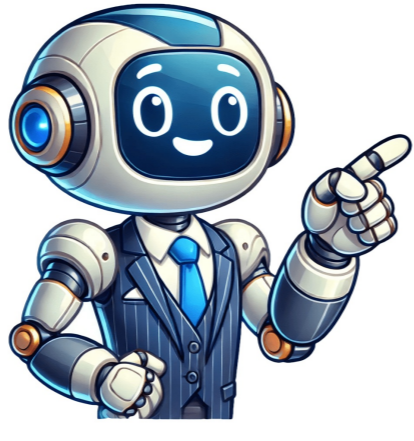


Continue



More Hans Christian Andersen's Complete Fairy TalesLearn More Charles Dickens' Four NovelsLearn More Classic Tales of Science Fiction & FantasyLearn More The U.S. Constitution and Other WritingsLearn More Monarchs' Words of PowerPresidents Who Sculpted AmericaLearn More The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Other StoriesLearn More H. P. Lovecraft Tales of HorrorLearn More The Complete Works of William ShakespeareLearn More An Encyclopedia of TolkienLearn More The Autobiography of Nikola Tesla and Other WorksLearn More The Sun Also Rises and Other WorksLearn More The Divine ComedyLearn More Alice's OdysseyLearn More The Complete Novels of Jane AustenLearn More Ancient Greek PhilosophersLearn More The Complete Sherlock Holmes CollectionLearn More Classic Tales of HorrorLearn More Need a Vacay? Let the Classics Be Your Guide. March 19, 2025 Plan your next getaway around your favorite novel. Get started with these five classics. Read More » Visit Blog The brothers in later life, Jacob (standing) and Wilhelm Grimm in a daguerrotype from circa 1850. *9 min readFolktales are as old as human civilization itself. A synthesis of the spoken and the scripted, a fusion of different accounts of the same story. The story of Cinderella, for example, appeared in ancient China and in ancient Egypt. Details in the telling change depending on the storyteller's cultural origins. In Egypt, her slippers are red leather, while in the West Indies, breadfruit, not a pumpkin, is the transformative object. The story of Cinderella that appears in Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm's collection of German folktales, first published in 1812, might shock those familiar with today's version of a scullery maid turned princess. In the brothers Grimm telling, the heroine is called Aschenputtel, and her wishes come true not from the wave of a fairy godmother's wand but from a hazel tree growing on her mother's grave, which she waters with her flowing tears. When the prince comes to find the dainty foot that will match the single slipper (which is gold, not glass), the stepsisters do not shove and shriek but dismember, one cutting off her big toe to try and make the shoe fit, the other cutting off part of her heel. And at the story's close, Cinderella's wedding to the prince includes two white birds, which rather than cheerfully tweet Cinderella on her way to happily ever after, peck out the stepsisters' eyes. (See also: Germany's fairy tale road) Dorothy and the Wicked Witch of the West, a Grimm 19th-century painting by Louis KatzenelnbogenPhotograph by Bjoerneman/AGThe brothers Grimm, the first German publishers who became one of the most influential and famous collections of folklore in the world: children's and Household Tales (Kinder und Hausmärchen), later titled Grimm's Fairy Tales, are childhood-defining stories. The Grimms, however, had curated the collection as an academic anthology for scholars of German culture, not a collection of bedtime stories for young readers.Amid the political and social turbulence of the Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815), as France conquered Germanic lands, Jacob and Wilhelm were driven by nationalism to highlight their homeland and heritage. They were inspired by German Romantic authors and philosophers who believed that the purest forms of culture, those that bonded a community, could be found in stories shared from generation to generation. Storytelling expressed the essence of German culture and recalled the spirit and basic values of its people. By excavating Germany's oral traditions, the brothers urgently sought to "preserve them from vanishing . . . to forever silent in the tumult of our times." (See also: Fairy Tales are much older than you think.)Once upon a timeMass AppealAs their collection of stories gained popularity, the brothers Grimm drastically edited or even deleted more than 40 tales in subsequent editions to appeal to a wider—and younger—audience. The world-famous collection has been translated into more than 160 languages.Photograph by North Wind Picture/Alamy/ACILike Cinderella and many of the characters in their folktales, the story of Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm is a rags-to-riches one. The brothers were born one year apart in Hanau, in the Holy Roman Empire's state of Hesse-Kassel (in present-day Germany, near Frankfurt). In 1796, just a few days after Jacob, the eldest, turned 11, their father died suddenly of pneumonia, plunging the once middle-class family of six children into poverty. Two years later, Jacob and Wilhelm left home to attend high school in Kassel, a privilege made possible by their aunt's financial support. The inseparable pair shared the same diligent work habits, studying for up to 12 hours a day.After graduating, Jacob moved to Marburg in 1802 to study law at the university; Wilhelm followed a year later. Most of the students from wealthier families received tuition stipend, but this social status meant that they had to pay for their own education. But this setback later proved fortunate. As Jacob later wrote in his autobiography, "Sparseness spurs a person to industriousness and work."The pair had entered the university intending to echo their father's career in law and civil service. But identifying with the hardworking "folk" whose language and stories they would later preserve and publish, they instead discovered a vocation that would define their lives and their legacy:Finding folk talesFriedrich Karl von Savigny, a professor at the University of Marburg, sparked Jacob and Wilhelm's interest in German history and literature and the new field of philology, the study of language in historical texts. Savigny introduced the brothers to his scholarly circle of Clemens Brentano and Achim von Arnim, German writers influenced by Johann Gottfried von Herder, a philosopher who called for a rediscovery and preservation of Volkspoesie, the people's poetry.Clemens Brentano, 19th-century portrait by Emilie LinderIn 1805 Jacob worked as Savigny's assistant in Paris, collecting documents on German customs, law, and literature. Jacob and Wilhelm were prolific letter-writers during their rarer time apart, and while in Paris, Jacob wrote to Wilhelm in Marburg of his desire to devote his life to the study of German literary history.Arnim and Brentano had published a collection of old German folk songs, and Brentano, wanting to continue his philological pursuits, asked the Grimms for their help in combing library shelves for folktales. The brothers found some texts in books, but they also focused on oral traditions, seeking out storytellers in friends and acquaintances. Most of them were women, one of whom, Dorothea Wild, would later marry Wilhelm. The person who contributed the most to the Grimms' collection was Grottotha Pierson Viehmann, whose father owned a popular inn near Kassel. She shared the many tales that travelers had