

ONCE UPON A TIME... TEACHER GUIDELINES

In this activity, each student is asked to write his/her own fairy tale where he/she is the hero/heroine. Give the class about 15 to 20 minutes to do this. Tell them that they can start the story in the usual way (once upon a time...) and end in the usual way (and they lived happily ever after...)

After the students finish writing, ask if any would like to share their fairy tales with the class. (The teacher may choose to read them without revealing the names of the persons who wrote them).

Have students look at their stories as you ask the following questions. The student can circle the answer to each question if it appears in the story.

Of the main characters in their personal fairy tales:

1. How many were single parents?
2. How many lived in poverty?
3. How many were divorced?
4. How many abused their children, spouse, girlfriend, boyfriend?
5. How many male characters were out of work?
6. How many female characters worked outside of the home?
7. How many families were headed by women?
8. How many lived in an apartment?
9. How many were pregnant before the marriage?
10. How many were receiving job training?
11. _____
12. _____

Use these questions to help the students understand how fairy tales can portray an unrealistic picture of life.

