

LANGUAGE WORKSHOP


TELL A FAIRY TALE DAY (February 26th)

(Suggested Level – B1)

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Introductory Talk

T. This unofficial holiday celebrates the art of storytelling and encourages people to read, tell and listen to fairy tales from around the world.

Task 1

T. With a partner ask and answer the questions below:

1. When was the last time you read a fairy tale? What tale was it?
2. What was your favourite fairy tale when you were a small child?
3. Which magical creatures appear in most fairy tales?

1. Reading

Read the text.

Fairy tales are a genre of literature that feature fantastical and magical characters. Usually in the form of short stories with fairies, elves, trolls, witches, dwarves, giants, mermaids, or gnomes as central characters, and usually magic or enchantment, fairy tales are set in a magical world with events that take place “once upon a time”.

Fairy tales have a strong oral and written tradition all around the world — with cultures adopting whole or parts of tales from other cultures. The elements of fairy tales may be found in some other folk narratives such as legends.

Before the 17th century, fairy tales were written mostly for adults. Today, fairy tales are considered to be a genre of children’s literature and the term *fairy tale* is used to refer to happy events and happenings, such as a fairy tale romance or a fairy tale ending.

It is a day to celebrate by telling your favorite fairy tale or making up one of your own.

Here are some more ways to have fun with storytelling on Tell a Fairy Tale Day: re-read all your favorite fairy tales, watch movies based on fairy tales, host a fairy tale party or act out a fairy tale. Your story may begin with “Once upon a time” and it may end with “Happily ever after”, but whatever your fairy tale is, may it be a good one and may your day be a good one as well!

Post-Reading

T. Answer the questions about fairy tales:

A. How has the audience of this literary genre changed through the centuries?

B. What are the other meanings of the phrase “fairy tale” nowadays?

2. Reading “One mountain, two Legends”

Pre-Reading

What do you know about Mount Hoverla?

Look at the title and the picture. What do you think the text is going to be about? Read the texts. Are the sentences true (*T*), false (*F*) or is there no information (*NI*)?

0. Mount Hoverla has a symbolic meaning for the Ukrainian people.

1. János Nagy was a very rich man.
2. The baron killed one of his men because he got angry.
3. The Hungarians reached the top of Hoverla.
4. A lot of the baron’s men died in the storm.
5. Prut was an ordinary young man.
6. Prut fell in love at first sight.
7. Prut was angry with the Mountain King.
8. Prut was happy to see the sun.

While-Reading

Everybody knows about Mount Everest in Nepal, Mount Fuji in Japan or Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. They are the summits which people want to reach for different reasons.

Mount Hoverla is more than a mountain for the people of Ukraine. It has become one of our national symbols. Here are two legends about the name of the mountain (*p. 23*).

3. Speaking

T. Do you know any other legends? Tell the class.

T. Read about the best-known fairy tale writers. Who is your favourite author? Why?

Keys

Post-Reading

Task A. Before the 17th century, fairy tales were written mostly for adults. Today, fairy tales are considered to be a genre of children’s literature.

Task B. The term *fairy tale* is used to refer to happy events and happening, such as a fairy tale romance or a fairy tale ending.

Pre-Reading

1—NI, —T, 3—F, 4—T, 5—T, 6—T, 7—NI, 8—F.

1.

Once upon a time there lived a strong and brave baron in Hungary called János Nagy. He heard about a high mountain in the Carpathians which nobody could conquer. As he was very ambitious, he decided to reach the peak of the mountain. He called his men and set off for the Carpathians.

At first the ascent was not very difficult but as they went higher, the mountain started to show its unfriendly character. The weather got cold and windy and the men began to complain. The count got furious and even shot one of his men! They had to continue their journey but they got into a severe snowstorm. It was so strong that many of the party were killed including the baron! The rest got scared and started to descend. They kept saying, “Ho var!” which meant “the snow fortress”. So, the mountain got its name!

2.

Once there lived a boy called Prut. People loved him as he was outgoing and sincere. One day as he was going home through the woods, he got tired, sat under a tree and fell asleep. In his dream he saw a beautiful girl dressed in green. She sang songs to him and stroked his hair. When he woke up there was nobody around but he saw a green ribbon hanging on a branch of a tree. Prut decided to find the girl.

The following day he went to the same place and started to wait. When the girl came, Prut stood up, took her by the hand and asked, “What’s your name?” — “Hoverla,” said the girl. They fell in love but Prut didn’t know that Hoverla was the daughter of the Mountain King. When the King learnt about their love, he got very angry and turned his daughter into a high mountain!

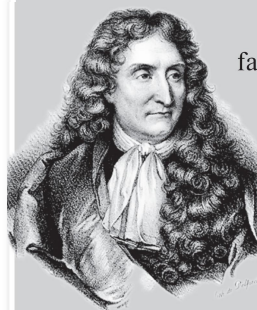
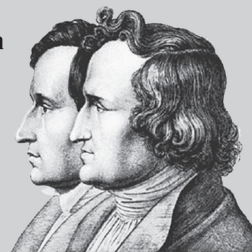
Prut couldn’t find his love anywhere. Then, one night in the woods he saw an old wizard who said to him, “See that high mountain? That’s your love. If you get to the top before the sun goes up, you will win your love back!”

The boy began to run across the fields, through the woods and over small streams and rivers. He wanted to reach the summit by sunrise. Unfortunately, as he was still going up the mountain, the sun started to rise in the east. The boy realized that he had lost, so he fell down on the ground and cried bitterly. And as he cried, his tears turned in to a stream and then Prut himself turned into a river.

So, people say that the Prut River “holds Hoverla in its arms”.

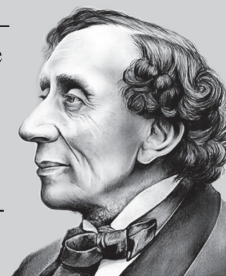
Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm (aka *The Brothers Grimm*) — German academics/linguists, most famous for their “*Kinder- und Hausmärchen*” fairy tale collection, collected in Germany in the 1800s. Includes dozens of popular tales — e.g.

Little Red Riding Hood, Hansel and Gretel, Rapunzel.



Charles Perrault — French fairy tale writer who wrote his works (inspired by folk tales) in the 1600s. His tales include classics like *Sleeping Beauty, Puss in Boots* and *Blue Beard*. His version of *Cinderella*, for example, is the one English speakers are most familiar with (with the fairy godmother and the pumpkin carriage etc.) and it is interestingly very different from the Brothers Grimm version.

Hans Christian Andersen — Danish fairy tale writer, wrote in the 1800s. Famous for tales like *The Little Mermaid, The Snow Queen, Thumbelina* and *The Ugly Duckling*. I remember his *Little Match Girl* story breaking my heart when I read it as a young girl.



Joseph Jacobs — English author/folklorist who published several collections of English fairy tales. His versions of famous English fairy tales like *The Three Little Pigs, Jack and the Bean Stalk,* and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* are some of the best-known today.

