

Literature Links

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Hello Everyone!

Welcome to English and Fun Literature Links, a place to find links to stories and book ideas.

Good stories are a source of entertainment and fun. They can also be entry points into rich discussion, allowing for emotional and cognitive growth. By making text-to-text, text-to-self and text-to-reality connections, readers can expand their reading experience.

The Robber Bridegroom

[Grimm Brothers' version](#)

[Downloadable mp3 Phil Pullman's version retold by him](#)

[More Fairy Tales with Free Audio Stories for Kids](#)



Fairy Tales in Brief:

Motifs such as witches, woods and princesses nurture young readers' appetite for magic – the door to metaphorical worlds. Why is this so?

Bruno Bettelheim asserts that all children have a need for magic and fairy tales because "they answer the eternal questions: What is the world really like? How am I to live my life in it? How can I truly be myself?"

In a fairy tale is the embodiment of man's genuine topics that shape his psychic evolution. There we will find the very **essence** of what man genuinely needs to say and express. Within this context, a fairy tale always offers the possibility of an adventure or odyssey that will bring about character formation and the development of desirable traits through the outstanding actions of a hero.

Bruno Bettelheim (August 28, 1903 – March 13, 1990) was an Austrian-born American child psychologist and writer. Among many other books, he wrote *The Uses of Enchantment: The Meaning and Importance of Fairy Tale*. In the first section "A Pocketful of Magic" he outlines his thoughts on the symbolic value of fairy tales for children.

Phillip Pullman: the British writer retells his fifty favorites, from much-loved stories like "Cinderella" and "Rumpelstiltskin" and "Hansel and Gretel" in his recently published *Fairy Tales from the Brothers Grimm: A New English Version*, published by Viking Adult.



Book Talk: Fairy Tales

Encourage students to find hidden meanings in fairy tales, by asking:

- What special talismans/animals have called your attention?
- In your opinion, what's their value in the story?
- Do they provide help to the main character?
- Does the main character manage to overcome difficulties?
- How?
- Are values of courage and cleverness represented in the story?

Symbols in *The Robber Bridegroom*

In the European folklore and fairy tales, **The Forest** is a place for mysteries, dangers and trials, where the hero's strength is put to the test, and newfound knowledge is gained. The miller's daughter finds in the darkness of the forest an opportunity to sharpen her senses and save her life.

The Old Woman stands for wisdom of eternal female nature. She protects the young bride from the dangers of marrying the wrong match.



Extension to students' life

- Can you connect this story to other stories you have read/watched? What are the differences/similarities?
- What is the part that has made the strongest impact on your mind?
- How are you feeling right now after having experienced this story?
- What is this story saying to you?

Literature Online Sources:

The Guardian, <http://www.theguardian.com/books> December 6th, 2013

Phillip Pullman: <http://www.theguardian.com/profile/philip-pullman> December 6th, 2013

Bibliography

Tressider, J. (1998) *Dictionary of Symbols*. San Francisco CA: Chronicle Books

Bettelheim, Bruno (1977) *Psicoanálisis de Cuentos de Hadas*. Editorial Crítica.

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