told to her.Brentano did not use the 54 tales that Jacob and Wilhelm sent him in 1810, but Arnim urged them to publish their collection nonetheless. Published in 1812, Children's and Household Tales was not an immediate success. Even so, the brothers' subsequent publications of philological research—two volumes of German legends and one of early German history—among other things, earned them respect as scholars in their field. Their tale collection were published in the final edition, published in 1857, is the best known and is notably different from the first in both style and content. The brothers asserted that they collected the stories with "exactness and truth," without adding embellishment or details of their own. In later editions, Wilhelm expanded the originally shorter, sparser prose and modified plots to make parts of the dark, tragic stories more accessible to children. (See also: Ten things you didn't know about Aladdin.)Beginning in 1815, illustrations were added to the books. The stories in the first edition are thus more faithful to the oral tradition than those in the last, which, together with Wilhelm's adaptations, offered a more literary approach. The Evil Queen is a guest at Snow White's wedding, as shown in a 1910 illustration by Franz Juttner. In the Grimm version of the tale, the queen is punished for her crimes against the princess by being forced to wear red-hot iron shoes and to dance until she drops down dead. Photograph by Alamy/Cordon PressThe Grimms had not intended to publish a book of folktales. They wanted to resurrect the German oral tradition, but in the process, they ultimately curated a culturally encompassing collection of tales. Though the brothers became a household name because of it, Children's and Household Tales was part of a bigger pursuit, to excavate and preserve the oral and written forms of German culture, to restore this treasure to the people.As philologists, collectors, researchers, and editors, the brothers helped establish the methodology of collecting and documenting folklore. Their pioneering, scientific approach changed the course of historical linguistics, setting a standard worthy of imitation. Grimm's Fairy Tales is a collection of German fairy tales first published in 1812 by the Grimm brothers, Jacob and Wilhelm. They were among the best-known storytellers of folk tales, and popularized stories such as The Frog Prince, Hansel and Gretel, Rapunzel, Rumpelstiltskin, Little Red Riding Hood, and Snow White. The influence of these fairy tales was widespread. W. H. Auden praised the collection as one of the founding works of Western culture. The popularity of the Grimms' folk tales has endured well. The tales are available in more than 100 languages and have been later adapted by Walt Disney, with films such as Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and Tangled.This case laminate collector's edition includes a Victorian inspired dust jacket. An antique is a senior at Southern Oregon University working towards a BS in English & Writing and a BS in Environmental Science & Policy. The Grimms' brothers are the most associated with the fairy tale genre compared to any other author or fairy tale collector and their work has been translated into 150 languages and is known throughout the world (Zipes xi). Despite this wide recognition and fame, how many people really know the original origins and purpose of the tales collected by the Grimm brothers? And how did these tales transform from their original state in 1812 to the many adaptations we see today? Numerous authors and scholars have written and researched the history of the Grimms and their tales and have found that their transformation is in large part due to the readers themselves. The first edition published the Grimm brothers was fairly small compared to the eventual 210 tale edition: "Today the Grimms' tales fill two fairly thick volumes, but in 1812, after five years of collecting, Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm had only found enough tales for one small book" (Bottigheimer 27). The Grimm brothers did not originally collect these tales for children to read: "When Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm first developed the plan to compile German folktales, they wanted to capture the "pure" voice of the German people and to preserve in print the oracular poetry of the common people" (Tatar 341). The original intent of the Grimm brothers was a scholarly project to preserve the oral traditions and cultural viewpoints of the German people, but after the first printing of the collection everything changed. The readers' response to the first edition of the collection was not what the Grimm brothers had been hoping for. To a great extent the Grimms' scholarly ambitions and patriotic zeal guided the production of the first edition of the Nursery and Household Tales. But once the collection was in print, reviewers weighed in with critiques that took the brothers back to the drawing board to revise, rescript, and redact. One critic denounced the collection as tainted by French and Italian influences. Another lamented the vast amounts of "pathetic" and "tasteless" material and urged parents to keep the volume out of the hands of children. (Tatar 343) In the following editions of the Nursery and Household Tales the Grimm Brothers made many changes. They fleshed out the texts they had collected, often doubling their length and they polished the language used. The biggest change of all however, was the intended audience of their collection of tales, from scholars to children. (Tatar 343). In order to make their collection suitable for children the Grimm Brothers made many additions and redactions to their collection: "The Grimms were intent on eliminating all residues of risqué humor in the tales they recorded, yet they had no reservations about preserving, and in some cases intensifying, the violence" (Tatar 344). Many of the tales the Grimm brothers had collected originally contained innuendo and sexual content that was considered to be inappropriate for children. The Grimm brothers also added religious references to the text and instructive motives to the tales in order to make them a sort of teaching device for children (Tatar 49). The violence of the tales only intensified over the editions, but during this time period violence was everywhere. The Grimms would have been exposed to much of the political turmoil of the eighteenth-century: "The French Revolution of 1789, which was followed by grisly reports of the execution of Thermion, affected Wilhelm's young imagination. His earliest watercolor drawing depicts a bloody scene from Louis XVI's execution, as his head is held aloft before the gathered mob" (Bottigheimer 3). Other events and changes in Europe during this time were the Napoleonic Wars, the Romantic movement, Kantian philosophy, the age of Metternich, the July revolution in France, he struggles for constitutional government in the German