Fables and Fairy Tales

Myth & Legend

3rd Block

Today we will learn...

Definitions for various types of folklore

 The history/background of famous writers of fables and fairy tales

• Some famous stories and their morals

• How these tales relate to our modern world and cultural ideals

Vocabulary

- Folklore: the traditional art, literature, knowledge, and practice that is disseminated largely through oral communication and behavioral example
- **Legend:** a non-historical or unverifiable story handed down by tradition from earlier times and popularly accepted as historical
- **Fable:** a short tale to teach a moral or lesson, often contains animals or an inanimate objects
- Fairy Tale: a fanciful tale of legendary deeds and creatures, usually intended for children; told to amuse or as an excuse
- Tall Tale: a special kind of hero story featuring a "larger-than-life" hero who accomplishes a great feat

These will be on your quiz next class.

Aesop's History

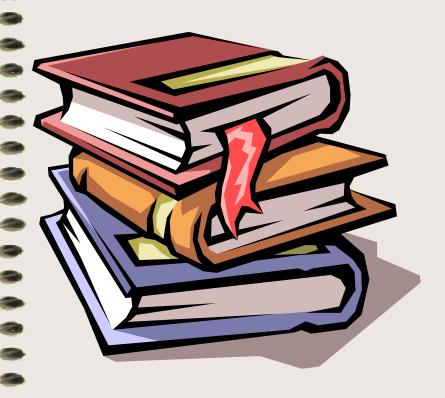
- We wrote a fable ourselves in class about a horse and a bear. Not only did this lesson teach us how to use dialogue and description in our writing, but it also taught us that fables have a moral.
- One man who is very famous for his fables is Aesop (c.620-560)
- Fable writer whose many stories are still read.
 Amongst them are The Dog Who Wanted Too Much, The Hare and the Turtle, The Fox and the Grapes, and The Wolf and the Lamb.

History of Aesop (cont.)

- Aesop was originally a Phrygian slave on the island Samos, but managed to earn his freedom through his wits. He was then to spend his life at the court of the famous king Croesus.
- After a journey to Delphi, Aesop had openly criticized the oracles' priesthood, saying they were the parasites of Apollo. This cost him his life, since the angry priests murdered him.

Source: http://www.in2greece.com/english/historymyth/history/ancient/aesop.htm

Read one of Aesop's Fables



Source: http://www.aesopsfables.com

- What is the moral of the story?
- Who are the main characters?
- What literary elements did the author use?
- List three modern applications of the moral.

Hans Christian Anderson



Tell Us a Story Hans!

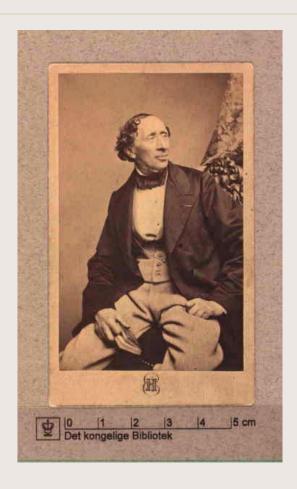
First, let's hear a song. http://hca.gilead.org.il/imhca.html

Hans Christian Andersen was born in the slums of Odense. His father was a cobbler (shoemaker) and his mother worked as a washerwoman. Anderson received very little education, but his fascination with fairy tales inspired him to compose his own stories and arrange puppet shows, on a theater his father had taught him to build and manage. Even with his imagination, and the stories his father told him, Andersen did not have a happy childhood.

Hans Christian Andersen (cont.)

- In 1835, Andersen published Fairy Tales for Children, which contained four short stories. He eventually wrote 168 fairy tales. Among Andersen's best known fairy tales are "Emperor's New Clothes," "Little Ugly Duckling," "The Tinderbox," "Little Claus and Big Claus," "Princess and the Pea," "The Snow Queen," "The Little Mermaid," "The Nightingale," "The Story of a Mother and The Swineherd."
- In 1847, Andersen met Charles Dickens. In 1853, he dedicated A Poet's Day Dreams to Dickens. Anderson's work influenced Dickens, along with other writers like William Thackeray and Oscar Wilde.
- Andersen died in his home in Rolighed on August 4, 1875.

Read a Fairy Tale by Hans



Source: http://hca.gilead.org.il/

- Is there a lesson to be learned? What is it?
- What techniques did he use to engage the reader (usually kids)?
- Relate this fairy tale to three modern-day events.

The Brothers Grimm

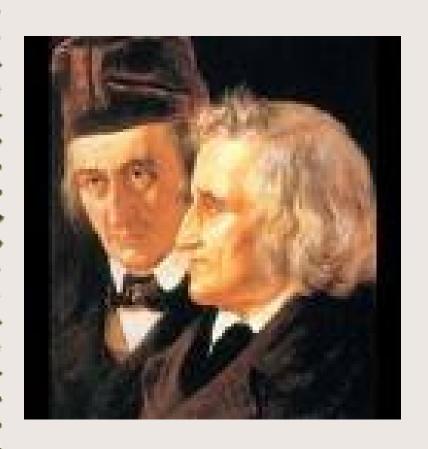
 Looking for a sweet, soothing tale to waft you toward dreamland? Look somewhere else. The stories collected by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm in the early 1800s serve up life as generations of central Europeans knew it capricious and often cruel. The two brothers, patriots determined to preserve Germanic folktales, were only accidental entertainers.

The Brothers Grimm (cont.)

 Once they saw how the tales bewitched young readers, the Grimms, and editors after them, started "fixing" things. Tales gradually got softer, sweeter, and primly moral. Yet all the polishing never rubbed away the solid heart of the stories, now read and loved in more than 160 languages.

Source: http://www.nationalgeographic.com/grimm/index2.html

Read a Tale by Brothers Grimm



• What is the moral?

- How do the authors captivate you?
- Relate this story to three everyday lessons.