

POSSIBLE Changes

Opening

Once upon a time...No, no, no! Hold it! Scratch that. Why does it have to be "Once upon a time", all the time? How about, "Dude, it was just yesterday when you said..." or, "I wasn't even born when this story happened, so don't blame me if I don't get it right..." Your turn; change the opening, will you?

Point of View

Our classic heroes and heroines have had their spot in the limelight. Why not give some much needed attention to the less favorable characters in our favorite fairy tales. Maybe a dwarf wants to explain what an inconvenience it was having Snow White around all the time. Or perhaps the giant wants take Jack to court for stealing his riches. Make your story interesting by telling it from another character's point of view.

Conflict

What would happen if Jack of beanstalk fame just said, 'Yeah, right. I don't think so!' instead of trading his cow for bean seeds? Or how about Cinderella having a heart-to-heart with her father about the character of her wicked stepmother? Or what would happen if Snow White's step-mama didn't wallow about in front of her mirror, looking green in the gills with jealousy? These fairy tale figures have some problems to overcome, but how about setting up a new challenge? Get rid of the fear, the jealousy, and the usual bully, and see what you can come up with. Take any character from any fairy tale, and set up a new, intriguing problem.

Royalty

Off with her head! Okay, maybe not. But how about a little less royalty? While it's true that there is often a rags to riches theme in many fairy tales, why not have the rags get help from the middle class? Or a sympathetic aunt, a wonderful teacher or mentor? A rural setting instead of a castle? Forget the kingdom; design another setting.

Magic

What would we do without magic? Instead of a wave of the magic wand for a beautiful new dress for Cinderella, what could she do for herself? It can still be fun and fraught with misadventures, but try to have a character use a little more of his or her own ingenuity to get out of sticky situations. Same thing goes for the rescuer - no white knight to the rescue of the beautiful damsel in distress, unless the character devises a plan to deliberately get that person to help - and this kind of situation could be very sneaky or funny! Take any one fairy tale character and exchange the magic for something more realistic - but just as much fun!

Ending

Who buys the "happily ever after" endings? Do you? Really?? So okay, the wolf disappears, but the three little pigs are going to drive each other crazy living together in a small brick house. How about instead, they realize what a great building plan they designed and they become successful architects? Or one of them buys all the surrounding property and becomes a real estate developer, much to the dismay of the other two who wanted to keep the rural atmosphere in their previously peaceful little town. Or they could all form a ghostbuster-type of business, where they successfully - even gleefully - hunt the bad guys, free of fear. It's up to you, but change an ending for a fairy tale of your choice.