Troll’s Eye View
A Book of Villainous Tales

Edited by
Ellen Datlow
and
Terri Windling

Available only from
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Plain City, OH 43064
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Teacher’s Edition
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From all of us at Junior Library Guild, we wish you and your students good reading and great learning . . . with JLG Selections and JG Guides.
# Troll’s Eye View

* A Book of Villainous Tales  
Edited by Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling  
JLG Guide written by Linda Barr

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About the Editors

Why Editors Get the Credit

Usually the name of the person on the cover of a book is its author, but this book cover has the names of two editors. (A long list of authors is printed on the back cover.) How is this book different from other books? Why are these editors so important? Don’t all books have editors?

This book is an anthology, a collection of stories and poems written by the fifteen authors listed on the back cover. Just how did those fifteen people from all over the world end up having their stories in this one book? The answer: because of two editors. Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling came up with the idea for this collection and then created this book by asking the authors to retell old fairy tales in fresh ways. Then the editors worked with the writers to get the stories ready for publication.

Here is how the process works:

First, the editors had to choose authors who could produce fresh and fascinating stories about the heroes and heroines found in familiar fairy tales. Next the editors had to make sure that the writers didn’t all retell the same story; such as Cinderella or The Three Little Pigs. Fifteen versions of the same fairy tale would be too much of a good thing! (Be sure to read page 78 for more insight into this.)

Also, the editors needed to be sure the new version of the tales hadn’t already been tried by others beforehand. These stories had to be fresh. Try to imagine how some of the authors spent long hours (or days or weeks) trying to think of an unusual approach to a certain fairy tale, an approach that no one else had already written.

Now Datlow and Windling did what editors always do. They read each selection carefully, looking for thoughts, actions, and whole scenes that did not make sense (even in a fairy tale). They searched for places that needed another sentence or paragraph to help explain what was happening or why a character made a certain decision. They spotted words and sentences that did not add to the story and should be omitted. Next, the editors and writers worked together to make each story the best it could be, polishing the sentences and correcting any errors, just as you do when revising your work.

At last, the collection of stories was ready to be published. And now you know why the editors’ names are on the front cover of this book!

Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling have long been fascinated by fairy tales. In a recent article, they wrote: “With our new anthology, we decided to approach the subject from a new direction—to look at the villains of the tales, not the heroes, and to see how the stories might look through their eyes.”

According to the article, the book was Ms. Windlings’s idea, sparked by a comment of Ms. Datlow’s during an interview. Asked which fairy-tale character she liked best, Ellen said, “The wicked ones. They get all the best lines.”

The writers say, “We hope that young readers enjoy Troll’s Eye View. We hope that the stories amuse them . . . and scare them . . . and enchant them . . . and surprise them. And if . . . they’re inspired to seek out the tales that these stories are based upon, we’ll be happy indeed.”

Ms. Datlow lives in New York City and thrives on the urban hustle and bustle, while Ms. Windling lives in a small English village where the sheep out-number people.
About the Genres
Fairy Tales, Poems, Short Stories

All of the selections in this anthology are fairy tales (the genre), but they are a specific kind: the fractured fairy tale (see page 5). The stories in this book can be divided into two other genres: poetry and short story.

The three poems are written in a style known as free verse, poems that don’t rhyme and do not follow a particular rhythm or meter or line length. They don’t have to follow punctuation rules, either. Free verse poetry has been popular since the late 19th century, practiced by such poets as Walt Whitman, Ezra Pound, Robert Frost, and E. E. Cummings. About the form, Robert Frost once said that writing free verse was “like playing tennis without a net.”

The other twelve selections are short stories. They use the elements of fiction: characters, setting, conflict, point of view, theme, and—because of their short length—a fairly uncomplicated plot. These elements might be the same as or similar to the elements in the original fairy tale, but other aspects have been “fractured,” or altered. You might catch a glimpse of the original fairy tale, but with a different setting or a change of characters, definitely with a change of perspective, as we experience the story through the villain’s eyes.

As is common in fairy tales, the time setting for most of these selections is in the “long ago” and the places include castles, kingdoms, forests, and villages. Many of the stories include fantasy and make-believe, even magic. The characters include giants, wizards, trolls, ogres, witches, and talking animals. (Interestingly, a fairy tale does not have to include fairies.) Some of the characters often are royal—princesses and princes, kings and queens. In some of the selections, you will know right away which characters are good and which are evil, but in others, you may find out that the villain isn’t as bad as you had thought. At the end of the story, you might not even be sure who the villain is.

The story is told from a certain point of view. If the point of view is first-person (using pronouns such as “I,” “me,” and “we”), we know only what the narrator is thinking and experiencing. If the point of view is third-person limited (using pronouns such as “he,” “she,” and “they”), we see and hear what any or all of the characters experience. In third-person omniscient point of view, we also have access to several characters’ thoughts and feelings.

The stories focus on a problem, or conflict, that must be solved in a few pages. The plot allows the characters to keep trying until they solve that conflict—usually.

Fairy tales and short stories also have a theme, a lesson to teach or a thought the reader can take away from the story. Fairy tale themes tend to be obvious: don’t trust evil, listen to your parents, don’t wander into unfamiliar territory. These lessons were useful because long ago people used fairy tales as cautionary tales, ways to teach children about danger. Today fairy tales tend to be more about entertainment than teaching lessons.

One of the most popular fractured fairy tale phenomena today is Shrek. Think about the stories behind the Shrek movies and the variety of fairy tale characters who take part. What is the main shift of perspective in those movies? (A: The stories are told from the ogre’s perspective—Shrek’s—and include the back story of many of the other characters as well: Puss in Boots, the talking donkey, the princess, etc.)
Prereading Activities

Writing a Fractured Fairy Tale
Building Background Knowledge

A “fractured” fairy tale is a rewritten fairy tale in which the author has changed the characters, setting, point of view, or plot—or a combination of those elements. Let’s begin by looking at an original fairy tale. Here is a summary of “Little Red Riding Hood”:

Little Red Riding Hood is taking a basket of goodies to her sick grandmother. As she walks through a forest, she meets the charming Big Bad Wolf. She tells him where she is going, and he hurries to get there first. Wolf eats Grandma whole and then gets into her bed, pretending to be her. Red Riding Hood arrives and at first is fooled by Wolf. But when she remarks on his big ears, big eyes, and big teeth, he jumps out of bed and tries to catch her. A nearby woodcutter hears her screams, rushes in, and hits Wolf with his ax. As Wolf falls, Grandma pops out. Red shares her goodies with Grandma and the woodcutter.

1. What makes this story a fairy tale? (Be sure to read page 4.)

It includes talking animals and magic, such as Grandma popping out of Wolf’s mouth alive.

