A Closer Look at Our Beloved Fairy Tales- Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition

WebQuest Description: We have all grown up with fairy tales. What we learn later in life is that they are actually a lot more complex than we originally may have thought. This WebQuest will allow students to explore fairy tales and trace various themes and motifs. Students will demonstrate their knowledge by writing a critical essay about the influence of fairy tales and its implications in society. This WebQuest will be completed in class. The duration is five 50 minute class periods. The final project of a paper will be turned in two weeks after the end of the unit to give students time to write.

Grade Level: 9-12
Curriculum: English / Language Arts
Keywords: Fairy Tales, Symbols, Themes, Power Continuum, Gender Roles, Dominant Culture
Published On: 2015-03-21 14:30:57
Last Modified: 2015-03-21 11:43:28
WebQuest URL: http://zunal.com/webquest.php?w=277496

Introduction

We have already been learning in class how symbols, motifs, and themes transcend across genres. Within the texts that we read, these literary elements blend together to create significance and meaning. In this WebQuest, you will learn the importance of questioning what we read, and how common themes convey certain messages to readers. In the case of fairy tales, the readers most likely will be children. To accomplish this, we will be analyzing fairy tales that many of you know and may have grown up with. The purpose of fairy tales is to unite society by preserving principles and cultural traditions. They also promote and perpetuate ideologies of religions, justice, ethics, individual responsibility, societal responsibility, gender and power. Fairy tales specifically possess many themes and moralities that have been adapted into our culture. They give us a deeper understanding of the human condition, experiences, and inner thoughts. Fairy tales accomplish this by using symbols, archetypes, predictability, and roles of power. It is important to question fairy tales because they influence many children who read them. Children tend to place themselves in the stories they read and this affects their identity formation. As lifelong learners and English students, it's important to inquire about our daily lives and not take everything for granted. We need to ponder why our society holds certain standards and how we teach those rules to children. By the end of this WebQuest, you will learn how roles of gender and power shape and mold fairy tales and their influences on society.

You will then write a critical essay examining what you have learned and believe about how our society holds similar ideals in our culture.

Tasks

In this webquest, students will do the following:

Construct their own mind map of fairy tales and their symbols
Analyze reoccurring themes and motifs in fairy tales
Create three of their own Voki characters that illustrate symbols and themes in the fairy tales they have read
Apply knowledge of fairy tale criticism and individual thinking in the form of a critical essay

Step One: Students will familiarize themselves with at least three variations of Cinderella, Snow White, The Emperor's New Clothes, and Rapunzel. Students will read these stories and create a mind map using mindmup.com.

Step Two: Students will watch a video about fairy tales and their themes on YouTube. They will then read some news articles and webpages that talk about the influence of these themes in our society.

Step Three: Students will read critical articles that talk about the fairy tales.

Step Four: Students will share what they have learned in the videos and critical articles with each other in the form of an online discussion. Students must each write one response of their own and respond to at least two classmates.

Step Five: Students will get into groups of two and make three of their own Voki characters.

Step Six: Students will compose a their own critical analysis of fairy tales.

Process

Follow the below process beginning at Step One. Remember where you stopped at the end of each period so you know where to start the next day. If you have any questions, please ask!

Evaluation

You will be graded using the below attached rubric. The Fairy Tale WebQuest as a whole will be 70 points. When you have finished, make sure you hand in a hard copy of your four mind maps and a critical analysis essay. I will check the classroom discussion I will check online. You should make sure you wrote an initial response of 400 words and replied to at least two classmates using 200 words. In class, you and your partner will present your three Voki Fairy Tale characters. If you are absent, please email me all three links so I can grade them.
CONGRATULATIONS!!!! You have learned a lot about how fairy tales possess a lot of themes that influence our culture. I hope you have enjoyed this webquest and continue to think critically about the world in which we live. If you would like to learn more about fairy tales, while having some fun, check out the links below! You will find links to read more fairy tales and more. I have also included videos from YouTube that tell the stories we read in class. Lastly, check out the fairy tale game site I came across.

This WebQuest was made for students who are on a higher level, specifically an 11th or 12th grade Honors or AP class. It can be adapted to lower levels. The most important part is that students learn to question the world around them and apply knowledge of critical essays/journal articles to their own writing.

Standards
PA- Pennsylvania Common Core Standards (Draft) (2013)

Subject: English Language Arts Grade 6–12
Grade: Grades 11–12

Content Area: 1.2 Reading Informational Text Students read, understand, and respond to informational text—with an emphasis on comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and making connections among ideas and between texts with focus on textual evidence.

Domain: Key Ideas and Details Text Analysis
CC.1.2.11–12.B Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly, as well as inferences and conclusions based on and related to an author’s implicit and explicit assumptions and beliefs.

Domain: Key Ideas and Details Text Analysis
CC.1.2.11–12.C Analyze the interaction and development of a complex set of ideas, sequence of events, or specific individuals over the course of the text.

Domain: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas Diverse Media
CC.1.2.11–12.G Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.

Content Area: 1.3 Reading Literature Students read and respond to works of literature—with an emphasis on comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and making connections among ideas and between texts with a focus on textual evidence.

Domain: Key Ideas and Details Theme
CC.1.3.11–12.A Determine and analyze the relationship between two or more themes or central ideas of a text, including the development and interaction of the themes; provide an objective summary of the text.

Credits

Other
References
Ashliman, D. L. Folklore and Mythology. 2015. Website.


JSTOR. JSTOR. 2015. Database.


Tales of Faerie. 2015. Website.
