

Dear Family Member,

In this unit, students will be introduced to fairy tales that have been favorites with children for generations.

What's the story?

Students will learn about favorite **fairy tales** and the elements that distinguish them as a **unique** type of **fiction**.

What will my student learn?

Through daily Read-Alouds, students will explore fairy tales that exemplify **bravery and heroism**, teach literacy concepts such as **good versus evil**, and provide **valuable life lessons**. They will develop a **strong foundation** for understanding other types of fictional stories in later grades.

Note: Teachers will be reminding students that long ago, the Brothers Grimm thought that these stories would be interesting for people to hear because they are about things that make people happy, sad, and sometimes afraid. Parts of some of these traditional fairy tales may be considered somewhat scary for young students. It is important to remind students that the stories are fiction and be prepared to discuss any potentially scary parts with them, if necessary. Additionally, these are traditional fairy tales and an important literary genre as defined by the TEKS.

Students will explore the genre of narrative writing in this unit by **planning, writing, and editing** a retelling of their favorite fairy tale.

Later in the unit, students will explore characters in fairy tales from around the world. They will also write friendly letters to characters to better understand their actions.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. What is "the land of Nod"?
Follow up: Can you give me an example of when you might be in "the land of Nod"?
2. Tell me about the fairy tale "Sleeping Beauty."
Follow up: What was the setting of that story? Who were the characters? What were some of the magical events (fantasy) that happened? How did this fairy tale end?
3. How would you describe the character Rumpelstiltskin?
Follow up: Draw a picture of what you imagine he looks like. Was he a magical character? How do you know?
4. Who are some of the heroic characters in the fairy tales you have been reading?
Follow up: What made them heroic? Who were some of the evil characters in the fairy tales you have been reading? What made them evil? Which kind of characters did you like to read about the most? Tell me why.
5. What is an action of one of the characters?
Follow up: What was the reason for their action? Do you agree or disagree with the character's action? Why or why not?