

Ideas with

IMPACT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

**Fairy Tale
Writing**



Happily Ever After...written by Me!

Alexandra S. Someillan, Disseminator

Email: asomeillan@dadeschools.net

School: Hialeah Elementary

School Mail Code: 2361

School Phone Number: 305-888-6709

*For information concerning ideas with IMPACT
opportunities including Adaptor and Disseminator
grants, please contact:*

The Education Fund

305-558-4544, Ext. 114

Email: audrey@educationfund.org

www.educationfund.org



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Purpose of the Project



The purpose of this project is to teach your children the elements of a fairy tale and inspire them to write their own. As both a teacher and a writer, I've learned that the best way to foster a love of writing in children is to make the process meaningful and purposeful. When children aren't interested in what they're writing, they're unlikely to enjoy or engage with the writing process.

Fairy tales are the foundation of storytelling and help explain why stories continue to endure over time. Through fairy tales, children begin to understand narrative structure, character development, and imaginative thinking. Encouraging them to write their own fairy tales is a powerful way to spark creativity while strengthening their writing skills.

Once students understand the core elements of a fairy tale, they can use their own background knowledge to plan, create, and craft original stories. This not only allows them to take ownership of their writing but also gives them something to be proud of. My hope is that this activity will ignite your children's imagination and nurture a lifelong passion for writing.

Goals and Objectives

- Recognize and discuss common elements such as character, setting, problem, magic, and resolution using familiar stories.
- Brainstorm and organize ideas for their own fairy tale using a visual and written planning sheet.
- Compose a four-five sentence fairy tale that includes:
 - An introduction with character and setting
 - A problem or challenge
 - A magical or action-based solution
 - A happy ending
- Demonstrate understanding of basic sentence formation, punctuation, and capitalization within their writing.
- Invent original characters, settings, and magical elements, reflecting personal imagination and voice.
- Read their fairy tales aloud in a group setting, practicing speaking and listening skills in a supportive environment.

Florida Standards

Kindergarten

Reading & Writing:

- ELA.K.R.1.1: Describe the main character(s), setting, and important events in a story.
- ELA.K.R.3.1: Identify and explain descriptive words in text(s).
- ELA.K.C.1.2: Participate in shared writing experiences.
- ELA.K.C.1.4: Write a narrative about a single event using a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing.

Communication:

- ELA.K.C.4.1: Participate in conversations with peers and adults.
- ELA.K.C.5.1: Use appropriate voice level, phrasing, and expression when presenting.

1st Grade

Reading & Writing:

- ELA.1.R.1.1: Identify main story elements (characters, setting, events).
- ELA.1.R.3.1: Identify and explain descriptive language.

- ELA.1.C.1.2: Write narratives that recount two or more sequenced events, include details, and provide a sense of closure.
- ELA.1.C.1.4: Use appropriate capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

Communication:

- ELA.1.C.4.1: Participate in collaborative discussions.
- ELA.1.C.5.1: Use appropriate presentation skills.

2nd Grade

Reading & Writing:

- ELA.2.R.1.1: Identify plot structure and story elements.
- ELA.2.R.3.1: Explain how descriptive words help the reader visualize.
- ELA.2.C.1.2: Write narratives that recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details, and provide closure.
- ELA.2.C.1.4: Use correct capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

Communication:

- ELA.2.C.4.1: Engage in collaborative discussions.

Course Overview

In this three-month unit, students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade will explore the magical world of fairy tales through reading, discussing, creating, and sharing their own original stories. From learning the classic structure of “Once upon a time...” to crafting unique characters and magical problems, students will build foundational writing and storytelling skills. The course will culminate in a class “Storybook Celebration” to honor each child’s voice and imagination.

March: Explore & Imagine

Throughout March, students will immerse themselves in the wonder of fairy tales by listening to a wide range of classic and culturally diverse stories—think *The Three Little Pigs*, *Hansel and Gretel*, and *Martina the Beautiful Cockroach*. As each tale unfolds, the class will talk through its essential ingredients—characters, settings, problems, magical elements, and satisfying endings—then bring these stories to life through retellings and lively dramatizations. To spark original thinking, children will begin experimenting with story planners that offer sentence starters and drawing prompts, and the month will spotlight oral storytelling, guided discussions, and hands-on character creation.