states, the revolution of 1848, and the rise to power of Bismarck (Peppar xii). These events and changes in Europe influenced the additions and reactions to the Grimm brothers' collection. Some examples of changes the Grimm brothers made to their collection are found in the tales of Cinderella, Red Riding Hood, and Rapunzel. The Grimm Broders made the tale of Cinderella more violent than the one written by Charles Perrault: "The Grimms delighted in describing the blood in the shoes of the step sisters who try to slice off their heels and toes in order to get a perfect fit. The German version also gives us a far less compassionate Cinderella, one who does not forgive her stepsisters but invites them to her wedding where doves peck out their eyes" (Tatar 30). Some of the transformations the Grimms made were to serve as harsh lessons for children (Zipes 14). The Grimms revised the Red Riding Hood tale so that the Huntsman rescues Red Riding Hood and her grandmother, while in the original the young girl rescues herself by distracting the wolf with a strip tease (Tatar 18). The Grimms erased all of the inappropriate erotic content and added in behavioral imperatives such as: "When you're out in the woods, look straight ahead of you like a good little girl and don't stray from the path" (Tatar 19). Many scholars have pointed out that some of the rewriting and edits the Grimms did made the women in the stories less independent, giving us the role of damsel in distress. The Grimm brothers also took out any "scandal" of their version of Rapunzel: "In the first version of the Grimms' Nursery and Household Tales, Rapunzel asks the enchantress why her clothes are getting so tight and don't fit any longer" (Tatar 113). This was taken out and replaced with a less harmful line. The Grimm brothers also made Rapunzel a "wife" to the prince so as to not suggest that Rapunzel's twins were born out of wedlock (Tatar 113). Other edits were made in general to many of the tales, for example many of the original evil women in the tales were mothers, but the Grimms changed them to step mothers. A lot has been written about where the Grimm brothers got their tales: "Few readers know that more than half of the 210 fairy tales included in the Grimm anthologies had a woman's hand in them, whether they were recorded from her storytelling or recorded by her as she listened to another storyteller" (Paradiz xi). Many of the people who provided the Grimm brothers with tales were girls and young women who were in the brother's social circle: Wilhelm's informants were as young as 14-year-old Dortchen Wild, one of six daughters of the town apothecary Rudolf Wild who lived across the street from the Grimm family. Dortchen's older sister Gretchen, another tale contributor, was 20. The two girls and their mother told Wilhelm several folk tales and many fairy tales, some of which—like "The Frog Prince," "Frau Holle," "The Six Swans," and "Many Furs"—later became well known in the English-speaking world. (Bottigheimer 28) The three Hesseppmflur girls (Marie, Jeannette, and Amalie) were also principal sources for the Grimm brothers. The three girls provided the brothers with many tales including The Seven Ravens, Red Riding Hood, The Girl Withut Hands, The Robber Bridegroom, Sleeping Beauty, King Thrush beard, Snow White, and The Garmion (Bottigheimer 29). The changes that the Grimm brothers made to their collection of tales has influenced two centuries worth of generations and continues to shape our world today: "In this century, Walt Disney's film versions of fairy tales, beginning with Snow White in 1937, helped aid to familiarity with the stories. In recent years, widespread enthusiasm for every sort of fantasy, from science fiction to horror movies, has included a strong up swing of interest in fairy tale" (McGivill vii). There are many Disney adaptations of fairy tales and the tales collected by the Grimm brothers: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, The Princess and the Frog, and Tangled are just a few examples. These adaptations of course do not resemble even the edited editions of the Nursery and Household Tales, not to even mention the originals. Most women and girls in these adaptations are either damsels in distress or villains, gone are the women who save themselves with their imagination, bravery, and quick thinking (Zipes 74). There is also very few traces of violence and sexual content left in any of the tales we see today, however many still cling to the idea of role models of behavior, instruction, and morality (Zipes 152). It is unclear whether or not children stories will return to their original form, seen in the eighteenth century, but recently there has been an increase of films and television series based on fairy tales that are of a much darker nature than the Disney film adaptations. One popular television series is Once Upon a Time, which contains material from many tales and myths including: Snow White, Red Riding Hood, Sleeping Beauty, Rumpelstiltskin, Rapunzel, and Cinderella. In this show many women are damsels in distress or villains, but there are also many more who are strong women who save the day, Red Riding Hood in this enchanted world is actually the wolf herself and her grandmother is one tough old woman who comes to the rescue of many of the characters (Once Upon a Time). Another current TV series is Grimm, which is a spin on the Grimm brothers themselves. This show is set in current society and is a cop drama with a fantastical twist. In this show, Grimm is someone who collects tales and information about magical creatures and then uses that information to hunt them down (Grimm). The Grimm TV series includes many of the details of the tales collected by the Grimm brothers and reflects more of the original versions, especially the violence the Grimm brothers were known for describing in their tales. Walt Disney Pictures is even embracing the return to the darker versions of fairy tales with the musical fantasy film, Into the Woods, which was produced in 2014. In the introduction of The Annotated Classic Fairy Tales you find this description of fairy tales: Fairy tales are up close and personal, telling us about the quest for romance and riches, for power and privilege, and, most important, for a way out of the woods back to the safety and security of home. Bringing myths down to earth and inflecting them in human rather than heroic terms, fairy tales put a familiar spin on the stories in the archive of our collective imagination. (Tatar xi) The film Into the Woods embraces this description of the classic fairy tales literally and figuratively. Much of the material used in this film comes from the original versions of the Grimm tales. Red Riding Hood in this film is a clever girl who tricks the baker and his wife out of many of their goods, however she does end up needing rescuing. The wolf is represented by a deviant man like the original version and includes instructions like "do not