

HOW TO WRITE A FRACTURED FAIRY TALE

by author Tara Lazar

To fracture a fairy tale, you take a familiar story and give it a fun new twist! Here are my best tips for creating your own fractured fairy tale!

- **Change a word in a familiar title.**
 - In LITTLE RED GLIDING HOOD, a new word, “Gliding,” rhymes with the original “Riding.” The fairy tale then becomes an ice-skating adventure. But what if “Riding Hood” had changed to “Hiding Hood” or “Sliding Hood”? How would those stories be different?
 - In THE THREE NINJA PIGS, the pigs aren’t little, they’re ninjas! What if RED wasn’t LITTLE, either? She could be a giant! What stories do you know that feature giants?
 - What if RED were BLUE or ORANGE or even INVISIBLE?
 - What if RED wore a modern hoodie instead of a HOOD?

- **Insert a new character...or swap characters.**
 - In I THOUGHT THIS WAS A BEAR BOOK, an alien crash-lands into “Goldilocks and the Three Bears.” He then causes chaos trying to get home again.
 - LITTLE RED GLIDING HOOD features many characters from well-known fairy tales and nursery rhymes. Think about which characters might fit into another story. “The Big Bad Wolf” is a character found in multiple fairytales, like “Little Red Riding Hood,” “The Three Little Pigs” and “The Boy Who Cried Wolf.” Could you put the wolf into your story, too?
 - What if “The Gingerbread Man” lived in the candy house from “Hansel and Gretel”? What well-known characters can you put into a different story?
 - Familiar characters can speak new lines based upon their original stories. In LITTLE RED GLIDING HOOD, “Old MacDonald slipped and fell. E-I-E-I-OUCH!”
 - Think about ways new characters will interrupt the familiar tale and cause problems.

- **Change an important object.**
 - What if Cinderella left behind something instead of her glass slipper? What if Jack didn’t grow a beanstalk? What if the Princess slept on something other than a pea?

- **Change the setting.**
 - In LITTLE RED GLIDING HOOD, the setting changes to a wintry, enchanted forest with a frozen river, which makes RED a skater. How does a new place change your main character? How will they react to the new surroundings? What challenges and problems do the new setting create?

- **Change the point of view.**
 - Tell a familiar fairy tale from another character’s perspective. In THE TRUE STORY OF THE THREE LITTLE PIGS, the wolf tells his side of the tale, which is wildly different from the original. How does a familiar character change in the new story? How do the other characters react and interact with this character?

Using these tips you can write a fun new story! Read the suggested books and figure out what they changed to create a fractured fairy tale.

SUGGESTED FRACTURED FAIRY TALES

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