, as real identity. Between Snow-white and her heroic prince our two great fictions, we never did have much of a chance. At some point the Great Divide took place: they (the boys) dreamed of mounting the Great Steed and buying Snow-white from the dwarfs; we (the girls) aspired to become that object of every necrophiliac's lust - the innocent, victimized Sleeping Beauty, beautiful lump of ultimate, sleeping good.

These stories suggest a society in which women are as competent and active as men, at every age and in every class. Gretel, not Hansel, defeats the Witch; and for every clever youngest son there is a youngest daughter equally resourceful. The contrast is greatest in maturity, where women are often more powerful than men. Real help for the hero or heroine comes most frequently from a fairy godmother or wise woman, and real trouble from a witch or wicked stepmother..To prepare children for women's liberation, therefore, and to protect them against Future Shock, you had better buy at least one collection of fairy tales.

Tatar, Maria. ed., "The Classic Fairy Tales." Norton & Company Inc (1999).

The Brothers Grimm

1. The Frog Prince or Iron Heinrich
2. Little Red Cap
3. Snow White
4. Cinderella
5. Fitcher's Bird
6. Hansel and Gretel
7. The Juniper Tree
8. Rapunzel
9. Rumpelstiltskin
10. Little Briar Rose