wander from the path and beware of strangers" (Into The Woods). After the encounter with the wolf Red Riding Hood becomes more independent, a girl who wears a cape made of wolf skin and carries a knife to protect herself with (Into the Woods). The tale of Rapunzel in this film is a mixture of the old and new versions, it does contain the sexual content that the original version did, but it contains many of the other details. Some of these include: the enchantress getting Rapunzel because her parents stole from the enchantress' garden, the enchantress locking Rapunzel in a tower, thorns blinding the prince, Rapunzel being banished to a swamp, Rapunzel's tears bring life to the dead, and the prince and Rapunzel get married. Personally, I think children should be able to read the original versions of the tales, but I think that the parents should be the ones to decide if their child is ready to read the original Grimm tales like the theme of wish fulfillment, of wanting riches, children, and a different life are included in this film. What would literature, culture, and society be like today if the readers of the 18th century had not called for the Grimm brothers to edit their collection or if the Grimm brothers refused to do so? The Grimm collection of tales have changed many times over for the past two centuries, but that is the nature of fairy tales: "Fairy tales are never fixed and always changing from one region to another, from one teller to another, they still preserve a stable core" (Haase 31). Even though the fairy tales we know today may not reflect the original Grimm collection, their legacy lives on through the adaptations and the inspiration they passed on to other authors, scholars, and collectors. Works Cited Bottigheimer, Ruth B. Fairy Tales: A New History. Albany: Excelsior Editions, 2009. Print. Bottigheimer, Ruth B. Grimms' Bad Girls & Bold Boys: The Moral & Social Vision of the Tales. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1987. Print. Ellis, John M. One Fairy Story Too Many: The Brothers Grimm and Their Tales. Chicago, University of Chicago, 1983. Print. Grimm, by Stephen Carpenter, David Greenwalt, and Jim Kouf. NBC Universal Television, 2011. DVD. Haase, Donald. The Reception of Grimms' Fairy Tales: Responses, Reactions, Revisions. Detroit, Wayne State University Press, 1993. Print. Into the Woods. Dir. Rob Marshall. By James Lapine. Walt Disney Pictures, 2014. DVD. McGivill, James M. The Brothers Grimm and Folktales. Urbana: Univ. of Illinois Press, 1991. Print. Once Upon a Time. By Edward Kitsis and Adam Horowitz. ABC Studios, 2011. Digital. Netflix. Paradi, Welf. Paradi, Valerie. Clever Maida: The Secret History of the Grimm Fairy Tales. New York: Basic, 2005. Print. Peppar, Murray B. Paths Through the Forest: A Biography of the Brothers Grimm. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1971. Print. Tatar, Maria. The Annotated Classic Fairy Tales. New York: Norton, 2002. Print. Zipes, Jack. Grimm Legacies: The Magic Spell of the Grimms' Folk Tales. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015. Print. Zipes, Jack. From Hansel and Gretel to Modern Fairy Tales. New York: Palgrave, 2002. Print. We hope you are enjoying the book so far. To continue reading... Best Racial Prejudice & Justice Books Souls of Black Folk, Uncle Tom's Cabin, Up from Slavery & more! (Grapvine Books) by W.E.B. Du Bois, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Booker T. Washington, Mark Twain, Oludamb Equiano, Frederick Douglass, Grapevine Books Read on the go for free — download Kindle for Android, Kindle for iOS, Kindle for PC, Kindle for Mac and more. Conditions of Use Privacy Notice Legal Notices Join to ratings and reviews! a collection of well-loved fairytales by the brothers Grimm. Stories include Hansel and Gretel, Tom Thumb, Little Red Riding Hood, Sleeping Beauty, Rumpelstiltskin, Snow White, the Frog Prince, Rapunzel, The Elves and the Show Maker and many more. 182 people are currently readingGerman philologist and folklorist Jakob Ludwig Karl Grimm in 1822 formulated Grimm's Law, the basis for much of modern comparative linguistics. With his brother Wilhelm Karl Grimm (1786-1859), he collected Germanic folk tales and published them as Grimm's Fairy Tales (1812-1815). Indo-European stop consonants, represented in Germanic, underwent the regular changes that Grimm's Law describes; this law essentially states that Indo-European p shifted to Germanic f, t shifted to th, and k shifted to h. Indo-European b shifted to Germanic b, d shifted to t, h shifted to g. Indo-European bh shifted to Germanic bh, dh shifted to d, and gh shifted to g. This jurist and mythologist also authored the monumental German Dictionary and his Deutsche Mythologie. Adapted from Wikipedia. Displaying 1 - 30 of 85 reviewsFebruary 28, 2025The Grimm's brothers were scientific philologists whose chief pride was their establishment of Grimm's Law. Close as twins and closer than spouses, the two brothers were a year apart in age and spent most of their lives living very near each other. The elder brother, Jakob, never married and ended up living with his married brother, Wilhelm after the marriage becoming part of the household, "according to one commentator, "one might imagine the children were common property." The stories they have gathered together are mostly properly understood as folk tales, but children's stories, although many have softened or revised over the years, republished and recycled into versions more suitable for children, or anyway, what subsequent generations have deemed as suitable. Personally, I think children should be able to read the original Grimm tales because there is a raw justice in the tales which you recognize and appreciate. Yes, the stories have violence, but it is appropriate to the crime/actions, a sweet justice. Cinderella's cruel sisters got their eyes picked out by pigeons. Okay, so maybe it is not something you want to read to every child and not before bedtime, but when you think of some of the other things they are exposed to today, I will take Cinderella, Snow White and even Hansel and Gretel every time. The "three brother" motif is very popular among these tales. I encountered it in three stories, The Golden Bird, The Golden Goose and The Water of Life in the first third of the book; there were others. Nearly as frequent are stories with three sisters, e.g., Cinderella and The Singing, Soaring Lark. Always the oldest and second sibling are the evil ones. They are usually greedy, rude, selfish, vain, ambitious and/or foolish. How the father—and it usually is the father—does not see this most of the time I do not know except then there would not be a story. The youngest may not be perfect (in The Golden Goose he is called Simpleton) and she usually has the best heart. The mothers are frequently stepmothers and have no love for their stepchildren but show clear favoritism for her decidedly inferior birth children. Some of my favorite tales came at the