2. Who is the villain in this story? **Wolf**

3. Who is the hero or heroine? **the woodcutter**

4. What is the setting? **the woods a long time ago**

5. Based on this summary, is this story told from first-person point of view or third-person point of view? **third-person point of view**

6. What is the plot? **Wolf eats Grandma, fools Red Riding Hood, tries to catch her, and is killed by the woodcutter.**

6. What is the conflict? **The Wolf is trying to harm Grandma and Red Riding Hood. Good vs. evil, which can also be considered man vs. man or man vs. nature.**
Now it’s time to “fracture” this fairy tale. Think about the elements of this story: the characters, setting, point of view, conflict, and plot. You can change any one of these elements, but the readers should be able to recognize the original fairy tale.

1. What are some ways that you could change the characters?

Possibilities: Make Wolf more sympathetic or change the hero to Red or Grandma.
Make Red or the woodcutter the villain.

2. What are some ways that you could change the setting?

Possibilities: Set the story in a modern city or small town.

3. What are some ways that you could change the plot?

Possibilities: Have Red figure out immediately that it was Wolf in the bed; have the woodcutter throw Red and Grandma out of the house and live there himself.

4. How would the story change if you told it only from Red’s point of view?

Possible response: We would not realize right away that Wolf had eaten Grandma and had taken her place.

5. How would the story change if you told it only from Wolf’s point of view?

Possible response: We would know his thoughts and feelings and better understand his actions.

6. How would you choose to fracture this fairy tale?

Answers will vary.

Note to teacher: This would be a good time to assign a fractured fairy tale writing assignment and take the students through steps of the writing process.
“Wizard’s Apprentice”  
by Delia Sherman  
pages 11–27

After reading this story, be sure to read about Delia Sherman on page 28.

Before You Read  
Making Predictions
This fairy tale includes transformation: one thing magically changing into another. The story is about a boy who runs away from his cruel uncle and ends up living with an evil wizard. How do you think this author, Delia Sherman, will use transformation?

I predict:  
The boy learns how to use transformation to hide from his uncle.

Based on what evidence?  
The apprentice must be the boy. I think the boy learns from the wizard how to change himself into other things so his uncle can’t find him.

Introducing Vocabulary
Some words from other languages, such as the Italian word bologna, are now part of the English language. (Sometimes we spell it “baloney.”) The words in the box below are French or Latin words. Yet you encountered them in this story, and you will read them again in other places, so you need to know what they mean.

Select the correct word from the box to use in the sentence that defines it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>repertoire (French)</th>
<th>vice versa (Latin)</th>
<th>rumor (French)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>arcana (Latin)</td>
<td>chaos (Latin)</td>
<td>volume (French)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Complete disorder or confusion is _______ chaos ________.
2. _____ Arcana _______ means “hidden things” or “secret knowledge.”
3. If you know many stories, songs, or jokes, you have a _______ repertoire _______.
4. If things are “the other way around,” they are _______ vice versa _______.
5. A single book from a collection of books is a _______ volume _______.
6. A _______ rumor _______ is a kind of gossip that is circulated.
After You Read
Analyzing the Writing: Idioms
Along with foreign words, this author also uses *idioms*, phrases that mean something different from what the literal words mean. Explain what each underlined idiom actually means.

1. From page 12: “He can kill with a word or a look, *if he has a mind to.*”
   
   *if he wants to*

2. Also from page 12: “*Every once in a blue moon,* Mr. Smallbone employs an assistant.”
   
   *every once in a while; rarely; from time to time*

3. From page 19: “And if he turned Nick into a raven or a fox *when the fit took him . . .*”
   
   *when he felt like it*

4. From page 21: “But I'll be a sport.”

   *I'll be a good sport; I'll be trustworthy.*

Responding to the Story
1. On page 18, do you think Nick found the witch’s manual about “practical housekeeping” by accident? Give evidence to support your answer.

   Possible response: No, Mr. Smallbone knew everything that Nick did and made sure he found the book. For example, Mr. Smallbone knew when Nick tried to run away, and he put a spell on Nick, making him come back.

2. On pages 23–24, the author could have written that Nick the fox ran onto a frozen pond, and when his uncle tried to follow, the uncle fell through the ice. Why do you think the author added details about how Nick smelled things he didn’t understand and so on?

   Possible response: These details help readers imagine what it would be like to be transformed into a fox.

3. Nick’s uncle wanted him to stay around and do all the work. Why do you think Mr. Smallbone kept Nick from leaving?

   *He liked Nick and wanted to teach him to be a wizard; he enjoyed Nick’s company.*
Making Connections
On page 19, Nick decided not to run away from Mr. Smallbone anymore. Would you have made the same decision? Explain your answer.

Answers will vary.

Social Studies Connection
Throughout history, one generation of people has handed down the knowledge and skills of certain trades to the next generation. The most common way this was done was through apprenticeships. Craftsmen transferred their know-how far back as 4,000 years ago in Babylon, and subsequently in Egypt, Greece, and Rome, and throughout Europe.

Research some aspect of apprenticeship. Here are some topics you might want to consider:

- indentured servants
- family trades
- apprenticeship in the Middle Ages
- famous apprentices
  (Ben Franklin; Paul Revere)
- Thomas Quill (author)
- master and apprentice
- New England apprenticeship
- modern labor laws about apprenticeships
“An Unwelcome Guest”  
by Garth Nix  
pages 29–45

After reading this story, be sure to read about Garth Nix on page 46.

Before You Read
Building Background Knowledge
This fractured fairy tale is based on “Rapunzel.” Read this summary of the original story:

A witch captures young Rapunzel and imprisons her in her castle tower. Rapunzel lets her hair grow very, very long and fashions it into one long braid. There are no steps up to the tower, so to bring Rapunzel food, the witch climbs up the girl’s braided hair. One day, a prince watches the witch climb up. When the witch is gone, the prince calls to Rapunzel to let down her hair, and he climbs up. When the witch finds out about the prince’s visits, she cuts off Rapunzel’s hair and sends her into the wilderness. The next time the prince climbs the braid, the witch is at the other end. He leaps from the tower and is blinded when he lands on thorn bushes. After years of wandering in the forest, Rapunzel and the prince meet again. Her tears bring back his sight, and they live happily ever after.

Making Predictions
Think about the title of this fractured fairy tale. How do you think Garth Nix changes this story?

I predict: Possible prediction: The prince becomes an unwelcome guest in the tower. The witch tries to get rid of him and finally succeeds. Other predictions may also be made.

Based on what evidence? One possibility: The title suggests that someone is unwanted, and the witch chose to imprison Rapunzel, so I don’t think she is the unwelcome guest. Other ideas may be presented.
After You Read
Mastering Vocabulary
Using Context Clues
Find each word below on the page listed. Read the passage where that word is used and figure out its meaning by using context clues. Don’t jump to conclusions, though. All of these words can have more than one meaning!

