Fractured Fairytales: Everything Old is New Again

Fee fi fo fum,
Twist the tale to start the fun.
Be it fractured as a spoof,
Readers' laughs will be the proof.
Introduction

- The purpose of this discussion is to show how parody is used to alter story lines and provide a twist.
- This project is an examination of fractured fairytales and how they can be appreciated for their breaks from their established forms. This presentation is generally intended for readers who have a familiarity with fairy tale themes and motifs.
- Sources- searched on Copernic, hunted and gathered from my school library, and searched articles in the SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL.
- Brenda Kuehl
  Storytelling Fall 2002  12-5-02
Definition

- A fractured fairy tale is a true fairy tale that is fractured in the telling.
- Fairy tales expose calm, or reprimand fears of changing reality, they change with storytellers, locales, and times. They have no authority or authorship in the modern sense. It is only natural that the fragments of these stories be filled. These narrative gaps give rise to fractured fairy tales.
Bibliographic Citations


Visually and textually, this is the retelling of *The House That Jack Built*. The story is about a Rat, a Cat, a Cow over the moon, and a baby humming a tune. It’s about what the Bug did to the rug. It’s about how the Egg fell off the wall. It’s about the crazy mayhem that can occur when nursery rhymes go awry.

King Discombobulated (Bob for Short) has his priorities mixed up. He loves new clothes more than anything in his kingdom. Yet his clothes are so silly that his royal subjects can hardly stop from laughing at their king. One day a pair of smooth talking tailors show up in town. They make the king a suit of magical cloth. But when he parades through town wearing nothing will his subjects have the courage to tell the king the naked truth?
Citation Three


Dinorella is dying to go to the dance, but her dreadful stepsisters, Doris and Dora, declare she’s too dowdy and dull. Dinorella is stuck in the den until Fairydactyl arrives and bedecks Dinorella with some dazzling diamonds. Dinorella departs from the dance, but on arrival witnesses the dastardly deed, involving the duke and a disgraceful deinonychus. Dinorella must carry out a daring plan to save the day.
Citation Four


One of the three little pigs is hosting a housewarming, and Peter Rabbit would like to go. But he’s in bed with a cold after a narrow escape from Mr. McGregor’s garden. Meanwhile, Goldilocks is planning her birthday party and hoping her new friend Baby Bear can come. But with the Big Bad Wolf on the prowl and Little Red Riding Hood heading off to grandmother’s house, there’s no telling how things may end!

Here’s an all new twist to an age-old story. Little beauty is completely modern—she lives in a fancy apartment and listens to rock and roll. At the age of fourteen, Little Beauty is doomed to prick her finger and sleep for one hundred years. But our heroine is no damsel in distress. With a little help from her favorite rocks star, she might just be able to outsmart the witch and create her own happy ending.

Farthee Well is a woman of strong mind and bodacious beauty. The wealthy daughter of a Texas rancher must devise a plan to find a real cowboy among her many suitors. Can she tell a real cowboy from a fake?
Once again little Red Riding Hood sets off to her grandmother’s house with a basket full of goodies. But this isn’t the usual Little Red Riding Hood. First she wears a sweatshirt and not a cape. She blazes her own trail with her bike. Of course, there is the pesky wolf, but he’s a vegetarian. Grandma is not your usual grandma either. She know how to take care of the wolf.
Citation Eight


In the old-growth forest there lived a dashing Bigfoot prince. Every year, the prince gives a fun fest. This year, the prince decides that whichever Bigfoot woman rolls him off a log and into the river at the fun-feast will become his wife. Rrrrrrella, who lives in the forest, is just the woman for the job. Can she get past her not-so-ugly stepsisters in time to win the prince’s heart. Only her beary godfather knows for sure.
Citation Nine


When it comes time for the three little wolves to go out into the world and build themselves a house, their mother warns them to be aware of the big bad pig. But the little wolves’ increasingly sturdy dwellings are no match for the persistent porker, who has more up his sleeve than huffing and puffing. It takes a chance encounter with flamingo pushing a wheelbarrow full of flowers to provide a surprising and satisfying solution to the little wolves’ housing crisis.

