

Fractured Fairy Tales

Fairy tales usually start with the phrase “once upon a time.” They are often told to children as lessons. Fairy tales might tell children how to be good. They might

also try to make children afraid of what could happen if they are not. Often, the lesson is that children should listen to their parents. Most cultures around the world have fairy tales.

In one traditional fairy tale, a mother pig tells her three little pigs to always do the best they can. The three pigs then go out for a walk. A wicked wolf sees them and wants to eat them. One pig tries to get away by building a house of straw. Another one tries to get away by building a house of sticks. The wolf, however, blows both houses down and eats the two pigs.

The third pig builds a house of bricks that the wolf can’t blow down. The wolf can’t eat him because the pig has obeyed his mother. The lesson children are supposed to learn is that they should always listen to their mother

and do a good job.

Fractured fairy tales, or fairy tales for today, are different. What makes them different from traditional fairy tales is the lessons they teach. The lessons of fractured fairy tales are built around the lessons that parents today teach their children.

If the story about the three little pigs were made into a fractured fairy tale, the wolf might talk to the three pigs instead of eating them. The pigs might teach the wolf how to build a house. Then they might all play a game together. In this way, the wolf would learn how to get along with others, and he would not be wicked.

Read some fractured fairy tales. How are the lessons they teach closer to lessons parents teach their children today?



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Name _____

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Write all these words in the right places to complete this puzzle, which tells some things you learned about fractured fairy tales. You can reread the article before you begin, but don't look back at it while you are working. After you've completed the puzzle, read it to someone.



brick	built	fairy	game	houses
lessons	pigs	teach	wolf	world

When you read the words “once upon a time,” you know you are probably reading a _____ tale. Most cultures in the _____ have fairy tales.

Perhaps you know the fairy tale about the three little _____. The three pigs all _____ places to live, but two of their _____ were not very strong. The _____ blew down the stick house and the straw house, but he could not blow down the _____ house.

Fractured fairy tales have different _____. In a fractured fairy tale, the pigs might _____ the wolf to build a house. The pigs might also play a _____ with the wolf and help the wolf learn to get along with others.

Comprehension Response Activities FYI for Kids — Level 2



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