

Fairy Tales and Stories for Different Ages

When selecting fairy tales for young children, it is a help to know which tales tend to be appropriate for different ages. These are to be taken as light indications, not hard and fast rules. Reading a few tales from each category gives a picture of the progression of difficulty of the tales. One can then choose according to the needs and maturity of the child(ren) involved.

Very simplest tales and sequential tales: suitable for three and young four-year-olds:

Sweet Porridge (Grimm #103)

Silverhair (Goldilocks) and the Three Bears (Spindrift)

The Gingerbread Man

When the Root Children Wake Up

The Giant Turnip (Russian, Autumn Book)

Simple tales but slightly more complex than those listed above. The mood is usually cheerful and without too much sorrow and struggle. Quite good for four and young five-year-olds.

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

The Three Little Pigs

The Wolf and the Seven Little Kids (Grimm #5)

Star Money (Grimm #153)

In the next category many of the tales are associated with the term "fairy tale." There is more challenge and detail than in the above list, obstacles are encountered but they do not weigh too heavily on the soul of the child. Good for five- and young six-year-olds.

The Frog Prince (Grimm # 1)

The Golden Goose (Grimm # 64)

The Queen Bee (Grimm # 62)

Snow White and Rose Red (Grimm #161)

The Hut in the Forest (Grimm #169)

The last category are those tales which are much loved by children but in most cases are better told in the first class rather than in the kindergarten or early childhood classes. The challenges are more difficult in them and the force of evil more strongly described. Some kindergarten teachers may tell one or two of these tales at the end of the year if they have a number of children turning seven.

Little Snow White (Grimm #53)

Hansel and Gretel (Grimm #15)

Cinderella (Grimm #21)

Rapunzel (Grimm #12)