



# STORIES AND STORYTELLERS

Neuschwanstein Castle, a nineteenth-century hill top palace in Bavaria, Germany, was the inspiration for the castle in Disney's *Sleeping Beauty*.

## Warm Up

Discuss these questions with a partner.

1. What is one of your favorite books or stories? Why do you like it?
2. Describe a popular author. What has he or she written? Why do you think he or she is popular?
3. Can you name a traditional story from your country?



## Before You Read

**Predict.** Use the map, headings, and caption to answer the questions. Then read the passage to check your answers.

1. Who were the Brothers Grimm?
2. What kind of stories did they write?
3. Who were their stories for?



# THE BROTHERS GRIMM

- 1 Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm were two young men from Germany who loved a good story. As university students, they became interested in folktales—traditional stories that people **memorized** and told again and again. They began to **collect** traditional folktales from storytellers all over Germany. Many were similar to stories told in France, Italy, Japan, and other countries. Between 1812 and 1814, the brothers **published** two books in German. These included stories like "Hansel and Gretel" and "Little Red Riding Hood." The collections became known in English as *Grimm's Fairy Tales*.

Today, the Grimms' tales, such as "Red Riding Hood," are read and enjoyed in over 160 languages.

## 10 | Darkness and Magic

- The Grimm brothers' tales **reflected** traditional life and beliefs. For example, forests are common in Germany, and this image often appears in the Grimms' stories. In the past, many people believed forests were dangerous places. In the Grimms' stories, a forest is the home of evil witches, talking animals, and other **magical** beings.



## 1 | Children's stories?

- Although** most people today think of these stories as fairy tales for children, the brothers first wrote them **primarily** for adults. Many of their early tales were dark and a little **scary**. Later, the brothers changed the **text** of some of the original stories. They "**softened**" many of the tales and added drawings. This made them more **appropriate** for children. Like the early tales, though, each story still has a moral: work hard, be good, and listen to your parents.

## Reading Comprehension

**Multiple Choice.** Choose the best answer for each question.

Purpose

1. What is the main purpose of the reading?
  - a. to compare the Grimms' stories to modern children's stories
  - b. to explain why storytelling is important in Germany
  - c. to examine two of the Grimms' fairy tales
  - d. to give information about the Grimm brothers and their stories

Reference

2. What does *many* refer to in line 5?
  - a. folktales and traditional stories
  - b. books
  - c. published collections
  - d. the histories of different countries

Detail

3. Which of these is true about the Grimm brothers?
  - a. They invented the fairy tales in their books.
  - b. They wrote their books in different languages.
  - c. They became interested in folktales as students.
  - d. They traveled to many countries to collect stories.

Main Idea

4. What would be a good title for the second paragraph?
  - a. The Grimms' Lives Change
  - b. Tales of the Forest
  - c. The First Fairy Tale
  - d. Belief in Magical Beings

Reference

5. In line 21, what does *them* refer to?
  - a. the Grimm brothers
  - b. the children
  - c. the fairy tales
  - d. the adults

Vocabulary

6. In line 23, what does *moral* mean?
  - a. interest
  - b. text
  - c. story
  - d. message

Detail

7. Which of these is true about the Grimms' stories?
  - a. The later stories had morals, like the early ones.
  - b. The early stories were written for children.
  - c. The early stories had a lot of drawings.
  - d. The later stories reflected German life, but the early ones didn't.

### Did You Know?

In the darker version of the story "Cinderella," the evil stepsisters cut off their toes so they could wear the glass slipper.



Unit 8A 109



## Annotating Text

As you read a passage in detail, it may be useful to mark—or annotate—the text. This allows you to focus on the most important information, and to remember it later. Here are some ways to add annotations:

- Use one or more colors to **highlight** the main ideas or most important parts.
- Underline new words and write their definitions in the margins.
- Put a circle around important numbers, statistics, or dates.
- Put a question mark (?) next to things you don't understand, for checking later.

**A. Annotating.** Look at the annotated paragraph from “The Brothers Grimm.” Then annotate the rest of the reading on page 108.

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm were two young men from Germany who loved a good story. As university students, they became interested in folktales—traditional stories that people memorized and told again and again. They began to collect traditional folktales from storytellers all over Germany. Many were similar to stories told in France, Italy, Japan, and other countries. Between 1812 and 1814 the brothers published two books. These included stories like “Hansel and Gretel” and “Little Red Riding Hood.” ?

< people who write or tell stories

**B. Summarizing.** Look back at your annotated text on page 108. Then complete the information.



**Critical Thinking** Discuss with a partner. Do you think it was right for the Grimm brothers to “soften” their stories? Why or why not? What folktales and fairy tales do you know from your country? What kind of morals do they have?

## Vocabulary Practice

**A. Completion.** Complete the passage by circling the correct word in each pair.

In Finland, there once was an area known as Viena Karelia. The people there were great storytellers and had many folktales and legends. The most famous is the *Kalevala*. This is a 1. (**collection** / **text**) of several poems that forms one long story. The *Kalevala* tells tales of 2. (**magical** / **appropriate**) beings and 3. (**scary** / **published**) monsters.

For centuries, storytellers, called *rune singers*, have learned and spoken the *Kalevala* from memory. Today, Jussi Huovinen is Finland's last great rune singer. When he dies, the ancient culture of singing the *Kalevala* will come to an end because no one has 4. (**reflected** / **memorized**) the entire *Kalevala*.

But there is good news. 5. (**Primarily** / **Although**) Jussi Houvinen is the last rune singer, many of the *Kalevala*'s ideas will not die with him. British author J.R.R. Tolkien (who wrote *The Lord of the Rings*) 6. (**published** / **appropriate**) several stories in which many of the *Kalevala*'s ideas are 7. (**magical** / **reflected**). Some characters in Tolkien's books also speak a language similar to the ancient Finnish language used in the *Kalevala*.



✓ "The Curse of Kullervo," a scene from the *Kalevala*

**B. Matching.** Match the correct forms of words in **red** from **A** with the correct definitions.

1. \_\_\_\_\_: any written material
2. \_\_\_\_\_: mainly, mostly
3. \_\_\_\_\_: making you feel afraid
4. \_\_\_\_\_: despite
5. \_\_\_\_\_: right for a particular person or situation
6. \_\_\_\_\_: a set or group of something
7. \_\_\_\_\_: to show (e.g., in a mirror)
8. \_\_\_\_\_: to learn something so you remember it exactly

**Word Link** We can add **-en** to some adjectives to form verbs. For example, if you *soften* something, you make it soft. Other examples are: *darken*, *sharpen*, *weaken*.







## Before You Read

**A. Discussion.** Read this first paragraph of a story. Then answer the questions below.

- 1 Once upon a time, there lived a man and a woman who had seven sons. The couple wanted a daughter very much, and, eventually, they had a girl. She was very pretty, and her parents loved her very much. One day, the father needed water for the child, so he sent the seven brothers to a well in the forest to get it. Once there, though, the boys began to fight
- 5 and the water jug fell into the well . . .

1. How many children did the couple have?
2. Why were the brothers in the forest?
3. What happened there?

**B. Predict.** What do you think happens next in the story? Read lines 7–15 on the next page to check your ideas. How do you think the story ends? Read the rest of the story to find out.