Match each word below by writing the letter that goes with the definition used on that page. You won’t use some of the definitions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Definitions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>__g__1. spelled (page 29)</td>
<td>a. something you have experienced before</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__d__2. familiar (page 30)</td>
<td>b. a chocolate treat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__c__3. right (page 35)</td>
<td>c. something to which you are entitled; something you must be given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__h__4. brownie (page 35)</td>
<td>d. a spirit, often in an animal form, that serves or guards a person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>e. a direction; the opposite of left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>f. named the letters in a word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>g. cast a powerful state of enchantment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>h. a good-natured little spirit or goblin of the fairy order</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Checking Predictions
Review your prediction about how this author fractured this fairy tale. Were you correct? How did the author change this story?

The author made Rapunzel the villain and showed the witch as just protecting her property from a selfish, evil intruder.

Responding to the Story
1. What does jaundice mean? Why did Jenny change her name?

Jaundice means having a yellowish skin. The cat wanted to appear more evil than she is.
2. What do you learn about the witch from the way she handles Rapunzel?

Possible response: The witch respects the Accord she signed and enjoys her peaceful life, as she doesn’t want the under-folk and others after her. She is also proud and will not ask the other witches for help. However, Rapunzel’s selfishness makes the witch angry.

Analyzing the Writing
1. How did the author make this witch a believable character?

He showed her doing everyday things, such as fixing lunch for friends and arguing with her cat.

2. How did the author make us want to see Rapunzel punished?

He made her insulting, disrespectful, selfish, and bossy.

3. What is the tone of this story? Is it serious, bitter, joyful, humorous, or something else? Explain your answer.

The tone is humorous. The cat and witch tease and playfully insult each other, and the witch struggles to control her broom, which wants to hit Rapunzel.

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Which Part of Witch Is Which?

List words you can form by using only the letters in the word “witch.”

Your level:
7 words = word wizard
5-6 words = spelling sorcerer
3-4 words = crafty cat
1-2 words = mere apprentice
“Faery Tales”  
by Wendy Froud  
pages 47–48

After reading this poem, be sure to read about Wendy Froud on page 49.

After You Read
Analyzing the Writing

1. Reread the two stanzas of this poem. What kinds of fairy tale characters are represented here?

   They are the “good” girls of fairy tales, the pretty or innocent ones who serve as the main characters.

2. What are some of the opposites listed here? Why does the poet use them?

   From rich to poor girls like the princess or milkmaid, from good to bad things, awake and asleep, singing or silent, in a castle or cottage, marrying a prince or woodcutter. She is showing how varied fairy tales are, representing the range of people, things, and places in life.

3. Reread the last stanza. How does the poem shift in this half?

   The narrator has become the “other side” of fairy tales: the witch or godmother or other adult who is powerful and says she prefers this part, even though she is both helpful and dangerous.

Making Connections
1. Match the phrase from the poem on the left with the original fairy tale it is referring to on the right.

   - **F**. 1. poison apple  
     - A. Rumplestiltskin
   - **E**. 2. pumpkin coach  
     - B. Little Red Riding Hood
   - **C**. 3. in the tower  
     - C. Rapunzel
   - **A**. 4. gold  
     - D. Hansel and Gretel
   - **D**. 5. gingerbread  
     - E. Cinderella
   - **B**. 6. woodcutter  
     - F. Snow White
2. Why do you think the narrator says “here is the part I like” and “to bless them and eat them”?

She likes being the more powerful one who can grant wishes and do magic. She is also happy with being the one who does good things and who is evil, because both are the same thing to her.

3. Which kind of main characters do you like better in fairy tales, those described in the first part or in the last part of this poem? Explain your answer.

Answers will vary, but should be fully explained.
“Rags and Riches”
by Nina Kiriki Hoffman
pages 50–66

After reading this story, be sure to read about Nina Kiriki Hoffman on page 67.

Before You Read
This fractured fairy tale is based on “The Goose Girl.” Read this summary of the original story:

Long ago, a queen sent her daughter to meet the prince whom she would marry. Before the princess left, the queen gave her daughter a handkerchief marked with three drops of the queen’s blood. As the princess traveled with her maid, the princess several times asked her maid to fetch some water from a stream. The disrespectful maid told her to get it herself. As the princess was drinking from the stream, she lost the handkerchief, which protected her from evil. Then the maid took the princess’s talking horse, Falada, and forced the princess to change clothes with her.

When they reached the palace, the prince easily mistook the maid for the princess, who was sent to watch the geese. The goose boy wanted some of the goose girl’s (the real princess’s) golden hair, but she said a magic chant to blow his hat away, and as he chased his hat, she braided up her hair.

Meanwhile, the fake princess had Falada killed to keep the horse from telling on her. The princess heard about this and bribed a boy to nail Falada’s head to a post. Each time the princess passed by, the horse said, “Alas, young Queen, how ill you fare!” In time, the king heard about this and discovered the trick that had been played on him and the prince. At a banquet, he asked the “princess” what should be done with someone who pretends to be a princess. She said the pretender should be dragged through the streets. And so the king did just that—to her. The prince married the real princess and they lived happily ever after.

The original story was mostly told from the real princess’s point of view. How do you think Nina Hoffman will change this story?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I predict: Possible prediction:</th>
<th>Based on what evidence? The question mentions point of view, so that is probably what changed. Also the collection is supposed to all be told from the villain’s point of view.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maybe the story is told from the maid’s of view.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
After You Read

Checking Predictions
Review your prediction about how the author fractured this fairy tale. How did the author change this story?

The author told the story in first person from the maid’s point of view.

Analyzing the Writing
1. On page 57, the maid says, “I wanted a new life better than my old, but I did not think I could buy it with blood. I could spend harsh words, though, and see what they bought.” What does the maid mean?

The maid doesn’t think she could kill the princess, but she might control the princess by being mean to her.

2. On page 61, the maid says, “Time carried us all toward the wedding as though we rode a boat on a stream.” What kind of literary device is the author using: simile, metaphor, or personification? What is the purpose of this device?

The author is using a simile to compare the passage of time with a smooth ride on a boat being carried on a flow of water. The purpose is to create an image in the reader’s mind of how naturally and easily the time passed.

3. On page 67, Nina Hoffman says that many things in the original story fascinated her. How does she use those particular things in her story?

The talking horse head is not explained except that instead of having someone else nail it to a post, the real princess herself admits that she “saves things” and could not bear to let her friend Falada go. No mention of the part with the goose boy and his hat is even made.
Responding to the Story
1. Do Nina Hoffman’s changes to this story make you like the maid more, less, or about the same as in the original?

   **Answers may vary, but a common one may be: Knowing what the maid is thinking doesn’t make her any more likable. She still seems very selfish and uncaring.**

   ____________________________________________________________

2. Do you think the maid learned her lesson? Explain your answer.

   **She probably did not, because she says at the end of the story: “other kingdoms, other sunlit skies.”**

   ____________________________________________________________

3. What is the theme of this story? What lesson do you think this author wants readers to learn?

   **Possible answer: Dressing up in fine clothes does not change who or what you are.**

   ____________________________________________________________
“Up the Down Beanstalk: A Wife Remembers”  
by Peter S. Beagle  
pages 68–77

After reading this story, be sure to read about Peter S. Beagle on page 78.

