

Modernize a Fairy Tale or Fable

LANGUAGE ARTS



Book Builder

Overview

Students move a traditional tale into the present day, identifying which parts of a story are essential and which are just scenery.

Steps for Teachers

1. Read a traditional fairy tale or fable as a class
2. Identify the story's core: the problem, the choice and the lesson
3. Brainstorm modern equivalents for the setting, the characters and the obstacles
4. Students plan pages that keep the core beats but change the surroundings
5. Students write dialogue that sounds like people talking today
6. Students choose contemporary backgrounds and actors, or photograph real modern objects
7. Students add a final page naming the lesson and whether it still holds up

Example

A student modernises 'The Tortoise and the Hare' as a group project race. The hare posts about finishing early and then forgets the deadline; the tortoise works a little every night. The last page reads: 'Slow and steady still submits on time.'

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Core Preservation	The original's problem, choice and lesson survive the move intact	The core mostly survives but one beat is lost	The modernisation loses what made the original work
Modern Detail	Modern setting is specific, believable and consistent	Modern setting is present but generic	Modern and traditional elements clash unintentionally
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