April: Plan & Write

When April arrives, students shift from exploration to creation, crafting their own concise fairy tales. Modeled five-sentence story structures provide a clear path for budding writers, and a variety of scaffolded tools—word banks, sentence frames, and “draw-then-write” pages—help every child find success. Writing centers become hubs for first drafts, illustrations, and peer feedback, while teachers circulate to confer, guide revisions, and nudge students to stretch ideas or polish details.

Publish & Celebrate

April is reserved for polishing and sharing. Children put finishing touches on their tales, adding illustrations and small edits to produce a final copy worthy of pride. The class then gathers everyone’s stories into a single anthology—whether a printed book or a digital slideshow—to highlight the collective creativity. A joyful “Magic Story Circle” or author celebration invites students to read their work aloud, applaud one another, and reflect on favorite moments and new skills gained along the journey.

Materials & Supports

A rich library of multicultural fairy-tale read-alouds anchors the experience, complemented by story planners, drawing templates, and anchor charts that outline

key elements of the genre. Sentence frames, visual word banks, and personal writing folders keep ideas accessible, and audio or video resources ensure every learner—auditory, visual, or multilingual—can engage fully.

Differentiation

For kindergarteners, the emphasis stays on vibrant oral storytelling and expressive drawings, with writing supported through tracing or sentence completion. First-graders blend drawing and text, using frames and modeled examples to build simple narratives. Second-graders are encouraged to lengthen sentences, experiment with richer vocabulary, and practice basic editing, steadily advancing their independence as storytellers.

Culminating Project:

"Happily Ever After Showcase" - A celebration where students share their stories aloud or display them in a classroom gallery. Families can be invited to view the fairy tale books and celebrate student authors.

Lesson Plan

March

Objective: Students will listen to and explore traditional and multicultural fairy tales, identify story elements, and begin planning their own characters and settings.

Week 1: What Is a Fairy Tale?

- **Read Aloud:** *The Three Little Pigs* or another classic
- **Discussion:** Identify characters, setting, problem, magic, and ending
- **Activity:** Watch the video What is a Fairy Tale. Then create a classroom anchor chart - "What Makes a Fairy Tale?"

Week 2: Exploring Diverse Tales

- **Read Aloud:** Choose a culturally diverse tale (e.g., *Rubia and the Three Osos*, *Martina the Beautiful Cockroach*)
- **Discussion:** Compare and contrast with a previously read fairy tale
- **Activity:** "Magic or Not?" - sort magical and non-magical elements

Week 3: Characters & Settings

- **Mini-Lesson:** What makes a strong character or setting in a fairy tale?
- **Activity:** Design a hero/heroine and a setting using drawings and sentence starters
- **Sentence Starter Examples:** Use the sentence starter worksheet examples if needed.
- **Discussion:** Share ideas with partners or small groups

- **Differentiation:**

- **K:** Draw and dictate, then write sentences using sentence starters, with gradual independence.
- **1st:** Use a word bank and sentence starters to write 4 sentences about their character and setting.
- **2nd:** Write a 4-5 sentence paragraph using sentence starters, focusing on descriptive language.

- **Week 4: Middle & Problem**

- **Mini-Lesson:** How to introduce a magical problem or challenge.
- **Writing Time:** Add the magical problem or challenge to the story. Refer to the sentence starter examples for fairy tale problems.
- **Centers:** Create a magic object or creature and explain its role in the story.

- **Differentiation:**

- **K:** Use a drawing-to-sentence sheet with sentence starters and support.
- **1st:** Use "First... Then..." starters to write 4 middle-section sentences.
- **2nd:** Describe the conflict and character actions in 4-5 sentences using sentence starters.

April

Objective: Students will revise, illustrate, and present their fairy tales in a published format.

- **Week 5: Ending the Story**

- **Mini-Lesson:** Writing a fairy tale ending ("happily ever after..." or a lesson learned)
- **Writing Time:** Finish writing the ending of their fairy tale

- **Peer Sharing:** Pair students to retell their full stories orally

Week 6: Story Planning Begins

- **Mini-Lesson:** Review story structure - Beginning, Middle, and End
- **Activity:** Use story planners to draw and label each story part
- **Creative Time:** Practice oral storytelling with a partner.

• Differentiation:

- **K:** Verbally narrate while teacher scribes, then write closing sentences using sentence starters.
- **1st:** Use "Finally..." or "At the end..." starters to write 4 closing sentences.
- **2nd:** Write a full ending paragraph (4-5 sentences) using sentence starters that wrap up the story.