Before You Read
This fairy tale is based on “Jack and the Beanstalk.” Read this summary of the original story:

Jack traded the family cow to a stranger for five “magic beans.” His mother was so angry that she threw the beans away. Overnight, the beans grew into a giant beanstalk that Jack just had to climb. He ended up in a giant’s castle. The giant wanted to eat him, but the giant’s wife helped Jack escape, taking a bag of gold with him. Greedy Jack came back again, stealing a hen that laid golden eggs. On his third trip, Jack tried to take a harp that played itself. The harp called out to the giant, who chased Jack down the beanstalk. Jack got to the ground first and chopped the beanstalk down. The giant fell and died.

How do you think Peter Beagle will change this story?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I predict: Possible prediction: He tells the story from the point of view of the giant’s wife, not Jack.</th>
<th>Based on what evidence? The title of the story mentions a wife.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

After You Read
Checking Predictions
Review your prediction about how the author fractured this fairy tale. Were you correct? How did Beagle change this story?

The author told the story from the wife’s point of view, but this time, the giant is “accidentally” killed by his wife, who invites Jack to stay for tea..
Mastering Vocabulary: Unusual Words
Fairy tales often use unusual words, generally because so many fairy tales have their beginnings in other languages and cultures, such as German, French, Dutch, Scandinavian, or others. Look at each word below, find it on the page indicated, and use context clues to discover the word's meaning. If you are unable to figure out the definition, use a dictionary or an online source that will give you the history and etymology (original sources and meanings) of words.

1. vexation (page 68) trouble, irritation
2. firkins (page 68) one-fourth of a barrel
3. peddler (page 69) a traveling salesman
4. cheeky (page 70) rude, insolent, bold
5. pennyworth (page 73) a small bit
6. a-purpose (page 75) on purpose, planned

Analyzing the Writing
1. In this story, the wife talks about eating people. How does the author make the topic funny?

Possible examples: The wife says Jack was a nice boy, as if she's talking about his personality, but then adds she's never eaten a bad boy. She talks about seasoning the hole in the floor so her captives will be ready to grill.

2. How would this story change if the author had used the same humorous tone but told the story from the giant's point of view?

Possible response: The giant might have complained about his wife, praised his friend Claude, and been very annoyed with Jack.

Responding to the Story
On page 78, the author says that the giant's wife "gains something from her encounter with a pint-sized cat burglar." What does the wife gain? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

She gets rid of her husband and admits that she tripped the giant so he would fall down the hole. Then, instead of feeling sad, she invites Jack to have tea with her. At the end of the story, she misses her husband, but only because he used to get the oven going on cold mornings.
“The Shoes That Were Danced to Pieces”

by Ellen Kushner

pages 79–95

After reading this story, be sure to read about Ellen Kushner on page 96.

Before You Read

Read this summary of the original story, “The Twelve Dancing Princesses.”

Every night, the king locked his twelve daughters in their bedroom, but every morning, their shoes were worn out. The king promised half of his kingdom and a daughter to any man who could find out where the princesses went at night. However, if the man did not succeed within three days, he would be killed. Several princes tried and failed.

Then an old soldier met an old woman in the woods. She told him about the king’s offer, gave him a cloak that made him invisible, and warned him not to eat or drink anything the daughters gave him. When it was the soldier’s turn, the princesses gave him wine, but he didn’t drink it. Pretending to sleep, he saw them leave through a trapdoor.

Invisible in his cloak, the soldier followed the princesses. He broke off twigs of silver, gold, and diamonds as they walked through woods. The girls were met by twelve princes and danced all night. The next day, the soldier told the king where his daughters went and offered the twigs as evidence. After the king gave him his kingdom, the soldier chose the oldest daughter as his bride.

Ellen Kushner retells this story in first person. Who do you think is the storyteller?

I predict:
Possible predictions: one of the daughters, the soldier, the old woman in the woods

Based on what evidence? Answers will vary.

After You Read

Checking Predictions

Review your prediction about how this author fractured this fairy tale. Did you choose the correct storyteller? Why does it make a difference who tells the story?

Answers will vary. We learn the thoughts and feelings of the storyteller, but only her impressions of what other characters are thinking and feeling.
Making Connections
Do you identify with the main character in this story? Do you share any of her frustrations in dealing with her sisters? Explain your answer.

Students should explain whether they are ever responsible for younger siblings.

Responding to the Story
1. What worries do the younger sisters have as the soldier decides which one will be his wife?
   They worry that they will have to marry him instead of a handsome prince.

2. Do you think the oldest sister expected the soldier to choose her as his wife? Is that why she helped him earlier in the story? Explain your answer.

Students may think the older sister planned it, or they might think she just did not want anyone to die.

Analyzing the Writing: Characterization
Ellen Kushner’s oldest princess is not exactly like the one in the original fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm. Look at the chart below that describes the girl. Complete the chart with information about how the character in this fractured fairy tale is similar to or different from the one in the Grimms version.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>The Brothers Grimm</th>
<th>Ellen Kushner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The oldest princess</td>
<td>liked being the oldest because she was in charge of all the others.</td>
<td>Resents being the oldest because she gets blamed for all their bad behavior.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The oldest princess</td>
<td>enjoyed going to the dances and being with the princes.</td>
<td>Is tired of going to the dances and even tries in vain to stay behind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The oldest princess</td>
<td>thought the youngest princess was behaving like a baby.</td>
<td>Also thinks the youngest is acting like a spoiled baby.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The oldest princess</td>
<td>didn’t care that the men who tried to find out where they’d gone were killed for their failures.</td>
<td>Cares about what is happening to the men to try to help and doesn’t want the killings to continue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The oldest princess</td>
<td>knew nothing about the old woman in the woods.</td>
<td>Actually became the old woman in the woods to help the soldier win the contest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The oldest princess</td>
<td>was as selfish and unkind as all the other princesses.</td>
<td>Was not selfish but rather was wise, kind, and sensible.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"Puss in Boots, the Sequel"
by Joseph Stanton
page 97

After reading this poem, be sure to read about Joseph Stanton on page 98.

Before You Read
Read this summary of the poem “Puss in Boots”:

A poor miller dies, leaving behind three sons. To the oldest son, he leaves his mill, to the middle son he leaves his donkey, but to the youngest son all he has left is a talking cat. Upset by his lack of fortune, the young man is discouraged, but the cat has a plan: if the man will get him a bag and some boots, he promises to change the young man’s future. This cat finds ways to become a favorite of the king: bringing the king rabbits and partridges from its “master.” Using cunning methods, the cat manages to obtain fine clothes and a castle for his master, who is being portrayed to the king as Lord Marquis of Carabas. The king thinks the master must be a fine gentleman and gives him his daughter in marriage.

