

An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood, likely a golf course community, showing winding roads, green spaces, and clusters of houses. The image is dark and serves as a background for the text.

4th - 5th GRADE
WRITING LESSON
*FAIRY TALES FROM
AROUND THE WORLD*
50 MINUTES

Google

FAIRY TALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

WRITING WITH GOOGLE EARTH

GOOGLE EARTH USAGE OVERVIEW:

Teachers will **foster real world connections** to examples of fairy tales from around the world using the Voyager Story, [Fairy Tales from Around the World](#). Students will **identify** common characteristics of fairy tales and use them to **generate** a fairy tale

LESSON SUMMARY:

- In this writing exercise, students will **identify** characteristics specific to fairy tales such as the use of magic and the “rule of three”.
 - Students will also **explore** 3 examples of how authors found inspiration in their surroundings and included elements of the real world in the fairy tales they wrote.
 - Students will **apply** their understanding of the characteristics of fairy tales and their connection to the real world to generate a fairy tale of their own that includes all five plot elements, the use of magic, the “rule of three”, and is set in their hometown.
-

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Students will **identify** key characteristics of a fairy tale (includes elements of magic, includes the “rule of three”).
 - Students will **identify** author’s reference to the real world in 3 examples of fairy tales from around the world.
 - Students will **apply** key characteristics of a fairy tale, knowledge of plot elements, and inspiration from their local environment to **write a fairy tale** of their own.
-



SUGGESTED STANDARDS

GRADES 4th - 5th

4th GRADE:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.3](#)- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.1](#)- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.9](#)- Compare and contrast the treatment of similar themes and topics (e.g., opposition of good and evil) and patterns of events (e.g., the quest) in stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures.

5th GRADE:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.3](#)- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.1](#)- Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.9](#)- Compare and contrast stories in the same genre (e.g., mysteries and adventure stories) on their approaches to similar themes and topics.



FAIRY TALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

WRITING WITH GOOGLE EARTH

LESSON OUTLINE WITH
ESTIMATED TIME ALLOTMENT:

Introduce- 1 minute
Explore- 5 minutes
Engage- 15 minutes
Extend- 25 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Access to the Voyager Story, [Fairy Tales from Around the World](#).
 - Access to YouTube videos embedded in the Voyager Story, [Fairy Tales from Around the World](#).
 - Student copies of plot elements graphic organizer (below)
OR teachers can share the plot elements graphic organizer with students using [Google Classroom](#).
-

VOCABULARY:

Fairy Tale (noun) ([reference here](#))

1. a children's story about magical and imaginary beings and lands.

Folktale (noun) ([reference here](#))

1. a story originating in popular culture, typically passed on by word of mouth.
-



LESSON PLAN

INTRODUCE (1 minute)

Today we will explore the writing genre of fairy tales and use elements of our local surroundings to write fairy tales of our own. **Ask:** What are some common examples of fairy tales?

EXPLORE (5 minutes)

1. Introduce Slide 1 of [Fairy Tales from Around the World](#). Point to the imagery of the globe with pins in multiple different locations. Fairy tales have been written in many cultures all over the world!
 2. Read the text aloud on Slide 1. Regardless of their origins, most fairy tales have common characteristics that set them apart from other genres of stories.
 - Magic! Fairy tales include elements of magic such as fairies, witches, ogres, dragons, or magical items.
 - The “rule of three”- Fairy tales often make reference to the number three, for example three main characters, three events, three wishes, etc.
-

ENGAGE (15 minutes)

1. Let’s look at 3 examples of fairy tales from different countries around the world. (In order to stay within the 15 minute time frame, focus only on Slides 2, 3, and 7)
 - Introduce Slide 2: “Cinderella”. Explore the area using [Street View](#) and watch the video. **Turn and Talk:** How did Charles Perrault use elements of real world France in his version of Cinderella? (castles, prince).
 - Introduce Slide 3: “The Funny Little Woman”. Read the text, explore the area using [Street View](#) and watch the video. **Turn and Talk:** How did Arlene Mosel incorporate elements of real world Japan into the story “The Funny Little Woman”? (Scenery, Jizo statues, food)
 - Introduce Slide 7: Abiyoyo. Read the text and watch the video. **Turn and Talk:** What elements of real world Germany are evident in Hansel and Gretel. How are those elements different in the African version? (spooky woods vs. jungle full of plants and animals)
 2. **Quick Write:** Make a list of three elements of your local environment or culture that you could include in a fairy tale. (i.e. landmarks, geographical features, foods, traditions, commonly used objects)
-

EXTEND (25 minutes)

1. Now you have identified common characteristics of fairy tales from around the world as well as the way that authors use elements of the real world to inspire them.
 2. Introduce the fairy tale writing prompt: *Write a fairy tale that takes place in your hometown. Use elements of your real world, magic, and the “rule of three”. Be sure to include all five plot elements in your story.*
 3. Students work independently or with a partner to write fairy tales.
-

FAIRY TALE WRITING RUBRIC

EXCEEDING:

- Includes all 5 elements of plot: introduction, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution.
 - Includes all elements of fairy tales: magic and the “rule of three”.
 - Fairy tale is set in students’ hometown and makes reference to element(s) of life there.
 - Uses dialogue, description and pacing to show character thoughts/feelings.
 - Includes multiple examples of sensory details to describe events or experiences.
 - Uses correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
-

MEETING:

- Includes 4 out of 5 elements of plot: introduction, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution.
 - Includes all elements of fairy tales: magic and the “rule of three”.
 - Fairy tale is set in students’ hometown and makes reference to element(s) of life there.
 - Uses description and pacing to show character thoughts/feelings.
 - Includes 2 examples of sensory details to describe events or experiences.
 - Includes 2-3 errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling.
-

APPROACHING:

- Includes 3 out of 5 elements of plot: introduction, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution.
 - Includes either element of fairy tales but not both: magic and the “rule of three”.
 - Fairy tale is set in students’ hometown, but no reference to elements of life there.
 - Uses description to show character thoughts/feelings.
 - Includes 1 example of sensory details to describe events or experiences.
 - Includes 3-5 errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling.
-

BEGINNING:

- Includes 2 or fewer elements of plot: introduction, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution.
 - Does not include elements of fairy tales: magic and the “rule of three”.
 - Fairy tale does not take place in student’s hometown.
 - No description of character thoughts or feelings.
 - No sensory details.
 - More than 5 errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling.
-

RESOURCES

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Choose from additional examples of fairy tales for students to read and identify common characteristics in on the [Reading is Fundamental](#) website.
 - Use the same structure to explore common characteristics of folktales, myths, and legends using the related Google Earth Voyager Stories: [Folktales from Around the World](#) or [Myths and Legends from Around the World](#).
-

OPTIONS FOR DIFFERENTIATION:

- Plot Elements graphic organizer for students to plan their story prior to writing (below).
 - Choose from leveled examples of fairy tales found on the [Reading is Fundamental](#) website. Have students read a fairy tale and map the plot elements using the fairy tale plot elements graphic organizer.
 - Provide students with certain plot elements such as problem/solution or fairy tale characteristics such as elements of magic or “rule of three”.
 - Have students adapt an existing fairy tale to take place in their hometown.
-

CREDITS:

Written by Sarah Schwartz Johnson in collaboration with Kelley O'Connor.

*Note - this template is designed for teachers to modify for use with their grade level and standards.

FAIRY TALE PLOT ELEMENTS

Characters (Who?)	Setting (Where?)
Elements of Magic:	The Rule of Three:
Introduction Once upon a time...	
Rising Action	
Climax	
Falling Action	
Resolution	