

Literary Analysis Essay: Arguments in and about Fairy Tales (**No Research**)

Value: 200 points

Format: Typed, MLA style

Length: at least 1,500 words **and** a minimum of 6 paragraphs (no more than 20% quotations)

Due Date: **Complete Rough Draft** (20 points—at least 5 paragraphs and 750 words) due printed out, typed, MLA-format at the beginning of class on the due date (no late rough drafts are accepted, and peer review cannot be made up if missed).

Final Draft (at least 6 paragraphs **and** a minimum of 1,500 words with no more than 20% quotations and, of course, no plagiarism. Submit the final draft as a Single File Upload to Turnitin.com **by 11:30 pm on the deadline.**

Note: While *Turnitin* will allow you to submit your paper after the deadline (as long as it's a first-time submission), it will mark the paper as late, and it will receive half credit as a result, so please don't wait until the last minute and risk having to use your late pass or receive half credit. (Keep in mind that your clock may not match *Turnitin's*, and for the purposes of submitting assignments for this class, *Turnitin's* clock is considered correct. Also, if you submitted a draft prior to the deadline, and the deadline has passed, your resubmission will not be accepted, and I will grade what's there unless you wish to use your late pass to resubmit it.)

Directions: Write a claim-driven argument about **one** of the traditional fairy tales **OR one** of the modern fairy tales we've read, addressing one of the prompts. You are encouraged to narrow the prompt to make it doable and your own. Support your argument with sufficient evidence, including analysis, interpretation, and explication of that evidence in order to prove and develop your argument and reasoning. Integrate, quote, and cite correctly according to genre and MLA guidelines. (Present and cite paraphrased and summarized material correctly too.)

Use only primary sources; **do not do outside research for this essay.** Never use study guides or other resources that give you ideas rather than make you come up with your own.

Feel free to draw from the response paper assignments.

As long as you're using the assigned versions of the texts, you do not need a Works Cited page. The correct in-text citation is enough.

Be sure to edit, spell check, and proofread your essay, and give it an original title.

PROMPTS ABOUT THE TRADITIONAL FAIRY TALES:

1. According to one of the traditional versions of “Cinderella” (Perrault’s or Grimm’s or Disney’s or the Chinese or the Native American) OR one of the traditional versions of “Little Red Riding Hood” (Perrault’s or Grimm’s or the Chinese), what are men expected to be like?
2. According to one of the traditional versions of “Cinderella” or “Little Red Riding Hood,” what are women expected to be like?
3. What is the definition of beauty in one of the traditional versions of “Cinderella” or “Little Red Riding Hood,” and what is its value and function?
4. According to one of the traditional versions of “Cinderella,” what is the value and function of wealth? (This question doesn’t apply easily to “Little Red Riding Hood.”)
5. What perception of nature or what attitude toward nature is expressed in one of the traditional versions of “Cinderella” or “Little Red Riding Hood?”
6. What is the attitude toward work in one of the traditional versions of “Cinderella” or “Little Red Riding Hood?”
7. What is the perception of or attitude toward childhood according to one of the traditional versions of “Cinderella” or “Little Red Riding Hood?”

PROMPTS ABOUT THE MODERN FAIRY TALES:

1. Make the argument that one of the modern story versions—Angela Carter’s “In the Company of Wolves,” Tanith Lee’s “Wolfland,” or Joyce Carol Oates’ “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been”—is a fairy tale. Be sure to include your definition/criteria of a fairy tale in your analysis. Why is the writer making this argument? What argument is she making about the purpose, possibility, relevance, or nature of fairy tales in the modern/real world?
2. Make the argument that one of the modern story versions—Angela Carter’s “In the Company of Wolves,” Tanith Lee’s “Wolfland,” or Joyce Carol Oates’ “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been”—is a version of “Little Red Riding Hood.” Why is the writer making this argument? What argument is she making about the impact of the modern/real world on the purpose, meaning, or relevance of this story?
3. Identify and analyze an argument one of the modern story versions—Angela Carter’s “In the Company of Wolves,” Tanith Lee’s “Wolfland,” or Joyce Carol Oates’ “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been”—makes about what it means to be human based on its adaptation of the fairy tale. Analyze how and why the story adapts and uses the fairy tale to make its argument.
4. Identify and analyze the argument (the Broadway version of) Stephen Sondheim’s and James Lapine’s musical play *Into the Woods* makes about the purpose of fairy tales in the real/modern world?
5. Identify and analyze an argument one of the six poems (Anne Sexton’s “Cinderella” or “Red Riding Hood,” Olga Broumas’ “Cinderella” or “Little Red Riding Hood,” Ronald Blackwell’s poem “Li’l Red Riding Hood,” or Roald Dahl’s “Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf”) makes about what it means to be human based on its adaptation of the fairy tale. Explicate how the poem adapts and uses the fairy tale to make its argument.
6. Identify and analyze an argument one of the six poems (Anne Sexton’s “Cinderella” or “Red Riding Hood,” Olga Broumas’ “Cinderella” or “Little Red Riding Hood,” Ronald Blackwell’s poem “Li’l Red Riding Hood,” or Roald Dahl’s “Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf”) makes about fairy tales in the real/modern world based on its adaptation of the fairy tale. Explicate how the poem adapts and uses the fairy tale to make its argument.