very end and they were also ones I had never heard of: 1) Our Lady's Child - about a little girl allowed to go up to Heaven and live with Mary for the first part of her life. One day she is left alone with 13 keys, each which unlocks a hidden door, 12 allowed, 1 forbidden. Of course, she has to take a peek at the forbidden door. The problem is she lies to Mary about what she has done. She is banished back to earth and lives a lonely existence until discovered by a king who falls in love with her. When her first child is born, Mary comes back and asks her again if she will admit her mistake or lose her child. A good story about suffering the consequences of curiosity and not telling the truth.2) The Twelve Huntsmen - a beautiful story about split loyalties.3) The Youth Who Could Not Shiver and Shake - a very funny story about a young man named Hans who was such a simpleton he was not afraid of anything, hence his inability to "shiver and shake." This resulted in some very amusing situations, including that Hans released the castle from a wicked enchantment and won the King's daughter in marriage. How Hans finally learns how to "shiver and shake" is thanks to his lady wife, the princess, throwing cold water with wriggly fish on him while he was sleeping. Aren't wives thoughtful? Anyway, he was pleased to finally learn what he could not learn from any scary situation. ... 4) Our Lady's Little Glass - a sweet story which gives the origin of the name of the flower. 5) The Bremen Town Musicians - I feel I have heard the name of this story, but not recalling it, enjoyed reading it. An old ass, dog, cat and cock have seen better days and looking for somewhere to live out their latter days. The place they find is occupied by robbers, so they conspire together to frighten the thieves out of their hideaway and claim it as their own.6) Brother Frolic - how have I never read or heard of this? A delightful scoundrel who was a "lighthearted, jolly fellow" had been released from the army and was now wandering the countryside. He is at once open-hearted and generous, but also not afraid to lie if it suits his purposes and stick to his version to the bitter end. He meets up with none other than St. Peter who tests him and finds him very perplexing, both very good and yet very stubborn, refusing to admit to or change his lies. So, the good saint washes his hands of him, just leaving him with a sack which will put whatever Brother Frolic asks into it. As you can imagine, our intrepid wanderer has fun with this ... right up until the end, which I refuse to give away. You have to read this story!These are just the tip of the iceberg of the delightful stories in this book. It is a shame we don't read these more today!2022 adventure classic October 10, 2012The Golden Bird-why about the golden cages? in this tale, whatever looks good isn't.This story is like the nightmare of the German; no one can properly follow simple instructions. And the moral of the story: if somebody asks ferociously to be killed and mutilated do follow through immediately, he might be a prince. fHans in Luck:The nightmare of the Businessman. A person working hard for seven years, and eventually throwing away the accumulated wealth of years and years of hard work. It does express a reality though, the man who has no attachment to their possessions is a free man. On the other side of this story, people working hardly should be able to keep what they have earned. I expected this story to rather end like this: "Then up he got with a light heart, free from all his troubles, and walked on till he reached his mother's house, and told her how very easy the road to good luck was AND THEN she gave him a good hit on the head to get some sense into his hollow of a head when she heard he threw away the earnings of seven hard years. After that she send him off to be a Greek politician and with his foolishness he brought the country to economical turmoil and chaos. He still was a happy man."August 2, 2019Let me tell you a little story before we start with the review! I am proud to say that when I was in my last year at university (2012) I launch a (small) campaign to bring back the course Children's Literature. So many students promised me to be on the course. We ended up 6 of us, but the course was back nevertheless. One of the main reasons I wanted the course back was this magnificent book: The Norton Anthology of Children's Literature: The Traditions in English a 2470+ pages mammoth book. Along with this another required text was Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. How awesome is that? I ended up studying Harry Potter for final exams. I couldn't believe my luck.Anyway along with Harry Potter we studied, nursery rhymes, picture books, Victorian stories, science fiction, and of course fairy tales. We studied 3: Little Red Riding Hood (10 different versions), The Beauty & The Beast, and Hansel & Gretel. And thanks to this course, now, 4 years later I was able to read the Grimms' Fairy Tales with a critical eye. So, this little book was full of fairy tales (duh). It contained 62. That is 29.3% of all the tales Brothers Grimm collected, edited, and published. (211 in total)But none of the tales scored 5/5 for me. 16 tales scored 2/5. Pretty mediocre, rushed, and repetitive or confusing.32 tales scored 3/5. Interesting but they didn't have what I was personally looking for, in them 14 stories scored 4/5 and they're as follow:10. The Fisherman And His Wife 18. The Valiant Little Tailor 19. Hansel And Gretel22. Little Red Cap (Riding Hood) 31. Snowdrop (Snow White)35. Ashputtel (Cinderella)36. The White Snake37. The Wolf And The Seven Little Kids (Goats)38. The Queen Beed40. The Unipen 41. Tree45. The Four Clever Brothers46. Lily And The Lion57. The Story Of The Youth Who Went Forth To Learn What Fear WasThese stories that scored 4/5 were mostly the well-known ones like:Snow White, Hansel & Gretel, Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Snow White, etc. Or they were inventive and original like: The Valiant Little Talar, The Salad, The White Snake, &c. Others were either disturbing: The Juniper Treeor spooky The Story Of The Youth Who Went Forth To Learn What Fear Was. The Juniper Tree was the most shocking one. An evil (how obvious) stepmother decapitates her stepson and then stitches his head back but this can't hide the fact that he is dead so she cuts him to pieces and makes sausages out of him à la Shakespeare/Game of Thrones!Another story included incest where a king wanted to marry his daughter which reminded him his beautiful wife. (Cat-Skin)Cinderella is called slutt several times by her stepmother. A story with animals (The Adventures Of Chanticleer And Partlet) ends up with all the characters dead (around two dozens) and many more. It's obvious these stories where not intended for children, they are shocking, dark and grim (nice word-play here!)What I didn't like from the stories was that women were almost always depicted as