

## NOTES FROM 'REWRITING FAIRY TALES' WORKSHOP

26<sup>th</sup> July 2017, Didcot Writers, Cornerstone

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*Notes based on workshop discussion and background notes.*

**What is a Fairy Tale?** – Folk Tale / Traditional Story / Oral / Adaptable / Ever Changing / No one edition or author / Morals / Lessons / Romance / Tropes / “Once upon a time” / “Happily ever after”.

**Famous Fairy Tales** – Little Red Riding Hood / Goldilocks and the Three Bears / Cinderella / Snow White / Rapunzel / Hansel and Gretel / Rumpelstiltskin / Sleeping Beauty / Jack and the Bean Stalk / Beauty and the Beast / The Three Little Pigs / Puss in Boots / Bearskin / The Juniper Tree / Bluebeard / The Princess and the Pea / Robinhood / Pinocchio.

**Fairy Tale Settings** – Wood / Castle / Forest / Cottage / Cave / Tower / Village / “Land far away”.

### **Characters -**

The Characters in a fairy tale are usually drawn from stock figures.

- Princess / Prince / Witch / Wiseman / Wolf / Frog / Bear / Child / Queen / King / Fairy / Evil Step Mother / Dead Mother / Giant / Beast / Trees etc.
- They rarely have actual names (first names)
- Often referred to by their appearance or personality traits e.g. – Their appearance (Little Red Riding Hood / Snow White), their size (Big Bad Wolf), their status (prince / beggar), their occupation (carpenter), their colour.
- Clear intentions / motivations (Good vs. Evil Etc.)
- Often drive the plot and bring across the moral in the tale.

### **Things to consider -**

- Who are your audience? (age range)
- Are you going to stick with the tales “Traditional” narrative, or are you going to add in some twists and surprises?
- What is the setting for the tale?
- Are you going to modernise the tale?
- How will your changes to the plot effect the moral at the end?
- Who’s view point are you telling the tale from?
- How much detail are you going to go in? Fairy tales are often plot driven and rarely spend a large amount of time describing things.

### **Writing exercises:**

- 1) Choose your fairy tale – brainstorm what fairy tales you like and think about how you could tell it in your own unique way.
- 2) Write the barebones of the tale – write out, in 5 – 10 sentences, the key points / events in the tale.
- 3) Decide what you want to change – Consider how you want to adapt it. How could you make it appeal to a different audience? How can you tell it from a different point of view?
- 4) Decide on what characters you do, and don’t, want to include. – What are their motivations? What challenges do they face? What is their journey?
- 5) Think about your context / style and tone.
- 6) The ending – how will you change the end, if at all? Will there be any surprises? How will the moral tie up the ending of the tale?