

Lesson: Quest for the Golden Feather

Lesson Topic: Fairy Tales and Legends

Fairy Tales and Legends

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Fairies are mythical creatures whose legends have a prominent place in many cultures worldwide. The word "fairy" has been around in some form since the Middle Ages (12th to 15th centuries). It has been used to describe all kinds of magical creatures, but the fairies we usually think of look like small humans and have wings.

There are many different ideas about where fairies come from. In some legends, they come from the four elements: earth, fire, water, and air. In others, they are former gods and goddesses or fallen angels. Some think they are somewhere between humans and angels.

Others think that fairies are ancient tribes of people who were conquered long ago. For example, according to myth, the followers of the Goddess Dana ruled Ireland 4,000 years ago, but they were invaded and conquered by the Milesians. The people of the Goddess Dana grew smaller and smaller and eventually turned into fairies.

Many types of fairies live in different places and go by different names. Most fairies are female, but there are some male fairies, too. Water fairies are called "water sprites," and forest fairies are called "dryads." Pixies are small wingless creatures that are closely related to fairies. Banshees are female fairies that wail at night to warn that someone will soon die.



In the 1870 book *Fairyland*, forest fairies teach birds how to sing.

Fairies of all types are known for causing mischief and interfering in humans' lives. According to legend, they visit newborn babies to give them gifts or curse them. For example, in "Sleeping Beauty," four fairies come to offer gifts to the newborn child. Three of them give her beauty, song, and blessings, but the fourth one puts her under an evil curse.

Fairies are famous for stealing human babies and sometimes leaving their own babies instead. These creatures are called "changelings." Fairies can be very generous when they want to be, and they can give you good fortune, but they are unpredictable. You never know if a fairy is going to help you or curse you. Fairies are easily offended, so humans are supposed to always treat them respectfully.



An angry fairy curses the princess to die at age 16, but a good fairy changes it to a deep sleep that can be ended by a kiss from her true love.

Legends surrounding fairies have been around for almost 1,000 years. Writers, poets, and other artists have used fairies as sources of inspiration for many centuries. Children around the world have grown up listening to fairy tales, and fairies are still seen today in books, art, and movies. So while they may be small in size, fairies have made an undoubtedly large impact on world culture.



This picture is from the cover of *Princess Nobody - a Tale of Fairy Land*, a book about fairies written in the 1800s.

Question 1:

Which detail from the text supports the claim that fairies were sometimes viewed in a negative light?

- Pixies are small, wingless creatures that are closely related to fairies.
- Legends surrounding fairies have been around for almost 1,000 years.
- Water fairies are called "water sprites," and forest fairies are called "dryads."
- Fairies are famous for stealing human babies and sometimes leaving their own babies instead.

Question 2:

What is the main purpose of this text?

- to instruct the reader on how to keep fairies from becoming angry
- to convince the reader that fairy legends are not real
- to convince the reader that fairies are mostly good
- to inform the reader about various fairy legends

Question 3:

Which information from the article depicts fairies as unpredictable?

- a story about four fairies who brought three blessings and a curse
- a passage about the various legends describing the origins of fairies
- a description of cultural references to fairies
- a list of creatures closely related to fairies

Question 4:

Read the passage below.

*Fairies are mythical creatures whose legends have a **prominent** place in many cultures worldwide.*

What does the word **prominent** mean?

- largely invisible
- very beautiful
- highly visible
- mostly fictional

Question 5:

Read the passage below.

Legends surrounding fairies have been around for almost 1,000 years. Writers, poets, and other artists have used fairies as sources of inspiration for many centuries. Children around the world have grown up listening to fairy tales, and fairies are still seen today in books, art, and movies. So while they may be small in size, fairies have made an undoubtedly large impact on world culture.

How does this passage contribute to the main idea of the text?

- It shows why fairies are widely disliked.
- It shows how fairies are powerful creatures.
- It shows why so many people believe in fairies.
- It shows how fairies are relevant to many people.

Question 6:

What is the main idea of the text?

- Fairies are known to take away babies or curse people they don't like.
- Fairies are known to be good and bad, and they can be wingless, big, or small.
- Bannees are fairies that predict death, and pixies are wingless fairies.
- Fairy legends are varied, and they have been a big part of many cultures.

Question 7:



"Fairy Rings" are groups of mushrooms that grow naturally in circular patterns. They get their name from British folklore, which claim that these rings are made from fairies dancing in circles.

Examine the picture and caption. What detail from the text does this help illustrate?

- Fairies of all types are known for causing mischief and interfering in humans' lives.
- There are many types of fairies that live in different places and go by different names.
- While they may be small in size, fairies have made an undoubtedly large impact on world culture.
- There are many different ideas about where fairies come from. In some legends, they come from the four elements: earth, fire, water, and air.

Question 8:

Which description of the fairies in "The Quest for the Golden Feather" is different from the article?

- One wrong look, and Terrin could be banned from the fairy realm for all eternity.
- Their anger was legendary.
- They gave Terrin a golden feather.
- The fairies' voices were a melodic gift to the ears that could easily hypnotize a person.

Question 9:

According to legend, why do humans need to be careful around fairies?

- All fairies dislike humans.
- Fairies are unpredictable.
- Fairies are poisonous to humans.
- Fairies will turn humans into fairies.