

FOUR SAMPLE PAGES

TP-2 A Fairytale Medley

Publisher's Note: This script may be performed as a traditional play using set, costumes, props, and staging as suggested below.

The script may also be performed as readers theater by placing readers behind music stands, placing reading scripts upon the music stands, eliminating set decoration, and selectively minimizing movement, props and costume pieces.

Cast: 3 Actors/Readers, Numbers 1,2, and 3 (male or female)

Set Design:

The play is set at #3's house. Pictures and houseplants could decorate the stage. Furniture such as couches, end tables, and chairs could also be used.

Staging Concerns:

This performance uses a lot of props and costumes. Keep the props organized and the costumes simple so that the scene transformations are fast and fluent.

(#1 is sitting, looking through a dictionary. #2 and #3 are trying to write an assignment. They should have pencils in their hands and binders on their laps.)

#1: Fairytale...fairytale...f-a-i-r-y...

#2: It's not a spelling test, you know.

#1: I know, but I just thought I'd look it up in the dictionary. We need to include the definition for the assignment.

#3: Well, isn't the name self-explanatory? A fairytale is... (#3 grabs his/her essay and reads from it)...is "a long extension of fur and skin protruding from the lower back of a fairy."

#1: It's a good effort, but I think I'll stick to the dictionary definition.

#2: (talking to #3) No, it's not that kind of tail. (#2 points at his/her rear end.) It's the kind of tale you tell, like a story. (#2 makes his/her hands look like a storybook.)

#3: Oh.

(#3 erases the incorrect definition and starts writing a different answer.)

#2: I'm starting to think there must be a better way of approaching this assignment. We have to do something new and unique. Something that no one will expect. Something that will dazzle our teacher and classmates.

#3: Here, how's this? (#3 reads his/her new answer.) "A fairytale is a story about a little female being with wings" (flutters his/her hands like wings) "and a magical wand." (#3 pretends to wave a wand.) "But definitely without a tail," (points to rear end) "not to be confused with the other type of tale." (#3 puts hands in a storybook position.)

#2: Well, it is unique.

#1: (excited) Here it is! Here it is! I found the word fairytale. (#1 reads from the dictionary.) "The word fairytale was originally given to stories that were about fairies, but it has now evolved into meaning stories that are untrue or unbelievable. Examples: Snow White, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, etc."

#3: Oh, like bedtime stories.

#2: I've got the best idea. Let's make a play for our assignment. It will be fun, and our classmates will love not having to sit through another boring essay reading.

#1: That's a good idea. But which one should we do?

#2: All of them.

#1 & #3: All of them?

#1: But how do we do that?

#2: Well, let's start with the ones listed here, and then we can branch out and incorporate the other ones that we think of as we go. Here, let's try it. We'll need some costumes. Why don't you get that big tickle trunk? (#1 gets the tickle trunk.) And props – let's see, where will we get props?

#1: (looks in the dictionary) p-r-o-...

#2: (closes #1's dictionary) Props are objects that are used during a theatrical performance. (#1 nods.) Oh, I know. How about that box of stuff your dad was going to give to the local charity store?

(#3 gets the box and sets it down in front of #1 and #2. #1 and #2 pick out items from the box and hold them up for the audience to see. The items from the box should be weird things like toilet seats and rubber chickens.)

#3: (embarrassed) Don't ask.

(#1 pulls out a large paper bag.)

#3: Hey, that can be our paper bag princess.
(#3 takes the bag from #1 and puts it on a doll or mannequin. Another option is for #3 to draw a happy face on the bag or put a princess hat on it.)

#2: Now for the hard part – set design. What set would be compatible with all fairytales?

#3: Well, that's easy. We need a forest. All fairytales have a forest.

#2: Of course. Hand me those plants. (They take plants from around the house and place them at the front of the stage.) There, that looks great.

(#2 walks over to the tickle trunk and pulls out a long, blonde wig.)
Now who wants to be Rapunzel?

(Both #1 and #3 put up their hands and say things like "pick me." #2 considers for a moment and then gives number #1 the Rapunzel wig. #1 puts on the wig. Then #2 puts on a princess hat and holds up a mirror.)

#2: I'll be Sleeping Beauty and Snow White. And you can be Cinderella.

(#2 gives #3 a scrub brush.)

#3: (disappointed) What a rip.

#2: We'll need this too. (#2 gives #1 a witch's hat from the tickle trunk.) We are now ready to begin. Once upon a time, Rapunzel, Sleeping Beauty, and Snow White were all sitting around looking beautiful, but not Cinderella. She was working very hard at scrubbing the floor. (#2 indicates to #3 to start scrubbing the floor. #3 complies, reluctantly.) All of these beautiful, young maidens were princesses, all except for Cinderella. She was just a servant girl, but don't worry. She becomes a princess in the end. All of these lovely princesses, and soon-to-be princesses, had enemies. An evil witch locked Rapunzel in a tower (#1 puts on the witch hat), cast a sleeping spell on Sleeping Beauty, and fed Snow White a poisonous apple.

#3: Wow. That old witch sure gets around, but what did the witch do to Cinderella?

#2: Nothing. Her mean stepmother and annoying stepsisters locked Cinderella in her room.

#3: That's it. I don't want to be Cinderella anymore with all the scrubbing, and the non-royalty status, and the wimpy villains.

#2: Okay, okay, you can be Sleeping Beauty, and I'll be Cinderella and Snow White.

(#2 trades the princess hat for #3's scrub brush.)

#3: Cool. I can sleep really well. (#3 gets a pillow and lies down.) See?

#2: Yeah, you do that. Now where was I? Oh, yes. So the evil villains did their bad things, and all the evil villains were very, very ugly. All except for Snow White's stepmother. She was very beautiful, and she had a magical mirror. (#2 holds the mirror up and talks to it.) Mirror, mirror in my hand, who's the fairest in the land? What's

that you say, mirror? Me? What? It's not me? It's Snow White, you say? And Snow White is also played by me. (#1 and #3 give #2 dirty