Evil sisters, chores, and fairy godmothers may never change, but Cinderella does. When today’s girl wants to find Prince Charming, she may need the help of a trash can, a copy machine, or even glass sneakers. Will she live happily ever after?
Analysis

Traditional fairy tales share many common elements or themes. Fractured fairy tales are altered. A character may be changed, modern language is added or events may be changed. These humorous stories be satirical or ironic. Fractured fairy tales are the comic relief of children’s literature. Once upon a time, favorite fairy tales got twisted and tangled, and everyone lived happily ever after. These tales have been analyzed by settings, by character, and by morphology.
Settings

- *The Book that Jack Wrote*- A book instead of a house
- *King Bob’s New Clothes*- King Bob’s clothes look silly instead of sharp
- *Dinorella*- This story takes place in the prehistoric era
- *Dear Peter Rabbit*- The scenes change from a housewarming to grandmother’s house
- *Sleepless Beauty*- Modern times. Beauty lives in an apartment,

- *The Cowboy and the Black-eyed Pea*- The setting is a Texas ranch
- *Little Red Riding Hood A New Fangled Prairie Tale*- Modern times
- *Bigfoot Cinderrrrrrrella*- the story takes place in a forest
- *The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig*- Modern times
- *Cinder-elly*- Modern times
Characters

- *The Book that Jack Wrote*- has many characters: a Rat, a Cat, a cow over the moon, and the bug in the rug, etc.
- King Bob’s New Clothes-interesting name-King Discombobulated, King Bob for short.
- *Dinorella*- characters are dinosaurs
- *Dear Peter Rabbit*- many characters such as the Three little Pigs and Baby Bear.
- *Sleepless Beauty*- Told by beauty herself.
- *The Cowboy and the Black-Eyed Pea*- Farthee Well is capable and independent.
- *Little Red Riding Hood*- Grandma is very tough
- *Bigfoot Cinderrrrrella*- Cinderrrrrella is a Bigfoot
- *The Three Little Wolves*- the wolves are the protagonists.
- *Cinder-Elly*- her character is basically the same only she lives in modern times
Morphology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Book that Jack Wrote</th>
<th>King Bob’s New Clothes</th>
<th>Dinorella-</th>
<th>Dear Peter Rabbit</th>
<th>Sleepless Beauty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jack is an author instead of a builder</td>
<td>His clothes are very silly</td>
<td>Besides the characters being dinosaurs, alliteration is used to make the text a tongue twister.</td>
<td>Story is a collection of letters</td>
<td>Uses the catchy phrase Rooty-toot-tooty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Morphology Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Cowboy and the Black-Eyed Pea</th>
<th>Little Red Riding Hood A New Fangled Prairie Tale</th>
<th>Bigfoot Cinderrrrrrrrella</th>
<th>The Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf</th>
<th>Cinder-Elly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This story uses a Western theme parody</td>
<td>Little Red Riding hood blazes her own trail between two rows of sunflowers.</td>
<td>The Prince has a log rolling contest</td>
<td>A flamingo pushing a wheelbarrow full of flowers provides a solution to the wolves housing crisis</td>
<td>A garbage can becomes a bike to transport Cinder-Elly</td>
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</tbody>
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Summary

This project was very enjoyable. These stories are so fun. I read them to my students as I was preparing my report. The students were enthralled. We are in the process of writing our own fractured tales. I am preparing units for the teachers. Not only are the stories amusing, they also teach valuable skills such as analyzing story elements.

I must admit that gathering sources was easy. It seems that fractured fairy tales are quite popular. I found innumerable articles and websites relating to this topic. I do think that perhaps I just scratched the surface. There is just so much that can be said about this unique genre. What a fun way to gain knowledge and skills that last a lifetime!