evil people. Evil Queens, evil stepmothers, evil maids, evil(gil) sisters, evil fairies. On the other hand the men were either brave and good or naive and good, sometimes evil and this when they were magical creatures like dwarfs, giants, hobgoblins (Rumpelstiltskin) &c. Something else I didn't like was that it was always the youngest child that was good and lucky, the older ones where either jealous or evil. I also didn't like the repetitive device of a random guy doing something brave and marrying the princess as a reward. Half of the stories ended with a marriage and the cliché phrase; "and they lived happily ever after". At the beginning it was okay, but then it became repetitive and annoying. So the overall score is 2.96 which translates to a B. Recommended for fairy tales lovers, not curious readers. If you are curious buy it with caution, or buy an illustrated collection.June 15, 2015 Fairy tale as bloody murder: Forgive me for I am going to be all preachy and philosophical in my review. Once upon a time there were two brothers going by the name "Grimm Brothers". Over the period of time they chronicled stories emerging from all sorts of land and nature. These stories were tainted with horrors of human-willness ranging from the ability to cut and bleed their own family to throwing away humanity for a piece of gold. These stories were ironically grim as the name of the authors itself.The Grimm brother's stories were never originally the rosy and chocolate coated versions that is floating around today, as the introduction of the book itself states that these books were dark and warnings for the children against the world that they were going to step into and meanwhile also tried to impart the quintessential theory "good triumphs over the evil" (trust me after reading the book, I don't think that the Grimm brothers were indicating that there could be a possibility for romance with the boy by telling us the story of Red riding Hood..the brothers must be rolling in their graves listening to all the werewolf romances) The stories got moulded and sweetened that we never looked upon them as the authors scribbled it to be. In fact what we saw was the prince getting princess or a pauper becoming king on a fine day for an act of bravery or cleverness. The gruesomeness of wolf ripping apart an old lady or being married to a monster was all morphed into fairy tales that we grew up on making us wait for the day when our own version of such stories came true. Sadly it comes true when you hit the six feet hole in the ground.These stories had been handed down over generation after generations and now it has taken a life and shape of its own and because of which it was kind of fun visiting the initial version. The book is a collection of about sixty stories including tom thumb, Rumpelstiltskin, red riding hood, rapunzel and many other and each being about two to three pages long. The Grimm brother's book is not the picture storybook version that we enjoyed hearing as a toddler. These are the real versions. I found many of the stories repetitive in themes and shockingly many of the popular stories I heard had a different twist and treatment in the book. (Cinderella named ashputtel and the step sisters cutting their heels off to fit into the shoes...yup so much different than the movie and picture book version.) It was good to read but I also found it a bit boring being devoid of the rosiness and almost sixty stories running the same theme. What I learnt reading the fairy tale is this August 10, 2014This book is a great excuse to read fairytales, because if anyone asks, just say it's a classic piece of literature. Really good to see the origins of so many stories and ideas. It was really nice to be able to read a couple of stories every now and then, instead of feeling the rush to finish the whole book.Some of the stories in this are really engaging , some are well known literary works and some are just plain weird! But no matter what they're all completely enjoyable!classics fairy-tales-and-folkloreApril 5, 2015These classic fairy tales are very entertaining and contain lessons to be learned and relearned. I would recommend this collection to anyone who enjoys fairy tales and wishes to visit the originals. There are many familiar stories, as well as little-known, less popular stories that will have you laughing at the ridiculous situations and characters. November 7, 20155 starsTo be honest, I love fairy tales even though I'm an adult for uwuite a long time... And all the classic fairy tales are the best, in my opinion, everybody should read them and tell them to their kids. These Grimms fairy tales are cool and awesome and not to forget THE BASIC ones... And I LOVE them! July 28, 2016It has been some time since I have read Grimm's Fairy Tales and some of these are just so crazy, especially the ones about Chanticleer and Partlet. But they are a fun collection and I'm glad I took the time to revisit them. October 21, 2012Some of these are really creepy... A job well done, but still... REALLY creepy...August 20, 2020This book has 62 stories in it and they are all fairy tales. Disclaimer Not All Stories Are For Children! In total of 62 stories I liked 26 stories and that's not bad. Some stories were a little bit confusing and some were just not really my thing. In this book there are stories like Rumpelstiltskin, Hansel and Gretel, The Frog Prince, Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Rapunzel, The wolf and the Seven Little Children and Snow White.If you love fairy tales I would recommend this but if you are just a curious reader I would pick this book as a first choice.August 20, 2020I really wanted to like this book but I unfortunately not for me @May 15, 2020I read the story of Cinderella from this collection of Grimm's fairytales that I read on Epic. Grimm's fairytales are notorious for their gory and violent story events. In this version of Cinderella, a young girl's mother passed away. Her father remarried to an evil woman with two equally evil daughters. The daughters made her do all the chores and made her life miserable. They made her sleep by the hearth chimneys, which is why they called her Cinderella. The rest of the story is just like any other version except in the Grimm's story, Cinderella does not have a fairy godmother but birds to help her. In this version, the violence comes in when the Prince is looking for the maiden to fit the show, both the step sisters cut off part of their feet to fit into the slipper. This version is obviously way different than the Disney Cinderella that I grew up watching. I think it is important to read all the versions but I would have to say this was my least favorite. I would definitely use this with an elementary classroom when learning about fairytales. I think it would be good to compare and contrast all the different versions of Cinderella. For a creative writing assignment for an upper elementary class, you could have them write their own version