After You Read
Mastering Vocabulary
Use context clues and a dictionary, if necessary, to figure out the meanings of the words in the box, and then use the words to complete the sentences below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>aftermath</th>
<th>hostile</th>
<th>discern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dismal</td>
<td>ascension</td>
<td>naïve</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. I was ___naïve____ to believe that far-fetched story.

2. It was hard to ____discern____ whether he was kind or evil.

3. The weather has been so ____dismal____ this long, gray week.

4. When will the prince’s ____ascension____ to the throne take place?

5. In the ____aftermath____ of the hurricane, people began to rebuild their homes.

6. I could hear the ____hostile____ feelings when he screamed at me to leave.
**Responding to the Poem**

1. Why does the author call this poem a sequel?

   *It happens after the story in the original poem.*

2. What happens in this sequel?

   *The cat gets rid of his former master and becomes king.*

3. What about this poem indicates that it is the cat who is the main character now? Explain your answer.

   *The poem focuses on the cat and describes him in mostly positive ways. The voice of the narrator seems to be arrogant, which would fit the cat, as well.*

4. The author uses two cat-related idioms in this poem. What are they and what does each one mean?

   *“The cat’s out of the bag” means that the secret is now in the open. “Puss lands on his feet” means that he always ends up fine regardless of how dangerous his actions might be.*

5. What is the theme or lesson of this poem? Explain your answer.

   *Possible response: Easy come, easy go. (The master easily became king and just as easily was pushed aside by the cat.) Other answers may include: Don’t trust anyone who manipulates to get what he wants.*
“The Boy Who Cried Wolf”
by Holly Black
pages 99–107

After reading this story, be sure to read about Holly Black on page 108.

Before You Read
You probably know the story about the young shepherd who cried wolf just to get attention because he was bored. At first, his cries for help brought people running to help him protect the sheep. When they realized there was no wolf, just a boy playing tricks, they decided to ignore his calls for help. No one believed the boy again, even when a real wolf appeared.

The boy in this fractured fairy tale reads about many scary kinds of things, including a story about a flower with a scent that can turn someone into a wolf. What do you predict will happen in this story?

I predict:
Possible prediction: He will try to warn people about the flower, but they won’t believe him.

Based on what evidence?
That’s what happens in the other story with the same title.

After You Read
Checking Predictions
1. Review your prediction about how Holly Black fractured this fairy tale. What is the connection between these two stories with the same title?

They both include a wolf and a bored boy. In this story, Alex is constantly on the lookout for dangerous things. He should warn his family about the white flowers, but he doesn’t, because he thinks none of them will believe him.

2. In what main way is this story different from the original tale?

The boy actually becomes a werewolf rather than being the one who has to watch out for the wolves.
Mastering Vocabulary: Connotation and Denotation

Every word has a *denotation*, its dictionary definition. Many words also have one or more *connotations*, emotional meanings, which might be positive or negative.

1. At the bottom of page 101, the author writes that the beach had “no coral to cut up their feet.” She might have written “to slash their feet.” *Cut* and *slash* have similar denotations, but which word has a more negative connotation? Explain your answer.

*Slash* is more negative, as it implies an angry, out-of-control cutting.

2. On page 107, Anna *shrieked*. The author might have written that she *yelled*. *Shriek* and *yell* have similar denotations, but which word has a more negative connotation? Explain your answer.

*Shriek* is more negative, as it implies a stronger emotion and a higher pitch, perhaps showing panic.

Responding to the Story

1. In addition to references to the story with the same name, which other fairy tale is woven into this one? Provide evidence to support your answer.

“Little Red Riding Hood” is woven in. On page 106, Anna says something similar to,

“What big eyes you have!” like Red does. At the end of the story, Alex is at a house in the woods and sees someone who looks like someone’s grandmother. She might be a reference to Red’s grandmother.

2. The original story about the boy who cried wolf is a fable, not a fairy tale. What makes this version a fairy tale?

A fable is a short piece that has a moral. A fairy tale includes some kind of magic, as when Alex turns into a wolf.

Analyzing the Writing

Why is this story better told from Alex’s point of view?

We find out why he’s changing into a wolf, how he feels as a wolf, and what happens after he runs away from his family.
"Troll"
by Jane Yolen
pages 107–114

After reading this story, be sure to read about Jane Yolen on page 115.

Before You Read
Read this summary of “The Three Billy Goats Gruff,” the fairy tale upon which this story is based.

Three goats must cross a bridge to reach some grass on the other side. A troll guards the bridge. When the youngest goat passes over the bridge, the troll stops him and wants to eat him. The little goat says that his bigger brother will come along soon, so the troll lets him go and waits for a better meal. The second brother says the same thing. When the biggest brother comes, he knocks the troll into the river, where the troll then drowns.

What changes might Jane Yolen make to this fairy tale?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I predict: Possible prediction: She might make the troll a nice character and the goats the bad guys.</th>
<th>Based on what evidence? The other stories in this collection change the bad guy into a more sympathetic character.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

After You Read
Checking Predictions
Review your prediction about how this author fractured this fairy tale. Were you correct? How does this story differ from the one above?

Answers may vary. The troll in this story is more sympathetic. The summary of the original tale does not mention Troll’s mother or describe him as a character. It does not include lightning cooking the goat. The new story is written entirely from Troll’s point of view.
Analyzing the Writing: Using Personification

Personification means giving a nonliving object some human characteristics. List two examples of personification in this story and explain them.

1. Example 1: Possible example: The trout on page 111 teases Troll by zinging a raspberry at him.

2. Example 2: Possible example: On page 112, Storm is treated as a character who makes loud comments and shakes his fist.

3. How does this author identify objects she is treating as human?

She capitalized their names, making them proper nouns.

Responding to the Story

1. Reread the summary of “The Three Billy Goats Gruff.” What is the theme or lesson of this story?

Possible responses: Don’t be greedy. Take what you have instead of waiting for something better.

2. This author suggests a moral at the end of “Troll.” What is the tone of her moral?

It is humorous.

3. What would be a good moral for “Troll”?

Possibilities: If you can’t get what you want, be happy with what you have. Never give up hope. Good things come to those who wait.

4. Ms. Yolen’s tone is light and humorous. List some funny phrases or sentences from the story that you especially liked.

Answers will vary.
Making Connections

1. On page 114, the author writes “Goats always live with the idea of hope triumphing over knowledge.” What does she mean? What would that mean in your life?

She means that the goats knew Troll was under the bridge, but they still hoped that he wouldn’t catch them. Perhaps they aren’t very smart, but held onto wishful thinking.

Possible personal examples: not studying and still hoping you will do well on a test; eating junk food and expecting to be fit and healthy; letting friends pressure you into something you know is wrong or dangerous and hoping nothing bad will happen.

