FAIRY TALES

NOT THE SAME OLD STORIES
Lecture #1

Sleeping Beauty:
Once Upon a Time
A brief telling of Sleeping Beauty, the Disney version
People love stories.

Why?
We interpret our daily lives through narrative.

From birth to death our lives are stories. We live them out as the hero, as a trickster, even as the villain.

In stories we can try the roles on for size. We rehearse as we hear the tale

Then move into the real world when we are ready.
We glean different things from fairy tales at different times in our lives.

We hear what we need to hear in order to make the stories relevant to what is going on in our lives at any given time.

Don’t mess with fairies! ...... We can defeat giants!
The stories themselves take on different forms according to the cultures and times that they are being told.
Sleeping Beauty in the Wood

Part One
A German Version

Video
21.11

Part Two
A French Version

Video
28.00
The fate of the Ogres is an old story. Let the punishment fit the crime; she suffers the fate she had planned for others. This motif occurs over and over in fairy tales, fables and myths.

Different versions give us different roles for our characters.

Disney puts the parents to sleep with the rest of the castles so they may enjoy the eventual happy ending. Our version sends them away to live out their days with only the fairy’s promise to comfort them. Disney also wakes Sleeping Beauty with a kiss. And many princes die battling a dragon before reaching Sleeping Beauty. In our older version Aurora wakes to find the one and only prince in her room and asks him what took him so long.

In part one of the older version the parents and the fairies are active, while the prince and princess’ fates are decided for them.
In part two the prince and princess take control of their lives defending kingdom and family. In this version The Prince and Princess must earn the right to live happily ever after through nurturing, protecting and eventually letting go. Dawn and Day, the children assure us of the continuing cycle.
Questions to Ponder

How does the 2\textsuperscript{nd} part of the Sleeping Beauty change the story for you?

Does the character of the hero and heroine change in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} part?

Does the Ogress deserve her fate?

In the German version the mother and father must give up their child and trust the fairy. Have you ever had to trust someone you love into the care of another?
Coming Attractions:

Transformations
Variations on Beauty and the Beast

From ancient Greece

Cupid and Psyche

B&B 27.37
Lesson #2

Transformations

Beauty and the Beast,

The Sleeping Prince,

East of the Sun West of the Moon
Disney version

What do You Remember?
East of the Wind West of the Moon
The Take Away

In life it is wise to be cautious whom we trust. It's only by seeing the bear’s true from that the girl finally trusts him, and then it is too late. Happily in fairy tales - as often in life - it is never too late to turn the story around. But it took a lot of courage to pull off a happy ending for herself and her prince.

And, what about trusting her mother and her jealous sisters?
Questions to Ponder

Our Heroine chooses to leave her home so that her family would prosper.

She appears to sacrifice herself for her family.

Would you be able to do the same?

Why? Why Not?
In the end the trolls all explode.

Does their punishment fit their crime?

How might the story be different if told from the trolls’ point of view?
Beauty and the Beast
Part 2
Being Brave
In **Beauty’s Stone Sisters** the beast is ugly indeed. “enormous... with a long ugly snout, ears hanging down, and long claws.”

The father tries to trick the beast by sending “Little Broomstick” but the beast will have none of it. Slowly Nettchen ([beauty](#)) comes to love the beast. But one night he does not join her and she discovers him dying. Her tears break the spell and save him. But there is further price to pay. Nettchen must stay in the castle with the beast/prince for a year before she can go home and rescue her father from failing health.

When she brings her sisters home with her, they are jealous and kill her, but a fairy appears, brings Nettchen back to life and turns the sisters into stone pillars. (Does the punishment fit the crime?)
Being brave does not mean not being scared. 
Being brave means doing the right thing anyway.
What does it mean to you to be brave?
Who in your life has been brave?

Our tales also remind us that it is never too late to turn the story around.
Have you ever had to turn your story around in your life? How did that work for you?

Note: that while in these stories it was the beast that was transformed. It is the heroine herself who by facing her fears becomes the queen!