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QWILLER  
STUDENT WORKBOOK

# Re-writing Fairytales

Grade 7  
Stage 4

an integrated language,  
literacy & literature  
course for exploring &  
creating fairytales

  
qwiller  
inspiring critical &  
imaginative thinking

Shelley McNamara

Qwiller Student Workbook

# RE-WRITING FAIRYTALES

SHELLEY MCNAMARA



[www.qwiller.com.au](http://www.qwiller.com.au)

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# Part 1: The big deal about fairytales

## Literacy

Defining fairytales  
Ideas on fairytales

## Language

Fairytale elements

## Literature

A contemporary fairytale: *Dog Boy* by Eva Horung

## Key questions

- Level 1:** What is the enduring nature of fairytales?  
What do contemporary fairytales look like?
- Level 2:** How have fairytales evolved over time?  
How do the senses represent experiences in fairytales?
- Level 3:** What makes an effective fairytale?  
How are morals are conveyed in fairytales?

# 1.1: The enduring nature of fairytales

## POPULAR FAIRYTALES



Ever wondered what the big deal is about fairytales? Wondered why so many films at the movies these days are fairytales? Well, this workbook will give you an insight into the significance of fairytales in our culture and cultures around the world.

You may be familiar with some of the following fairytale stories that are popular today:

- *Into the Woods*
- *Tangled*
- *Hoodwinked*
- *Maleficent*

### Dig deep

1. Can you think of any other fairytales? Think of films as well as stories?
2. Why do you think fairytales are so popular around the world? Discuss with a partner.

Complete the activity below.

## Activity 1.1: Reflecting on fairytales

### Level 1

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word 'fairytales'? Write a list of words/phrases.
2. Write a list of characteristics of a fairytale. See below for some ideas to get you started;
  - Usually begins with 'Once upon a time...'
  - Features magical elements, such as talking animals, witches, and fairies.
  - Often involves a hero or heroine facing challenges and overcoming them.
  - Typically ends with a 'happily ever after' or a moral lesson.

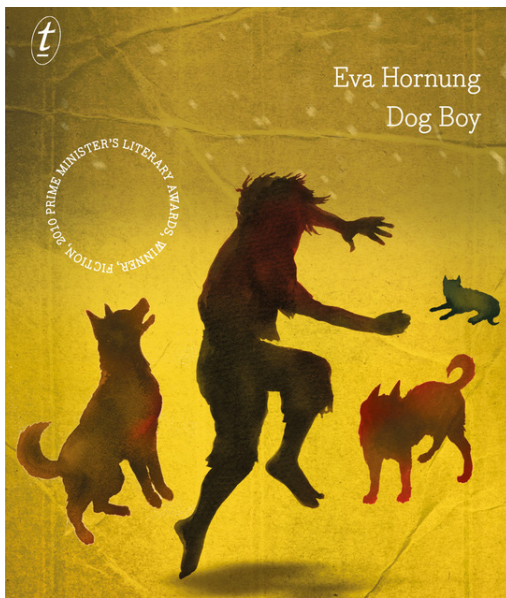
### Level 2

3. Reflect on your favorite fairytale. Consider the following questions:
  - Why is this fairytale your favorite?
  - What lessons or messages do you think the story conveys?
  - Do you believe this fairytale will continue to be popular in the future? Why or why not?
4. Are there common themes or elements in popular fairytales?
5. Why do you think these stories have endured for so long?
6. Can you identify any morals or lessons in these fairytales?
7. How have these fairytales been adapted in modern times (e.g., Disney adaptations, retellings)?

### Level 3

8. Discuss how fairytales have evolved over time.

## 1.2: Contemporary fairytales



INTRODUCED BY YANN MARTEL

'Contemporary' is a fancy word for modern, meaning that it is current in today's society. We are firstly going to look at a contemporary story that may at first seem to be far removed from fairytales. Modern fairytales are a bit like that. But I think you will find there are some common elements in this story that connect it to many of the fairytales you have probably heard of.

### DOG BOY: A MODERN FAIRYTALE

There are a lot of stories about wild children. We are now going to look at a novel called *Dog Boy* by Eva Hornung. It is about a boy who becomes a dog. Pretty wild, huh? The structure, moral (ideas on what is right or wrong) and imagery are representative of the fairytale genre.

#### Dig deep

1. Think about the title. Brainstorm ideas that come to mind when you think about 'dog boy'.
2. How do you think *Dog Boy* could be a modern fairytale?

Complete the activity below.

### Activity 1.2: Interpreting the front cover

#### Level 1

1. Look at the cover of the novel and complete the questions.

See the link or Google 'Dog Boy' for a copy: <https://www.textpublishing.com.au/books/dog-boy>

- What mood (feelings) are evoked by the front cover? Consider the images and colours.
- Does the image on the cover suggest that the dogs and the boy are enjoying themselves?
- What does this tell you about the possible message of the story?

#### Level 2

2. Read the introduction by Yann Martel about *Dog Boy*. See the link below.

<https://www.textpublishing.com.au/blog/yann-martel-introduces-dog-boy-by-eva-hornung>

Answer the questions below.

- In three words sum up Martel's ideas about the book.
- What does Martel mean by the following quote: 'We live with animals in many ways, in a blend of fact and fiction'?
- Identify three positive aspects of the novel that Martel discusses.

#### Level 3

3. Respond to Martel's comment: 'Once, animals were wild prey and they were nimble in their flight, but now they're produce and we pick them off the shelf of the supermarket at will.' Do you agree/disagree with this thesis? Discuss.