2. Troll had no imagination. What would your life be like if you had no imagination?

Possible responses: You might hear noises and not be able to figure out what made them. You would not be able to put ideas together and draw conclusions; you would understand only what you saw. You might be less successful.

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“Castle Othello”  
by Nancy Farmer  
pages 116–129

After reading this story, be sure to read about Nancy Farmer on page 130.

Before You Read
Here is a summary of “Bluebeard,” the story upon which this fractured fairy tale is based:

Bluebeard was wealthy—and feared. He kept marrying, but each time his wife disappeared. One day the recently widowed man visited a family with two daughters and asked to marry one of them. The girls were frightened, but in time the younger one married him.  

Soon after, Bluebeard left the country but gave his keys to his new wife, giving her free reign to open whatever she wanted, except for one door. She and her visiting sister opened the forbidden door. Inside were the dead, bloody bodies of his other wives. The sisters quickly relocked the door but could not wash the blood off their hands. When Bluebeard returned, he knew what they had done and threatened to kill them. The sisters locked themselves in a tower and were rescued by their brothers. The brothers killed Bluebeard. His wife inherited all his wealth and used the money to help her siblings and found another, kinder husband.

What changes might Nancy Farmer make to this fairy tale?

| I predict: |
| Possible prediction: She told the story from Bluebeard’s point of view to show that he was misunderstood. |
| Based on what evidence? |
| Authors often change the point of view in these stories. |

After You Read
Checking Predictions
Did you predict how this author changed the story? How does this story differ from the one above?

The main character’s name in the new story is Othello, not Bluebeard, but the biggest difference is what the sisters find behind the locked door.

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Mastering Vocabulary
Understanding the words below will help you enjoy this fairy tale. Define each word, using a dictionary, if necessary.

Venetian (page 118) Someone or something from Venice, Italy

Moors (page 119) Muslims who lived in northwest Africa. Most have dark skin.

corsairs (page 119) pirates

Inquisition (page 120) During the Middle Ages, an investigation by the Roman Catholic Church that found and punished people who did not agree with certain religious ideas.

Responding to the Story
1. At first, Felicia won’t even look at Othello. What motivates her to marry him?

He’s rich.

2. How do gossip and rumors affect the plot of this story?

The rumors create suspense about Othello. Who is he? How rich is he? Did he really kill his wives?

Making Connections
Which do you like better, the original “Bluebeard” or this version? Explain your answer.

Answers will vary.

How do rumors and gossip tend to affect people’s reputations? Explain your answer.

Answers will vary.
Othello was a character in Shakespeare’s play, *The Tragedy of Othello*. In the play, Othello was a Moor married to a woman named Desdemona, whom he killed in a jealous rage.

The Othello in Nancy Farmer’s “Othello’s Castle” is partly based on a real man named Leo Africanus, a Moor who lived in the 1600s. Africanus was captured by pirates and was sent as a slave to Pope Leo X, whom he impressed with his intelligence. Then, Pope Leo changed the man’s name to Johannes Leo. The Moor taught Arabic in Rome and wrote several books about his travels in Africa. (He was never named Othello and did not have many wives.)

Why do you think Ms. Farmer chose to combine two tales, one a fairy tale and the other a true story, into this fractured fairy tale?

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**Answers may vary, but could include:**

- She did this in order to make the fairy tale more believable; to portray the Moor in a more positive light; to give recognition to both stories because she liked them both equally.
“Skin”  
by Michael Cadnum  
pages 131–142

After reading this story, be sure to read about Michael Cadnum on page 143.

Before You Read

Here is a summary of the fairy tale “Rumpelstiltskin,” upon which Mr. Cadnum’s story is based.

A father brags that his daughter can spin straw into gold, hoping that the prince will marry her. The king shuts the daughter in a room and demands that she spin gold by morning or she will be put in the dungeon. That night, a strange creature appears, promising to spin the gold if the daughter will give him her first baby. The desperate daughter agrees.

After she and the prince marry and he becomes the king, the new queen has a baby. When the creature returns to claim the child, the she promises him great wealth. The creature says he will give up the child if the queen can guess his name within three days. Fortunately, the young king overhears the creature singing his name in the forest. He tells his wife, and she tells the creature his name: Rumpelstiltskin. The creature disappears forever.

What changes might Michael Cadnum make to this fairy tale?

I predict:  
Possible prediction: The daughter/queen may be the bad person and Rumpelstiltskin may be the innocent victim. Maybe Rumpelstiltskin actually does take the baby away.

Based on what evidence?  
The characters in these stories tend to change places. The ending might be the opposite of what happened in the original story.

After You Read

Checking Predictions

Was your prediction correct? How did this author change the story? Which version do you like better, the original above or “Skin”?

Answers will vary. In the new version, Rumpelstiltskin has many talents and likes to eat babies. He is trickier than in the old story, and the daughter is lazier.
Mastering Vocabulary: Context Clues
Many words in this story may be unfamiliar. However, clues in the sentence or paragraph where the word is used can help you figure out its meaning. Find each word below on the page indicated. Then use context clues to decide which word in the box is a synonym for that word. Write the synonym on the line. Then add the clue that helped you.

1. contrivance (page 134) **machine; “The spinning wheel is a contrivance of my own devising.”**

2. ravenous (page 138) **starving; paragraph also mentions hungry and famished**

3. countenance (page 138) **face; the baby’s countenance is ruddy and little**

4. coffer (page 139) **chest; he opened a coffer of treasures**

5. appellation (page 140) **name; the queen will never guess that my name is...**

6. cavorted (page 141) **danced; cavorted in happiness**

Analyzing the Writing
1. This story is written in first-person point of view. What does the reader gain from this?

   The reader knows everything that the main character is thinking and planning, as well as his reactions and feelings, including some rather disgusting ones. We get to see what a villain he really is.

2. A common type of character in folktales is one known as a **trickster**. What do you think this is?

   Someone who plays tricks on others in the story in order to get what he wants.
Responding to the Story
At the end of the story, why should Charles the Wise tells the guards not to hurt the fellow. Why do you think he lets him live?

He knows that the fellow can do many marvelous things and can invent important tools for the king. He also probably doesn’t want him to be an enemy who will come back to steal babies from them in the future.

Making Connections
Which character do you like better, Rumpelstiltskin or Winnie? Explain your choice.

Answers will vary.
“A Delicate Architecture”  
by Catherynne M. Valente  
pages 144–157

After reading this story, be sure to read about Catherynne M. Valente on page 158.

