

Fractured Fairy Tale

LANGUAGE ARTS



Book Builder

Overview

Students change one key element of a traditional tale and follow the consequences, practising cause and effect in narrative.

Steps for Teachers

1. Read a traditional fairy tale as a class and map its chain of events
2. Identify the single hinge the story turns on
3. Each student changes exactly ONE element: a character's motive, an object, a setting or an outcome
4. Students trace what must change downstream because of that one change
5. Students plan pages that follow the new chain from the hinge to a new ending
6. Students write the pages, keeping everything except the change faithful to the original
7. Students add a final page explaining what they changed and why
8. Read the books aloud and have the class guess the change

Example

A student's 'Cinderella' keeps everything except the shoe: it fits several people in the kingdom. The prince must actually talk to each of them to find out who he danced with. The final page reads: 'I changed the shoe so he had to remember her face instead of her feet.'

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Cause & Effect	Every downstream change follows logically from the single altered element	Most consequences follow, with one or two unexplained jumps	Changes are arbitrary and unconnected
Fidelity to the Original	Everything but the chosen change stays true to the source	Mostly faithful with some unnecessary alterations	So much is changed the original is unrecognisable
Storytelling	Clear beginning, middle and end; each page turn moves the story forward	Story is organized but some pages stall or repeat	Story is disorganized or hard to follow
Book Craft	Text is easy to read, art supports every page, and the layout is consistent throughout	Pages are readable with some crowding or uneven placement	Text overlaps art or is hard to read; layout is inconsistent