Week 7: Revising & Illustrating

- **Mini-Lesson:** Use a simple checklist - Does your story have a beginning, middle, and end?
- **Activity:** Edit and revise with teacher or peer support; illustrate each part

• Differentiation:

- **K:** Dictate revisions, add drawings, and write revised sentences using sentence starters with support.
- **1st:** Use an editing checklist to revise 4 sentences with sentence starters and illustrations.
- **2nd:** Revise 4-5 sentences focusing on structure and word choice using sentence starters if needed.

Week 8: Celebrate & Share

- **Activity:** Compile stories into a class book or digital slideshow
- **Event:** Host a "Magic Story Circle" or Author's Day for student presentations
- **Reflection:** Discuss favorite tales.

Resource List

Books:

Rubia and the Three Osos by Susan Middle Elya

Hansel and Gretel by James Marshall

Martina the Beautiful Cockroach by Carmen Agra Deedy

Videos:

What is a Fairy Tale? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmaLkB1HqAs>

Writing Worksheets:

Sentence Starter Worksheets

Beginning, Middle, and End Planning Worksheets

First Draft Worksheet

Sentence Starter First Draft Worksheet

Final Draft Worksheet

Cut and Paste Magical Non-Magical Worksheet

Word Bank Worksheet

Character Sentence Starter Examples

Character Sentence Starters



Once upon a time, there was a...



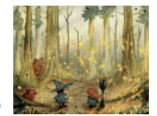
Long ago, a brave _____ lived in a...



In a quiet village, there was a girl/boy who...



Deep in the forest, a magical _____ waited for...



There lived a kind-hearted _____ who loved to...



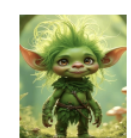
Everyone in the land knew about the clever...



The hero/heroine had a special power. They could...



With a heart of courage, the _____ decided to...



Nobody believed the tiny _____ could...



A young _____ dreamed of becoming...



Setting Sentence Starter Examples



Setting Sentence Starters

The story takes place in a...



Far away, in a kingdom made of...



In a land where _____ grew on trees...



Beyond the mountains and rivers, there was a...



The castle stood tall above the...



Deep under the sea, a shining world of _____..



In the middle of the enchanted forest...



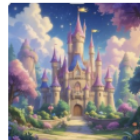
The village was filled with houses made of...



High above the clouds, there was a place called...



The land was full of magic and...



Once Upon a Pastelito

Problem Sentence Starter Examples

Problem Sentence Starters

But one day, a big problem happened when...



Suddenly, the magic stopped working because...



Oh no! The princess lost her...



One day, everything changed when...



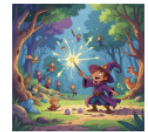
The magical spell went wrong and...



A mysterious sound came from the forest and...



A magical mistake caused a big problem when...



Just as the hero was about to win, something happened...



The kingdom was in danger because...



Once Upon a Pastelito

Ending Sentence Starter Examples

Ending Sentence Starters

- And they lived happily ever after because _____.



- The magic was gone, but _____.



- The fairy flew away and _____.



- In the end, they learned that _____.



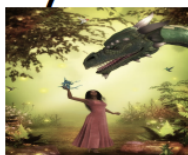
- The spell was broken, and _____.



- The brave hero came home with _____.



- They lived happily ever after, remembering _____.



Once Upon a Pastelito

Name: _____ Date: _____

Once Upon a Pastelito

Beginning:

Handwriting practice lines for the Beginning section, consisting of three sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid).

Middle:

Handwriting practice lines for the Middle section, consisting of three sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid).

End:

Handwriting practice lines for the End section, consisting of three sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid).

First Draft

Name: _____



Draw, write and edit your prompt.

Once Upon a Pastelito

First Draft

Name: _____

Draw, write and edit your prompt.



Once upon a time there was a _____

The hero had to _____

In the end, they _____

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Final Draft

Name: _____



Draw and write your final draft neatly.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Once Upon a Pastelito

Cut and Paste Directions: 1) Look at the pictures at the bottom. 2) Cut out each picture carefully. 3) Decide if the picture is **magical** or **non-magical**. 4) Glue it in the right box!

 Magical = things from fairy tales or with powers  Non-Magical = things from real life

Magical

Non-Magical



FAIRY TALE STORY WORD BANK

Settings

Forest



Castle



Mountain



Village



Characters

Wizard



Fairy



Dragon



Hero



Problem Solving Words

Problem

Challenge

Solution

Solve

General Story Words

Once upon a time... Suddenly Because Finally Happily
Unfortunately Bravely Mysteriously Quietly

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