Before You Read
Here is a summary of “Hansel and Gretel,” the fairy tale upon which Ms. Valente’s story is based:

Pressured by his new wife, a poor woodcutter abandons his two children in the woods. Hansel and Gretel drop breadcrumbs to find their way home, but the animals eat the crumbs. Lost, the hungry children find a house made of candy and other sweets. A witch built the house to attract children so she could fatten them up and eat them. Once she catches them, the witch locks Hansel in a cage and makes Gretel feed him to fatten him up. Just as the witch is about to bake the children, Gretel tricks the witch into getting into the hot oven and closes the oven door behind her. The children find their way home, learn that the new wife is dead, and live happily ever after.

What changes might Catherynne Valente make to this fairy tale?

| I predict: Possible prediction: She might have focused the story on the candy house, telling why and how it was built. | Based on what evidence? The title of this story seems to describe the candy house. |

---

After You Read
Checking Predictions
Did you predict how this author changed the story? Compared to the original fairy tale, when does this fractured fairy tale take place?

Answers will vary. It takes place before the story told in “Hansel and Gretel.”
Understanding Specialized Vocabulary

Often people in a particular business or craft use words that are specific to their work. In this story, the characters are confectioners, or candy makers. Look up each of the specialized words below to learn more about the art of making candy.

1. chocolate trifle a sponge cake dessert with fruit and cream toppings____________________

2. chocolatier a maker or seller of chocolate_________________________________________

3. truffle a rich round ball of chocolate with a soft chocolate center____________________

4. marzipan a sweet paste made of ground almonds, sugar, and eggs____________________

5. toffee a candy made by boiling brown sugar or molasses with butter____________________

6. filigree a delicate ornamental design________________________________________________

7. licorice a rubbery black candy flavored with the root of a licorice plant____________________

Analyzing the Writing

1. From whose viewpoint is the story told? Who is she and who does she become? It is
told from Contanze’s viewpoint. She becomes the old witch of the “Hansel and Gretel”
story.________________________________________

2. How would you describe the tone of the story? Answers may vary but could include:
The tone is gentle and sweet. It is also sad when the girl is abandoned on the kitchen
wall.________________________________________

3. How is this version of the story different in tone from the original tale? The original
story is supposed to be scary and dark. This one is more tragic and sweet. The witch is
someone for whom we can feel sympathy.________________________________________
Responding to the Story
1. How does the confectioner think of Constanze? What does she mean to him?

She is a copy of the empress, whom he loves. The confectioner hopes to give Constanze
to the emperor to get back in his favor.

2. On page 147, Constanze says “After all, I was far from a dense child. I had my
suspicions—I wanted to see the empress.” What does she mean? Give evidence to
support your answer.

She thinks the empress might be her mother. Possible evidence: She has been told that
she looks like the empress; she doubts her father’s story about baking her in an oven.

3. How does Constanze change during this story?

In the beginning, she is a happy child, sure that her father loves her and proud to learn
his craft. By the end of the story, she is alone and sad, betrayed by her father and lonely
and hungry for the taste of something small and salty.

4. Does this story cause you to feel sympathy for the witch in Hansel and Gretel? Explain
your answer.
Responses may vary. Some students might feel sorry for the poor girl made of candy,
hung from a wall for years. Others might think she should be kind to children because
she should know how they feel to be tricked by someone.
“Molly”
by Midori Snyder
pages 159–179

After reading this story, be sure to read about Midori Snyder on page 180.

Before You Read
Here is a summary of the Scottish fairy tale “Molly Whuppie,” upon which Ms. Snyder's story is based:

Abandoned in the woods, Molly and her two sisters find a cottage where a giant lives. The giant wants them to spend the night in the same bed with his three daughters. Before bed, he puts gold necklaces on his daughters and straw necklaces on the sisters.

During the night, Molly quietly switches the necklaces. Then the giant unknowingly grabs his daughters in the dark and locks them in a dungeon. Molly and her sisters escape and find a castle. The king sends Molly back to the cottage to get the giant’s sword. The reward: one sister will marry the prince. Molly steals the sword, getting away by crossing a bridge made of one hair that the giant cannot cross. The king sends her back for the giant’s purse and then his ring. The giant catches Molly stealing the ring and asks what he should do with her. She suggests sewing her in a bag, along with a pair of scissors, a cat, and a dog and then going to fetch a stick with which to beat them. But Molly tricks the giant’s wife into the bag and sews it shut. Molly gets away again, marries the king’s youngest son, and lives happily ever after.

What changes might Midori Snyder make to this fairy tale?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I predict:</th>
<th>Based on what evidence?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Possible prediction: It might reverse some of the roles of the characters. Maybe Molly doesn’t win in the end.</td>
<td>That is how many of the stories in this book have gone.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After You Read
Checking Predictions
How did your prediction line up with how this author changed this story? Explain your answer.

Answers will vary.
Responding to the Story
1. What parts of this story (characters, setting, plot) did this author change? Provide details.
   She kept the same characters but changed the setting from the forest to a city. She also rearranged the plot: Molly steals from the giant before tricking him into getting rid of his daughters. In the end, Molly forces the giant to go back to the forest, but she does not get to marry a prince.

2. In this story and in *Up the Down Beanstalk*, the main characters (Jack and Molly) confront an angry giant. Use this chart to compare these two characters and your response to them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>His or her treatment of the giant or his wife</th>
<th>Reason(s) for stealing from the giant</th>
<th>Your feelings about the main character</th>
<th>Your feelings about the giant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>disrespectful to the giant’s wife at first; then polite</td>
<td>greed</td>
<td>Possible response: He’s irresponsible, but a good boy.</td>
<td>Possible response: He’s kind of dim-witted, according to his wife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molly</td>
<td>totally disrespectful</td>
<td>greed, jealousy</td>
<td>Possible response: She’s a demon.</td>
<td>Possible response: He’s not a bad person, but he’s living in the wrong place.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Which of these two stories did you enjoy more? Why?
   Answers will vary.
4. In the last paragraph on page 181, the author suggests several questions that occurred to her. Choose two of those questions and offer your opinion on them. Provide evidence to support your opinions.

① Question: **Sample: Who is really the monster?**

   My answer: **Possible response: Molly is the monster, as she makes life miserable for the giant without any regrets.**

②. Question: **Sample: Did Molly hate the giant and his wife because they were different?**

   My answer: **Possible response: Yes, because she is angry about her own life and hates everyone who is “not from here.” She keeps telling him to go back to Spain or wherever he came from.**
"Observing the Formalities"
by Neil Gaiman
pages 181–183

After reading this poem, be sure to read about Neil Gaiman on page 184.

Before You Read
Mr. Gaiman’s poem is based on the fairy tale “Sleeping Beauty.” In the original story, fairies are invited to the christening of a new princess. They all bring gifts, such as beauty and musical talent. A wicked fairy is not invited, so she angrily decides to come. She is the last one to give a gift, and instead places a curse on the princess, ensuring that when the girl grows up, she will prick her finger on a spinning wheel and die. One fairy comes late to the christening and, as her gift to the child, weakens the evil spell, causing the princess to sleep for a hundred years instead of dying. Only a prince’s kiss can awaken her. You know the rest of the story.

