

# Fairy Tale Traits

Fairy tales were first told aloud and then were passed around to many people over time. The story changes a little with each telling. Sometimes different countries seem to have the same stories (but changed to fit the people and places).

Fairy tales are alike in many ways.

Common Style:

- Stories are short.
- Stories are interesting and entertaining for all ages.
- Begins with "Once upon a time."
- Has a happy ending.
- Includes chants or events that are repeated.
- Things happen in threes (and sometimes seven).
- Animals have human traits.
- Stories include magic.

Common Themes:

- Good character is rewarded.
- Bad character is punished.
- Poor characters get rich (or married).
- Weak (bullied) characters get strong.
- There is either revenge or forgiveness at the end.

