volume 2
issue 2

Fractured Fairy Tales

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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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