How do you think Mr. Gaiman will change the story?

Answers will vary but most will accurately predict that he will take the evil fairy’s point of view.

After You Read
Checking Predictions
Was your prediction accurate? Who is the narrator of the poem?

Answers will vary. The wicked fairy is the narrator.

Responding to the Poem
1. Why is the wicked fairy concerned about “observing the formalities”? Support your answer with evidence from the poem.

She thinks that most people have forgotten their manners. “Manners are all, and the formalities. When we lose those, we have lost everything. Without them, we might as well be dead.”
2. Reread the second stanza. Why do you think the evil fairy might not have been invited to the christening?

She acts as if she’s not interested in being around people and goes to some effort to keep them from bothering her. She is also grouchy and ill-tempered and finds fault with others.

3. What does this line on page 183 mean? “Eighteen is old enough. More than enough.” The wicked fairy thinks the princess should die when she is eighteen because after that age things get “messy” with all the bustle of weddings, christenings, etc.

4. How does the wicked fairy contrast human life and death?

She says that humans are basically gross: they bleed and drool and snore, etc. She feels these things are impolite. Death, however, is much neater. It is still and quiet and clean.

Making Connections
Do you know anyone who reminds you of this fairy? Have you read a book with a character like her? If so, comment on their similarities below.

Answers will vary.
“The Cinderella Game”  
by Kelly Link  
pages 185–199

After reading this story, be sure to read about Kelly Link on page 200.

Before You Read  
You probably know the story of Cinderella. Her evil stepmother and two cruel stepsisters make her life miserable. Cinderella helps them get ready for a fancy ball, where the prince will choose his bride. Left behind, Cinderella is visited by her fairy godmother, who magically prepares her to attend the ball. There, the prince falls in love with her. Cinderella hurries out just before midnight so the prince won’t see her when she changes back into a poor girl. Cinderella accidentally leaves her glass slipper behind. The prince tries this shoe on many women until he finds Cinderella. They marry and live happily ever after.

How might Kelly Link change the time and place setting of this story?

| I predict: Possble prediction: She might make it present day and in a modern town or city. | Based on what evidence? The title of the story doesn’t sound like an old-fashioned fairy tale. Some of the other stories in this book were set in the present. |

After You Read  
Checking Predictions
1. Was your prediction about the time and place setting correct? Explain.

Answers will vary.

2. How are the original story of Cinderella and this tale alike and different?

The boy and girl refer to characters in Cinderella, and they are stepsiblings. The setting and plot do not match.
Analyzing Genre
1. Is “The Cinderella Game” a fairy tale? Explain your answer.

It is not really a fairy tale. This story has all human characters and doesn’t use magic.
However, the brother, in particular, wants to be an evil character and chooses to behave that way.

Yes, because it has a plot, setting, characters, and a conflict that is solved in a few pages.

Analyzing the Writing
1. From whose point of view is this story told? How do you know?

The story is told from Peter’s point of view, because we see everything from his eyes and we get to listen to what he is thinking.

2. On page 198, the author writes that Darcy was holding Peter’s mother in “that monstrously loving hold.” What does she mean by this unusual combination of words?

Darcy was pretending to love his mother in order to distract her from Peter’s wound.

3. This is probably the most realistic story in the collection. What makes it so realistic? Support your answer with details from the story.

The relationship between Darcy and Peter is realistic because stepsiblings often are jealous of each other. They behave like kids, wanting to play games, dressing up like a princess, teasing, etc. Some of the specific realistic details might include: reference to The Little Mermaid movie, watching TV, the house, new-kid-at-school problems, jeans.
Responding to the Story
1. In this passage from page 196, Peter is talking:

   “I don't know what I’m supposed to do!” he said. It came out in a roar. He didn't even know what he meant. “I don’t even know what I'm doing here! Tell me what I'm doing here.”

   What do you think Peter means?

   He doesn't know how to handle the changes in his life.

   □

2. Why do both kids want to be evil characters in the game they're playing?

   They both have angry feelings and want to be the “strong” one.

   □

3. In what ways might playing this game change the relationship between Peter and Darcy?

   It might bring them closer, because they have both expressed some of their angry feelings, and they work together to hide Peter's fork wound from their parents.

   □

4. On page 199, Peter mentions that the werewolves waited patiently in the dark in his father’s forbidden room. What do you think this remark symbolizes?

   Answers will vary, but may include: The kids’ angry feelings are like werewolves, waiting to devour someone. Peter is eager to play this kind of make-believe game again.

   □
Library Applications

Research: Fairy Tales Worldwide
Some fairy tales, such as “Cinderella,” are told and retold worldwide and thus have many variations. Choose one fairy tale and locate two variations of it. Then use a Venn diagram to show the similarities and differences of the plots, characters, settings, or all of the above.

For example, you could use the diagram below to compare Cinderella and her Chinese counterpart, Yeh Shen. Share your comparisons with classmates by posting them.

Cinderella

both

Yeh Shen

Technology Connection
You and a classmate or two might also use desktop publishing software to develop a booklet of variations on one fairy tale. Include illustrations and background information about the cultures from which the variation was written. You could donate your booklet to the school’s media center.

Writing Connection: Who Says?
Create two newspaper articles about a recent school, community, or national event. Write from the viewpoint of two people who would see this event quite differently. That’s easy if you are writing about an election: one side wins and one side loses. However, if you are writing about a fire, you could cover the story from the point of view of the homeowner, a firefighter, a neighbor, or a wild animal that is affected. If you are reporting on a sporting event, you could write from the perspective of a participant, a spectator, the parent of a participant, or a jealous teammate who feels he or she deserves more recognition.

Your might want to develop your articles into a short story told from two characters’ points of view.
Fracturing Your Own Fairy Tale

Look back at your responses to the Prereading Activities on pages 5–6. Choose one of your ideas for changing “Little Red Riding Hood” or apply your idea to another fairy tale, changing the setting, characters, point of view, plot, or another aspect of the fairy tale.

Use the writing process to prewrite, draft, revise, and publish your fractured story, complete with illustrations. Post it so other students can enjoy how you changed a familiar story.

You might have an opportunity to read your fractured fairy tale to younger students. It’s best if they are familiar with the original story, so be ready to summarize it for them.

Fine Arts Connection: Acting It Out

Instead of reading aloud your own fractured fairy tale (see above), write it as a play and act it out. First, work with a group to choose one of your rewritten stories. Then rewrite it again, this time with dialogue for the student actors and directions for their movements and actions. You might decide to have a narrator who gives the audience information that is difficult to act out, such as a description of time passing. Create simple scenery that suggests the setting.

Choose a director and actors, rehearse, and then present your performance. If you are using the same characters and setting as in the original fairy tale, consider acting out that story first and then presenting your variation. Tell your audience to expect the unexpected!
## Correlations to National Standards
### For Grades 5–8

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