of Cinderella. February 26, 2024"Grimm's Fairy Tales" contains many magical stories that hold valuable lessons within them. Some popular tales include "Rapunzel," "Hansel and Gretel," "Little Red Riding Hood," "Snow White," and "Rumpelstiltskin." I really enjoyed the way the fairy tales were written: It was very detailed and easily drew me into each story. However, some of the stories seemed a bit repetitive and had similar plots. Each storyline has a distinct motif, but one that really stuck out was "The Golden Goose," which tells the tale of three sons who go into a forest to chop wood. Each son encounters a little old grey man who asks for a bit of cake and a drink of wine. The first two sons deny him any food or drink, and face great misfortune as a result of this. However, the third son humbly shares with the man and is rewarded in the future. The main motif of this story is to be humble and help those in need. People who are generous and kind often get the same treatment in return. This is just one example of many of the fantastic stories that "Grimm's Fairy Tales" holds. Overall, I can definitely see myself reading several of these stories again in the future and would recommend that others read them as well. December 5, 2016I read this out of curiosity. We grew up with these fairy tales but I wasn't sure how true to the originals we were. Through out the years the stories have been sanitized to such an extent that they have lost their original meanings. A lot of the tales are similar in theme and are different versions of the same story. But the introducing states that the Grimm brothers collected folklore from all over Europe so I lays to reason that the stories traveled and evolved through out the years.I often thought that the language of the tales had a style of their own and I presume that the translation to English might have something to do with it. They are quiet brutal and have a very sinister undertones but I think they are suitable for children. When I read Hansel and Gretel growing up I didn't think of cannibalism but of the ginger bread house and not to take sweets of strangers.In all fairness I think the Ladybird books come close to the originals in style and tone with only a few minor adjustments.November 29, 2016This book contains 62 stories, all of which are fairly short. Many of them I recognised as tales I have heard throughout my childhood, but there were also loads that I did not know. I was intrigued to read the original of those stories that have been retold many times, but also to read the lesser known tales.What soon becomes apparent is that many of these tales are rather similar and it can become very easy to predict what is going to happen to the characters. Some of the stories are so similar in fact that it is surprising that they were both added to the collection.I read this book from start to finish over 5 and a half weeks while reading other books. I would not do this again as it became tedious and I was very relieved by the time I reached the end. It is very much a book that should be dipped into to read the odd story here and there.Overall this was a very interesting book to read, which I did enjoy.June 3, 2018A nice, tidy collection of 58 of the Grimm brothers' more iconic tales. This edition includes well known stories such as Snow White, Rapunzel, The Straw, the Coal and the Bean, Rumpelstiltskin, Tom Thumb and Little Red Riding Hood, as well as some lesser-known but equally brilliant stories. This is essential reading for anyone with an interest in classic fairy tales, mythology, symbolism etc. There are timeless morals within but I unfortunately not for me @May 15, 2020I read the story of Cinderella from this collection of Grimm's fairytales that I read on Epic. Grimm's fairytales are notorious for their gory and violent story events. In this version of Cinderella, a young girl's mother passed away. Her father remarried to an evil woman with two equally evil daughters. The daughters made her do all the chores and made her life miserable. They made her sleep by the hearth chimneys, which is why they called her Cinderella. The rest of the story is just like any other version except in the Grimm's story, Cinderella does not have a fairy godmother but birds to help her. In this version, the violence comes in when the Prince is looking for the maiden to fit the show, both the step sisters cut off part of their feet to fit into the slipper. This version is obviously way different than the Disney Cinderella that I grew up watching. I think it is important to read all the versions but I would have to say this was my least favorite. I would definitely use this with an elementary classroom when learning about fairytales. I think it would be good to compare and contrast all the different versions of Cinderella. For a creative writing assignment for an upper elementary class, you could have them write their own version of Cinderella. February 26, 2024"Grimm's Fairy Tales" contains many magical stories that hold valuable lessons within them. Some popular tales include "Rapunzel," "Hansel and Gretel," "Little Red Riding Hood," "Snow White," and "Rumpelstiltskin." I really enjoyed the way the fairy tales were written: It was very detailed and easily drew me into each story. However, some of the stories seemed a bit repetitive and had similar plots. Each storyline has a distinct motif, but one that really stuck out was "The Golden Goose," which tells the tale of three sons who go into a forest to chop wood. Each son encounters a little old grey man who asks for a bit of cake and a drink of wine. The first two sons deny him any food or drink, and face great misfortune as a result of this. However, the third son humbly shares with the man and is rewarded in the future. The main motif of this story is to be humble and help those in need. People who are generous and kind often get the same treatment in return. This is just one example of many of the fantastic stories that "Grimm's Fairy Tales" holds. Overall, I can definitely see myself reading several of these stories again in the future and would recommend that others read them as well. December 5, 2016I read this out of curiosity. We grew up with these fairy tales but I wasn't sure how true to the originals we were. Through out the years the stories have been sanitized to such an extent that they have lost their original meanings. A lot of the tales are similar in theme and are different versions of the same story. But the introducing states that the Grimm brothers collected folklore from all over Europe so I lays to reason that the stories traveled and evolved through out the years.I often thought that the language of the tales had a style of their own and I presume that the translation to English might have something to do with it. They are quiet brutal and have a very sinister undertones but I think they are suitable for children. When I read Hansel and Gretel growing up I didn't think of cannibalism but of the ginger