

## Traditional Tales

Next term we will be looking at different Traditional Tales. Here is some factual information we would like to share... Traditional tales like Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks play an important part in early literacy. They go back hundreds of years in history and were originally written for adults. But as time has moved on they have been developed into much more children friendly, adaptations of which there are lots of different versions published.

**What is a traditional tale?** A traditional tale is a story that has been told and re-told for many years, and consequently, becomes a story that almost everyone knows. Traditional tales are also referred to as fairy stories or fairy tales. Stories such as *Cinderella*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* and *Jack and the Beanstalk* are all traditional stories.

How do traditional tales and fables differ?

A fable is a story that features animals, plants or forces of nature and ends with a 'moral' The 'moral' of a story, event, or experience is the message that you understand from it about how you should or should not behave.

### Ways of teaching and learning about Traditional Tales

Teachers will often use a traditional story as a way of teaching children the conventions of story-writing. Parents can do this too.

In Early Years and Key Stage 1, a teacher would read children various traditional tales and discuss the structure in terms of beginning, middle and end. They might map out the structure on the board to make this clear to the children; for example, they might show three boxes (organised horizontally or vertically) and then write a short sentence in each to show what happens in the beginning, middle and end of the story. Over time the children might progress to analysing the story structure by using a story map. To bring the story alive to the children, teachers might ask them to carry out various drama activities, such as acting out the story with puppets. They might introduce the story to children in different forms, for example: watching a film or television adaptation or reading a play script. Children would then be asked to re-tell the story orally and using pictures, they would be asked to write a part of the story in their own words.

In addition, you can help your child at home by reading traditional stories with them and encouraging them to talk about what they have read. We also love the huge repository of free traditional audio tales on [www.Storynory.com](http://www.Storynory.com) and the free audio recordings of fairy tales on [www.LibriVox.com](http://www.LibriVox.com) if you'd like to listen too! There is a whole collection of various audio stories available for free.

Ask them plenty of questions about the characters to help develop their reading comprehension, including questions where retrieval of information is required ('What did Cinderella leave behind at the ball?') as well as questions that rely on inference ('How can you tell that the ugly sisters don't like Cinderella?') and also questions that rely on deduction ('How do you think Cinderella feels about being left at home?').

All of this exploration of characters' feelings helps children to think more deeply about the characters that they write about, so can really help them with their writing as well as their reading comprehension.

