

WR 120 SECOND PAPER ASSIGNMENT

I. Purpose. In the second paper assignment, you will research a traditional fairy tale and then write a version of that fairy tale. You will also write an analysis of how and why you wrote your version. This assignment will help you understand why authors write new versions of fairy tales and introduce you to researching fairy tale scholarship and criticism. In the creative portion, you will need to reimagine the fairy tale you have chosen. In the analytical portion, you will need to summarize the history of that fairy tale, analyze how your version fits into that history, and show how your fairy tale relates to other versions. This assignment will particularly emphasize clear, effective writing. It will also allow you to see the similarities and differences between a story and an analytical argument.

II. Assignment. As we have seen in our readings, almost all fairy tales are retellings and revisions: Charles Perrault's version of "Little Red Riding Hood" is based on an oral tradition, the Brothers Grimm version is based on Perrault, and the James Thurber, Angela Carter, Francesca Lia Block, and Anne Sexton versions are based on Perrault, the Grimms, and the oral tradition. For this assignment, I would like you to do the following:

- Choose a traditional fairy tale. You may choose one of the fairy tales we are studying in class, or a fairy tale we are not studying. However, you should choose a fairy tale that is important to you in some way.
- Research your fairy tale. What tale type does it belong to? What is its history, and does it exist in a variety of versions? Are there modern versions of your tale? What has been written about it by fairy tale scholars?
- Write your own modern version of the fairy tale you have chosen. Your version should be 4-5 pages. In writing your version, you should reimagine the fairy tale, as Thurber, Carter, Block, and Sexton reimagine "Little Red Riding Hood." Think about how modern versions you know, including literary, film, and television versions, engage with and reenvision traditional fairy tales. What are the authors trying to say, and how might their messages differ from those of the older versions? By "modern" I do not mean that your fairy tale must take place in the twenty-first century; it may be set at any point in the past or future. But your version will be informed by your sensibility as a modern writer.
- Write a separate analysis of your version in which you discuss the fairy tale you chose, including its history, and explain how you revised it. Use your research and the sources we have studied to show how your version relates to the original. Your analysis should be 3-4 pages long, excluding the Works Cited page, and it should use at least 3 sources. Like all of your analytical papers, it should have an introduction with a central claim, body paragraphs that support your claim in an organized way, and a conclusion.

When you turn in the final version of your paper, it should include the fairy tale you have written and your analysis of that fairy tale. It should be in proper MLA format, including a Works Cited page.

III. Process. As part of your writing process for this paper, you will generate the following:

- A. Annotated Story.** You will begin the writing process by printing or photocopying

the traditional fairy tale you have chosen and annotating it. Annotate the fairy tale by underlining important points and making notes in the margins.

B. Annotated Bibliography. You will then research your fairy tale and create an annotated bibliography. An annotated bibliography is a list of the sources you intend to use in your paper, with a brief description of what each source is about and how you intend to use it. Each description of a source should be one paragraph. You must include at least 3 sources. Your annotated bibliography should be typed and single-spaced.

C. First Draft (Story). For this paper, you will hand in two preliminary drafts and a final draft. The first draft will be a draft of the fairy tale you have written. The draft should be typed and double-spaced.

D. Second Draft (Story and Analysis). The second draft of your paper will include both your fairy tale and your analysis of it. The draft should be typed and double-spaced, and it should include a Works Cited page.

E. Editing Assignment. When you hand in the second draft, you will give copies to your editing partners. Your editing partners will edit your paper, and you will edit theirs. The editing assignment is described on a separate assignment sheet.

F. Final Draft. After revising the second draft, you will turn in a final draft of your paper. The final draft will include your fairy tale and analysis. It should be typed, double-spaced, and in proper MLA format, with a Works Cited page. The final draft will be graded, and it will eventually be incorporated into your portfolio for the class.

IV. Comments. As you write your first paper, consider the following:

- The final draft of your paper will have two sections: your fairy tale and the analysis of your fairy tale. You will need two different titles: one for your fairy tale and one for your analysis. In class, we will discuss how to write a good title and how titles differ depending on their purpose.
- When writing your fairy tale, think about how modern writers such as Thurber, Carter, Block, and Sexton have revised and responded to the fairy tale tradition. What were they trying to accomplish? What do you want to accomplish in your version? There are many different ways to reimagine a traditional fairy tale. For example, you could make it realistic or humorous, set it in New York or on Mars, or write it from the point of view of a villain or marginal character. You could also cross genres, writing your fairy tale as film noir or science fiction. You should enjoy the creative portion of this assignment; however, you should take it as seriously as those writers took their task in rewriting fairy tales for their intended audience.
- When writing the analytical portion of your paper, you should write as the author and discuss what you intended when you wrote the tale: refer to yourself as "I." However, you should also analyze your story as thoroughly as we analyze the course material. This is a challenging assignment. If you have any difficulties, remember that I am available to help!