bread house and not to take sweets of strangers.In all fairness I think the Ladybird books come close to the originals in style and tone with only a few minor adjustments.November 29, 2016This book contains 62 stories, all of which are fairly short. Many of them I recognised as tales I have heard throughout my childhood, but there were also loads that I did not know. I was intrigued to read the original of those stories that have been retold many times, but also to read the lesser known tales.What soon becomes apparent is that many of these tales are rather similar and it can become very easy to predict what is going to happen to the characters. Some of the stories are so similar in fact that it is surprising that they were both added to the collection.I read this book from start to finish over 5 and a half weeks while reading other books. I would not do this again as it became tedious and I was very relieved by the time I reached the end. It is very much a book that should be dipped into to read the odd story here and there.Overall this was a very interesting book to read, which I did enjoy.June 3, 2018A nice, tidy collection of 58 of the Grimm brothers' more iconic tales. This edition includes well known stories such as Snow White, Rapunzel, The Straw, the Coal and the Bean, Rumpelstiltskin, Tom Thumb and Little Red Riding Hood, as well as some lesser-known but equally brilliant stories. This is essential reading for anyone with an interest in classic fairy tales, mythology, symbolism etc. There are timeless morals within but I unfortunately not for me @May 15, 2020I read the story of Cinderella from this collection of Grimm's fairytales that I read on Epic. Grimm's fairytales are notorious for their gory and violent story events. In this version of Cinderella, a young girl's mother passed away. Her father remarried to an evil woman with two equally evil daughters. The daughters made her do all the chores and made her life miserable. They made her sleep by the hearth chimneys, which is why they called her Cinderella. The rest of the story is just like any other version except in the Grimm's story, Cinderella does not have a fairy godmother but birds to help her. In this version, the violence comes in when the Prince is looking for the maiden to fit the show, both the step sisters cut off part of their feet to fit into the slipper. This version is obviously way different than the Disney Cinderella that I grew up watching. I think it is important to read all the versions but I would have to say this was my least favorite. I would definitely use this with an elementary classroom when learning about fairytales. I think it would be good to compare and contrast all the different versions of Cinderella. For a creative writing assignment for an upper elementary class, you could have them write their own version of Cinderella. February 26, 2024"Grimm's Fairy Tales" contains many magical stories that hold valuable lessons within them. Some popular tales include "Rapunzel," "Hansel and Gretel," "Little Red Riding Hood," "Snow White," and "Rumpelstiltskin." I really enjoyed the way the fairy tales were written: It was very detailed and easily drew me into each story. However, some of the stories seemed a bit repetitive and had similar plots. Each storyline has a distinct motif, but one that really stuck out was "The Golden Goose," which tells the tale of three sons who go into a forest to chop wood. Each son encounters a little old grey man who asks for a bit of cake and a drink of wine. The first two sons deny him any food or drink, and face great misfortune as a result of this. However, the third son humbly shares with the man and is rewarded in the future. The main motif of this story is to be humble and help those in need. People who are generous and kind often get the same treatment in return. This is just one example of many of the fantastic stories that "Grimm's Fairy Tales" holds. Overall, I can definitely see myself reading several of these stories again in the future and would recommend that others read them as well. December 5, 2016I read this out of curiosity. We grew up with these fairy tales but I wasn't sure how true to the originals we were. Through out the years the stories have been sanitized to such an extent that they have lost their original meanings. A lot of the tales are similar in theme and are different versions of the same story. But the introducing states that the Grimm brothers collected folklore from all over Europe so I lays to reason that the stories traveled and evolved through out the years.I often thought that the language of the tales had a style of their own and I presume that the translation to English might have something to do with it. They are quiet brutal and have a very sinister undertones but I think they are suitable for children. When I read Hansel and Gretel growing up I didn't think of cannibalism but of the ginger bread house and not to take sweets of strangers.In all fairness I think the Ladybird books come close to the originals in style and tone with only a few minor adjustments.November 29, 2016This book contains 62 stories, all of which are fairly short. Many of them I recognised as tales I have heard throughout my childhood, but there were also loads that I did not know. I was intrigued to read the original of those stories that have been retold many times, but also to read the lesser known tales.What soon becomes apparent is that many of these tales are rather similar and it can become very easy to predict what is going to happen to the characters. Some of the stories are so similar in fact that it is surprising that they were both added to the collection.I read this book from start to finish over 5 and a half weeks while reading other books. I would not do this again as it became tedious and I was very relieved by the time I reached the end. It is very much a book that should be dipped into to read the odd story here and there.Overall this was a very interesting book to read, which I did enjoy.June 3, 2018A nice, tidy collection of 58 of the Grimm brothers' more iconic tales. This edition includes well known stories such as Snow White, Rapunzel, The Straw, the Coal and the Bean, Rumpelstiltskin, Tom Thumb and Little Red Riding Hood, as well as some lesser-known but equally brilliant stories. This is essential reading for anyone with an interest in classic fairy tales, mythology, symbolism etc. There are timeless morals within but I unfortunately not for me @May 15, 2020I read the story of Cinderella from this collection of Grimm's fairytales that I read on Epic. Grimm's fairytales are notorious for their gory and violent story events. In this version of Cinderella, a young girl's mother passed away. Her father remarried to an evil woman with two equally evil daughters. The daughters made her do all the chores and made her life miserable. They made her sleep by the hearth chimneys, which is why they called her Cinderella. The rest of the story is just